

minutes

NEC/19A/11

meeting of: National Executive Council (eighteenth meeting)

place: Holloway Road Resource Centre, London, N7 6PA

date and time: 21st May 2012 11am

Members:	Name
President & Chair	Liam Burns
Zones	Toni Pearce & Roshni Soshi (Further Education) Usman Ali & Sophie Richardson (Higher Education); Danielle Grufferty & James Haywood (Society & Citizenship); Ed Marsh & Rebecca Bridgen (Union Development); Pete Mercer & Steph Johnson (Welfare)
Liberation	Kanja Sesay and Anil Sachdeo (Black Students); Rupy Kaur and Matthew Bond (Disabled Students); Vicki Baars & Alan Bailey (LGBT); Estelle Hart & Kelley Temple (Womens);
Sections	Christina Yan Zhang & Mateus Wysocki (International Students) Fee Wood (Mature & Part Time Students); George Charonis & Dante Micheaux (Postgraduate Students)
Nations	Luke Young & Raechel Matthey (NUS Wales) Robin Parker & Graeme Kirkpatrick (NUS Scotland); Adrienne Peltz & Stuart Cannell (NUS-USI)
Block	Mark Bergfeld, Nes Cazimoglu, Michael Chessum, Lauren Crowley, Nes Cazimoglu, Matt East, Ruby Hirsch, Aaron Kiely, Joe Oliver, Mary Prescott, Josh Rowlands, Daniel Stevens, Rachel Wenstone, Surya Prakash-Bhatta
In attendance: Staff	Matt Hyde (Group Chief Executive), Jim Dickinson (Director Policy and Delivery); Vic Langer (Assistant Director Policy and Delivery); Dave Farbrother (Group Finance Director); Jamie Agombar (Ethical and Environmental Manager) Nick Smith (Democratic Services Co-ordinator); Dan Francis (Democratic Services Advisor), Dan Higgins (Acts Representative)
Observers:	
Apologies:	
Zones	Pete Mercer
Liberation	Rupy Kaur
Nations	Stuart Cannell
Sections	Dante Micheaux
Block	Surya Prakash-Bhatta, Stevie Wise, Rachel Wenstone

minutes

1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Liam Burns (LB) opened the meeting and thanked those members of the NEC for whom this was their last meeting; *Usman Ali, Ed Marsh, Kanja Sesay, Anil Sachdeo, Rupy Kaur, Matt Bond, Alan Bailey, Estelle Hart, Christina Yan Zhang, George Charonis, Dante Micheaux, Luke Young, Stuart Cannell, Mark Bergfeld, Nes Cazimoglu, Lauren Crowley, Matt East, Ruby Hirsch, Joe Oliver, Mary Prescott, Josh Rowlands, Stevie Wise.* LB also noted that since the last meeting Taylor Kane had resigned from NEC.

1.2 Apologies were noted.

1.3 There were no declarations of interests.

1.4 The minutes of the NEC meeting 28/11/12 were approved

1.5 There were no matters arising.

2. Reports and accountability

2.1 LB: presented his report.

The NEC discussed the come clean campaign. Mark Bergfeld (MB) suggested that the aims of the campaign had been very narrow and the dates of action clashed with holidays. MB also suggested that NEC should have greater input on the arrangements of campaign action. LB outlined that the whilst the date of the lobby had not been perfect it had been necessary to compromise due to the number of NUS democratic events at the time. LB contested that NUS had not sought to make hidden cost courses the main focus of Come Clean and has in fact been designed as MB suggested – a number of implications of the White paper reforms. LB was however not surprised that students' unions latched onto this particular issue and NUS has achieved significant sector and local wins as a result.. LB also highlighted that a common criticism of Come Clean was that it was not focussed enough.

Lauren Crowley (LC) feedback that some constituent members were finding that their institutions were not changing access agreements for 5 year arguing that without a new cohort of student they cannot prove that things are not working. LC also raised concerns that the opt out of the core and margin system is due to come to an end. LB outlined that he and Usman Ali had done a fair amount to help secure the exemption and that they were aware of the possibility of the lapse.

2.2 The Zone Convenors presented their reports there were the following questions and issues arising.

Further Education – Toni Pearce (TP)

Daniel Stevens (DS) asked for an updated on TP's work on Highly Trusted Status (HTS), TP outlined that UK BA has so far been very unhelpful and NUS was also seeking a Sector based solution within the law to help provide solution for those currently struggling. TP added that she had written to the Home Secretary on the issue. Michael Chessum (MC) asked when NEC would see a plan to take conference policy forward. TP

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

minutes

responded by saying that she would bring her plan the year to the next NEC with the other VP's.

Society and Citizenship – Danielle Grufferty (DG) presented her report for approval.

Higher Education – Usman Ali (UA) presented his report for approval and apologised that he had been unable to attend section conference due to illness.

Union Development – Ed Marsh (EM) presented his report for approval.

Welfare – Pete Mercer (PM) sent apologies to the meeting.

All Zone reports were *approved*.

2.3 The Liberation Officers presented their reports to note.

2.4 The Sections presented their reports to note.

2.5 The Nations presented their reports to note.

2.6 There were no reports or notices from Scrutiny or Special Groups

2.7 The Block raised the following issues:

MB feedback that Bedford Students' Union had found the date of the come clean lobby difficult. MB added that many CM's felt that NUS national conference was too late, LB agreed and reminded NEC that the dates of next years conference had been moved forward.

3. Motions and Proposals

3.1 No platform Policy.

LB reminded NEC that this paper was the property of national conference and that changes to the list should be made at that body. LB agreed that the Anti-Racism, Anti Fascism committee could send proposals to the NEC on any alterations to the No Platform list, which NEC could if it wished submit to conference.

NEC *noted* the No platform Policy.

LB amended the agenda to take items in a different order.

3.2 National Demonstration Paper

Challenge to the order paper, to take items in a different order.

Vote: *Challenge upheld*

3.3 National conference Motions referred to NEC

LB reminded NEC that any item with amendments had automatically been tabled for debate and that any item NEC had flag up as controversial had also been tabled for debate.

Motion: 511 Membership data

For: No Speech

511a amendment

For: MC

Against: No Speech

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

minutes

Parts submitted: Remove CB 2

For: EM

Against: Jo Oliver (JO)

Vote: *Parts remain*

Summation on amendment: MC

Vote on amendment: Passes

Vote on motion as amended: Passes

Motion: 514 4300,00 Students

For: James Haywood (JH)

Against: Robin Parker (RP)

For: Estelle Hart (EH)

Against: MB

Parts to pass CR i and ii.

For: VB

Vote on Parts: Pass (i & ii move into policy)

Summation on motion: EM

Vote: Passes

306 Education Now and Then: Tear it Down and Start Again TP moves to chair

For: LB

Amendment 306a

For: MB

Against JO

For: Aaron Kiely (AK)

Against: UA

For: Ruby Hirsch (RH)

Against: EH

Summation on amendment: VB

Call for recorded vote.

For 14

Against 17

For	Josh Rowlands, Roshni Joshi, Ruby Hirsch, Daryl Jones, Vicki Baars, James Haywood, Michael Chessum, Mark Bergfeld, Alan Bailey, Aaron Kiely, Kanja Sesay, Mary Prescott, Kelly Temple, Daniel Stevens
Against	Liam Burns, Joe Oliver, Matt East, Estelle Hart, Nes Cazimoglu, Lauren Crowley, Steph Johnson, Usman Ali, Ed Marsh, Adrienne Peltz, Robin Parker, Graeme Kirkpatrick, Danielle Grufferty, Fee Wood, George Charonis, Luke Young, Raechel Matthey
Abstain	

Vote: Amendment falls

Amendment 306b

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

minutes

For: VB
Against: DG
For MC
Against: EH
For: EM
Against: LB
Summation on Amendment: Alan Baily (AB)

Call for recorded vote.

For	Josh Rowlands, Roshni Joshi, Ruby Hirsch, Daryl Jones, Vicki Baars, James Haywood, Michael Chessum, Mark Bergfeld, Alan Bailey, Aaron Kiely, Kanja Sesay, Mary Prescott, Kelly Temple, Daniel Stevens, Steph Johnson, Usman Ali, Ed Marsh, Robin Parker, Graeme Kirkpatrick, Fee Wood, George Charonis
Against	Liam Burns, Joe Oliver, Matt East, Estelle Hart, Nes Cazimoglu, Lauren Crowley, Adrienne Peltz, Danielle Grufferty, Luke Young, Raechel Matthey
Abstain	

For: 21
Against: 10
Vote on amendment: Passes

Against: No speech
Vote on motion as amended: Passes

307 Education: Public not profit

For: No speech

Parts: remove FB 2
For: LC
Against: No speech
Vote: Parts Removed

Parts remove CR: 1
For: LC
Against: No speech
Vote: parts removed

Parts remove CR: 5
For: LC
Against: No speech
Vote: parts removed
Vote on motion parts removed: Passes

308 Employment and employability
For: MC
Against: EM
Vote: passes

311 Defending arts education
For: Josh Rowlands (JR)

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

minutes

Parts: Remove CR 5

For UA

Against: VB

Vote: parts removed

Summation on amendment parts removed: No speech

Vote on motion parts removed: passes

610 Against discriminatory immigration

For: DS

Against: No Speech

Amendment 610a

For: No Speech

Against: No Speech

Vote on amendment: passed

Vote on motion as amended: passes

Call to vote on 403 as its uncontroversial: Passes

Vote on 403 Living Wage: passes

404 Eden Springs

For: JH

Amendment 404a

For: MB

Against: LB

For JH

Against: EH

Summation on amendment: KS

Vote on amendment: falls

Amendment 404b

For: EM

Against: MC

Summation on amendment: RP

Vote: 14 for 16 against 2 ab

Vote on amendment: falls

Against: No Speech

Summation: No Speech

Vote on motion: Motion passes

406 Fight the far right

For MC

406a

For: AK

Vote on amendment: passes

Summation: No speech

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

minutes

Vote on motion as amended: passes

407 A generation lost
For: TP

407a
Vote: amendment passes

Against: VB
For: DG
Against: VB

Summation: TP

Vote on motion as amended: Motion passes

414 Don't attack Iran – Fund education not war
For: AK

Parts: remove CR 4
For: EH
Against: JH
For: RJ
Against: MB
For: KT
Against: AK

Vote on parts: passes parts removed.

Summation on motion parts removed: JR

Vote on motion parts removed: passes

NEC vote to pass the following motions referred to from national conference 2012 as a block:

- 512 FE Students affiliation Strategy*
- 513 Global union development*
- 515 Transnational education*
- 206 security in collages*
- 207 International FE*
- 309 Mature students, we hardly know you*
- 310 Funding for CRB checks*
- 312 Supporting placement students*
- 313 Part-time loans – a ticking time bomb*
- 608 Nations* 609 Retention*
- 405 Gap years*
- 408 Opposing unpaid internships in creative arts*
- 409 Citizenship*
- 410 Move your money*
- 411 Peace one day*
- 412 Solidarity with Syria*
- 413 Student fuel poverty*
- 415 Defend the welfare state*
- 416 Intentional student activism*
- 417 Twin with Egyptian universities *

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

minutes

418 Tarsands*

419 University of sanctuary*

Vote on motions as a block: passed

3.2 Paper on the National Demonstration

TP returned to the chair for this item of the agenda

MB raised concerns about the interrelationship with a motion to this NEC, LB argued that this paper and the motion are not exclusive, but that it was essential he get a steer from NEC at this time on the issue of the national Demo.

LB introduced the paper on proposals for the National Demonstration and then invited questions. The recommendations outlined were:

- We coordinate with the TUC and seek to be full partners in calling for a national demonstration in London on Saturday October 20th rather than organising a separate demonstration on our own.
- We will push for an Education Block under a narrative of lost generation/intergenerational injustice.
- We will allow students' unions to shape our message and support them in organising for the Demo by holding an event as soon as possible for outgoing and incoming officers and embedding the National Demo in our summer events and training.
- We will seek to create a set of statements to unite the 'education' block under (regarding education, employment and intergenerational injustice) which indicates a direction of travel for the 2015 General Elections.
- We will seek to establish what comes after the National Demo now, rather than waiting until after the action itself.

MC suggested that it would be difficult for NUS to run a national demonstration on on broad anti-austerity rather than specific education issues. MB argued that Combining with TUC demonstration would mean that NUS wouldn't get press coverage on education.

LB suggested that Students' Unions would reject the idea of mobilising for two demonstrations within weeks of each other.

MB suggested that NUS running its own demonstration and at the same time supporting workers on the TUC demo were both practical. MB also suggested that joining with the TUC demo may undermine the message of workers.

VB fed back that messaging around a lost generation could alienate some membership. EH: argued that education at all levels is being destroyed, youth unemployment, pensions and retirement age would all disproportionately impact on our generation and that solidarity with the TUC would have more influence as low numbers on a national demo could be very damaging. Luke Young also highlighted his support for a joint demonstration outlining the need for broader messaging which appeals to all of NUS's membership.

NEC voted to show hold an indicative on whether to hold the national demonstration with the TUC so that LB could take a steer from council.

Indicative vote: NEC asked the President to investigate a separate demonstration.

For joint demo: 12

Separate: 14

Abstain: 5

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

minutes

3.4 Motions to NEC

Motions 1: **Autumn Demonstration**

Speech for: MB
Speech against: No Speech
Parts: remove CR6
Vote on Parts: passes parts removed
Summation on motion with parts removed: MB
Vote: Motion passes parts removed

Call to change the order paper: move motion 3 forward
For: DS
Against: MB
Vote: Passes – change to the order paper

Motion 3: Staff Support for Student Sections Campaigns
For: FW
Against: EM
Vote: Passes

Motion 2: **Solidarity with the Quebec student strike**

Speech for: MB
Speech against: No Speech
Parts: remove CR1
For: JR
Against: EH
Vote on Parts: parts remain
Summation on motion: No speech
Vote: Motion passes

AOB

LB bestowed honouree life membership of NUS on all departing members of the NEC who have served during the academic year 2011-12 as well as all FTO's and staff who have left the organisation since the last national conference.

Close of NEC 5pm

National Conference 2012 | Policy referred to NEC

Motions referred from National Conference 2012

Zone | Union Development

Policy Area: **Membership data**

Conference Believes:

1. That across the Student movement there is a chronic lack of access to comprehensive membership details from parent institutions. The NUS estimates that only about a third of all students' unions have access to university or college databases of students' details.
2. Having access to membership details is not only important for democratic purposes, but will also allow students' unions to engage with their membership on campaigns and provide important information in areas such as welfare.
3. That it is hard to engage students on issues such as funding, access, liberation campaigns, teaching standards, ethical investment, housing and student voice if students' unions don't know who their members are or how to contact them.
4. An impediment to "one member one vote" democracy in NUS is that some CMs lack access to lists of their own members and in some cases have difficulty holding fully democratic processes.
5. Those CMs would benefit from being more democratic and member-controlled.

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS to produce a best practice guide of both how to campaign to get membership details from parent institutions, and a best practice guide for managing such data.
2. NUS will produce case studies of how access to membership details has not only built stronger students' unions, but stronger parent institutions.
3. The VPUD should support and encourage CMs to gain direct access to their own members for democratic processes.
4. To commit in principle to empowering individual members to directly elect NUS officer when it becomes possible, and to explore approaches like aggregating results of general meetings and/or referenda across CMs.

Policy Area: **FE Students affiliation strategy**

Conference Believes:

1. NUS should campaign against any form of privatization of education because education is a fundamental public good.
2. There are hundreds of private colleges who are non-affiliates of NUS. The students unions in those private colleges are not always strong enough to protect the best interest of their students.
3. Students studying at private colleges deserve to be better supported by NUS.
4. There are a large number of Six Form Colleges which are not affiliated with NUS.

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS to re-affirm its strong opposition to any form of privatization to education, especially in FE.
2. Mandate NUS VP FE and NUS VP Union Development to work with Association of Colleges, Sixth Form Colleges' Forum to develop a 5 year plan to affiliate Private Colleges and Six

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

National Conference 2012 | Policy referred to NEC

Form Colleges to ensure students unions of those non-affiliates will be properly supported by NUS to fight for the best interest of FE students, especially against any further exploitation from their institution.

Policy Area: Global union development

Conference Believes:

1. NUS International Students Campaign has worked with the Higher Education Academy to organise trips for Australian university students union to visit 8 UK students' unions to share best practice on both sides.
2. The feedback from these trips has been overwhelming positive.
3. A reciprocal funded visit from UK students' unions to Australia is currently under discussion.
4. NUS International Students Officer has been working with the Commonwealth Secretariat to set up a Commonwealth Students Union for students' leaders from 54 countries, which will be launched in August 2012.
5. NUS international Students Officer Chairs NUS European Co-ordination Group, which co-ordinates all NUS UK's activities within European Students Union (ESU), of 45 national unions of students from 37 countries, promoting various ESU funded opportunities for UK students unions officers to attend funded ESU conferences on a variety of important students' union issues.
6. International collaborative provision is an important part of UK Education Internationalisation, which is often institution-led on research, teaching, enterprise, alumni etc.;
7. Students' unions in the UK should also be encouraged to link up with students unions overseas whose institutions have international collaborative partnership to form global partnerships.
8. With the privatisation of education in the UK, students union in both FE and HE face unprecedented challenges. We need to learn from students' union in other countries on effective campaign against privatization of education.

Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate the NUS VP Union Development to initiate a "NUS Global Union Development" Strategy;
 2. To launch a consultation on what global links NUS and students unions in the UK have already established with overseas students' unions;
 3. To mandate NUS VP UD to support all part of NUS nations, liberations, sections & zones to build up links with equivalent campaign overseas for global best practice, solidarity and students' union exchange;
 4. To promote and lobby ESU, Commonwealth Students Union, the UN Programme on Youth etc. to provide more funded opportunities for UK students' union officers to attend Global Youth Conferences;
 5. To lobby UUK, AoC, individual universities and colleges, etc. to provide more funding for UK students' unions to build up links with students' unions globally for international visits and joint projects as part of the UK Education Internationalisation strategy.
-

433,000 Students

Conference Believes:

1. There are approximately 433,000 students studying at further and higher education

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

National Conference 2012 | Policy referred to NEC

institutions in London.

2. The Greater London Authority (GLA) has a unique structure and extensive powers when compared to other local government systems in the UK.
3. The GLA has powers over transport, policing, economic development, and emergency services and planning.
4. Further and higher education institutions, and therefore students' unions, are more geographically concentrated in London than anywhere else in the UK.
5. Currently NUS has no formal structure for influencing the GLA policy agenda or formal support for students' unions that seek to pool front-end and backroom services and activities.
6. Regions in the UK that have significant devolved powers have NUS nations officers that represent those cohorts interests on a regional level, namely Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
7. There is currently no London representation on the NUS National Executive Committee

Conference Further Believes:

1. Although the GLA does not control education policy, it has powers that can shape the experiences of students in London.
2. A formal structure for influencing the GLA policy agenda should exist within NUS structures.
3. The geographical concentration of students' unions in London means there are opportunities for students' unions to pool front-end and backroom services and activities.
4. NUS should offer formal support to students' unions that seek to pool front-end and backroom services and activities.

Conference Resolves:

1. Following consultation with students' unions in London, NUS should establish:
 - (i) A formal structure for influencing the GLA policy agenda within NUS structures.
 - (ii) Formal support to students' unions that seek to pool front-end and backroom services and activities.

Policy Area: Transnational education

Conference Believes:

1. Transnational education (TNE), according to the definition of the British Council means delivering education where the learners are located in a different country from the one where the awarding institution is based.
2. TNE includes full scale campuses overseas, faculties in education villages, franchised UK degrees for local delivery, twinning arrangements with study in both the local country and the UK, validation of local programmes by UK institutions, distant learning programmes, collaborative delivery with shared input in curriculum, e.g. Joint/double/dual degrees, advanced standing or articulations agreements
3. With the fast development of UK TNE, there are more than 300,000 international students studying at a UK university with TNE provision, more than the number of international students study in the UK. Increasingly UK students are encouraged to study through TNE.
4. More than 30 universities in the UK have TNE provisions.

Conference Further Believes:

1. After the close of Post Study Work Visa, increasingly universities are setting up TNE provision to educate international students overseas. Not all universities actively engage their students unions in the representation of TNE students.
2. What students unions can do to support students based in overseas TNE programme is becoming an increasingly important issue

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

Conference Resolves:

1. Mandate NUS VP Union Development to work with NUS International Students Officer on this issue
 2. Launch a literature research on Students' Union Development to support students studying at TNE provision around the world
 3. Identify key issues of union development for TNE and propose a national framework to support students' unions whose institutions have TNE provisions.
 4. Explore opportunities to allow UK students' unions to link up with students' unions globally through TNE students' union development
 5. Lobby UUK and UK International Unit to encourage UK Universities to provide more funding to allow students' union to better represent, engage, and support their students at TNE provision
-

Zone | Education

Policy Area: Security in Colleges

Conference Believes

1. Under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 FE College's have statutory duty to safeguard the health and well-being of vulnerable adults as well as children.
2. FE Colleges are losing a quarter (1/4) of their budgets in the government cuts nationally, a large FE college spends approximately £500,000 on security and a smaller institution approximately £250,000
3. Under these cuts, corners will be cut on learner safety, safeguarding and good community cohesion in terms of security. This cannot happen, but if we have local control over such things, we can make sure that money is spent where appropriate, which means more for teaching and learning." – Dame Ruth Silver (Chair of the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS))

Conference Resolves

1. Work with the NUS to lobby against any cuts in FE Security
 2. To set up a steering group to meet with government to discuss the funding cuts and their potential impact on security with colleges and other possible options to these cuts.
-

Policy Area: Education Now and Then: Tear it Down and Start Again

Conference Believes

1. The next General Election will be held on 7th May 2015. Between now and then the Coalition Government will have made huge changes at all levels of education and society, the state of the economy will look very different and the labor market will have completely different demands.
2. In the 2010 General Elections NUS campaigned for a new system of graduate contributions, linked to earnings post-graduation and not to the cost of provision pre-graduation, with public funding remaining and business also contributing. Although we secured a much better deal for part-time students, improved loan repayment conditions and the retention of an upper cap, identifiable fees on entry remained and public spending on teaching was cut.
3. Market principles are now used to reduce cost to the exchequer while reducing financial support for students. An 'inverse pupil premium' has been created where by the institutions that have the most disadvantaged students spend the least on teaching.
4. In England, there exists two qualification frameworks straddling two departments of government. Students in further education are funded by two different funding agencies and the currency of their qualifications is poorly understood by universities and employers alike. The lack of a national offer in access and progression throughout tertiary education lets down those who could benefit the most.
5. Education is a public right at any level and qualification not a privilege as the current market agenda within the education sector would lead us to believe.
6. Higher education is now as much as £9,000 a year for undergraduate home students and unregulated for International, Post Graduate and Further Education courses.
7. The governments priorities continue to be spending billions of pound on warfare rather than investing in health and education that would be of public good.

Conference Further Believes

1. Our tertiary education system is fragmented, compartmentalised and too far down the road of commodification for piecemeal changes to represent winning campaign aims anymore. NUS must be prepared to propose radically different policies come the next General Election that deal with not only funding, but also the shape and structure of tertiary education as a whole.
2. That HE should be a public service, with publicly owned, publicly funded universities, run by workers, students and communities. We demand adequate public funding.
3. Taking a principled policy stance on how we wish the utopian education system to be funded does not preclude being able to negotiate with pragmatic short-term solutions.
4. Progressive taxation should fund a free education system as all within society benefit from education, training and skill even if it is not them directly being trained or educated.

Conference Resolves

1. To begin researching, consulting and creating new policy on both tertiary education funding and structure so that we are ready with fully costed alternatives come the 2015 General Election.
2. To still oppose cuts
3. Our fundamental and principled position on education funding should be that it is free at all and any level.
4. To call for this to be funded by a more progressive taxation system, finding new academic and innovative ways to express this.
5. This does not preclude our ability to negotiate and compromise for something slightly better for prospective students such as a graduate tax in the short term.
6. To run a campaign "Access for all" highlighting the disastrous effect of deregulated fees and of the tiered restructuring of HE (in terms of both more and less prestigious universities), demanding a free and expanded higher education open to all.

Policy Area: International FE

Conference notes:

1. International students in further education, like international students in higher education, face unregulated market in tuition fees;
2. The rise of private colleges in England has been an under-reported back door route for privatization of the whole post-16 education system;
3. Students in private colleges have no work rights so access is restricted to those who can rely on outside support;
4. The Centre Forum report Tier 4 Tears details the "devastation"
5. caused by international visa cuts to colleges relying on international students, with many international colleges closing.
6. International students studying at private FE colleges cannot work part-time, and international students studying at public FE colleges can only work 10 hours a week.

Conference future believes:

1. Discrimination in access to education by origin should be opposed in principle;
2. Privatization and marketisation in further education will lead to huge reductions in access in the long run and should be opposed in principle;
3. Access to education in both the short term and the long term courses in FE should be defended in principle.

Conference resolves:

1. To call for equality in FE fees for all students, with now-private colleges brought into the

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

-
- public sector to ensure continuity of access;
2. To oppose immigration rules restricting international students' right to work.
 1. To call for the UK government to make up shortfalls in FE funding through public investment.
 2. To campaign against FE college treating international students as cash cows without any transparency and accountability of the fee they pay.
 3. To lobby Association of Colleges to work closely with NUs VP FE to develop better support to FE international students.
-

Policy Area: **Education: Public, not for Profit**

Conference Believes

1. That the agenda of the Coalition government is to force an unworkable market in HE
2. That with the squeeze on student numbers and almost universal charging of £9k fees a vacuum has opened up which is being offered to the private sector
3. That education institutions should never be run for profit.

Conference Further Believes

1. That the governments reforms point to an Americanisation of the HE system
2. That institutions like Harvard in the US because they are deemed 'public for profit', dodge billions of tax every year
3. That there is a threat that like the University of Phoenix in the US, institutions will increasingly expand spending on marketing with detriment to teaching and access

Conference Resolves

1. That the public should never subsidise privately-owned places
 2. That we condemn the privatisation and sell-off of our education
 3. That we work with allies in the trade union, anti-cuts movement and Kill the NHS Bill movement to raise the profile about the sell-off of our education
-

Policy Area: **Employment and employability**

Conference Believes

1. That the student movement has developed a focus on employability over the past few years.
2. That students often rate future employment as their highest priority and reason for coming to university.

Conference Further Believes

1. That the reason why graduate unemployment is high is because there is an economic recession and an unprecedented attack on public services: no amount of employability training would alter this.
2. That it is reasonable for unions to focus on their members' needs, and that training on employability is to an extent socially progressive. However, on a national level, emphasis on employability amounts to teaching our members how to compete with each other more efficiently for jobs that may not even exist.

Conference Resolves

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

-
1. To make employment NUS's core priority when it comes to students in the labour market, and to fight primarily against cuts, and for more jobs and better working conditions.
 2. To continue to provide unions with support on employability projects.
 3. To oppose the idea that education should be reduced to a series of marketable skills.
-

Policy Area: Mature students, we hardly know you

Conference Believes

1. NUS and Million+ have undertaken a significant amount of research into mature students including a survey with 4,000 mature respondents from across the UK and a series of regional workshops.
2. Of the respondents to the survey one fifth had a disability, two fifths had caring responsibilities, two thirds were campus based for their teaching, and half live close to their chosen higher education institution. Only one fifth held A-levels or Higher qualifications; the rest held Access to HE qualifications, a foundation year, or a vocational qualification at level 2 or 3.
3. While interest in the course or subject is the predominant motivator for mature students to enter higher education, career aspirations and the need for flexible study options are important drivers.
4. The biggest challenges to mature students in higher education are balancing study with life or finance and funding. Where mature students consider suspending or leaving their course it is likely to be because of one of these two factors, and they are more likely to discuss it with a tutor than with a students' union advisor.
5. Half of survey respondents are in receipt of financial support from their institution. One quarter say they have encountered financial hardship as a result of studying. One third have taken on commercial or family debt apart from a student loan.
6. Students' unions will benefit from better understanding of, and engagement with, mature students.
7. Mature students want different things from their HE experience than younger students, and students' unions need to be equipped to support this.

Conference Resolves

1. To use the findings from the research to develop advice to HE unions about ways to support, represent and engage with mature students.
 2. To give thought to a more appropriate term than 'hard-to-reach' in relation to mature students.
 3. To develop the research to explore in more depth the experience of mature students in further education, and those studying higher education in further education, who did not respond in great numbers to the initial survey.
 4. To develop a series of briefings supporting campaigns that unions may wish to run on mature student issues eg retention, course organisation and management, finance, information, advice and guidance.
-

Policy Area: Funding for CRB checks

Conference Believes

1. Students studying in education institutions should not have to pay extra for compulsory requirements of their programme of study, on top of their already paid tuition fees.
 2. Many vocational students, such as those in education and healthcare, require Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance before they can attend their work placements.
 3. Although a select few institutions include the cost of processing a CRB check in their tuition
- For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

fees, many do not. Currently, students in these institutions must contribute either the full cost, or part of the cost of this process, on top of their already paid tuition fees.

4. The main beneficiary of students carrying out CRB checks is neither the Student nor the Educational institution, but instead is the state. (as it is perceived to mitigate risk in certain settings)
5. Students studying professions in healthcare, education and social/youth work should have the cost of their CRB checks funded for by their respective government departments.

Conference Resolves

1. NUS to work with Students' Unions and their universities/colleges to establish the number of institutions across the UK where students are expected to fund the cost of compulsory course required CRB checks themselves.
2. To lobby the Government to provide a funding system that covers the complete costs of CRB clearance afforded to students who must have CRB clearance as a requirement of their programme of study.

Policy Area: Defending Arts Education

Conference Believes

1. The coalition government have begun an onslaught on niche subjects in Higher Education
2. With the introduction of the AAB Rule and Core & Margin rules, arts institutions have had to bid for exemption from these student number controls.
3. That with the withdrawal of the teaching grant from art & design education, arts institutions are having to becoming almost 100% self-sufficient.
4. That according to HESA figures, in 2010/11 there were 176,700 students enrolled on Art & Design courses in the UK (over 16,000 more than when arts policy was passed in 2009)
5. The AAB system directly attacks arts institutes' standard forms of admissions; interview and portfolio entry.

Conference Further Believes

1. At present the National Union has no policy on Arts Education.
2. That the right to study niche arts subjects should be protected.
3. The National Union should be working with Arts Unions to highlight the need for Creative Arts education in the UK and worldwide.
4. That the credit structures and assessment models for arts subjects differ massively from the model used by traditional subject bases and therefore needs specialist attention from the NEC.

Conference Resolves

1. That the Higher Education Zone work with Unions with Arts Provisions to champion Arts Education and it's protection.
2. That the National Union should lobby the government for arts institutes to gain permanent exemption from the AAB rule laid down by the government.
3. That the VP HE should lobby the Arts & Culture Minister, and the Universities Minister to champion creative arts education in the UK.
4. That the National Union investigates the effects of the closure of niche courses in Higher Education.

Policy Area: Supporting Placement students

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

Conference Believes:

1. There is currently little support for students once they start their placement and often inconsistent support is due to national funding differences.
2. Support from a student's university with regards to finding accommodation and pastoral support is a minimum requirement of their welfare operations
3. Inconsistencies often lead to students retaking years or failing to get the maximum out of their opportunity
4. Students are often charged full or partial fees while on placement

Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate NUS to lobby for Universities to set up support branches dedicated to placement students
 2. To campaign at EU level to correct these irregularities in student support and awareness during their placements (ERASMUS)
 3. To campaign to get better value for money for placement students especially with the imminent fees rise
-

Policy Area: Part-time loans – a ticking time bomb

Conference Believes

1. While the introduction of loans for some part-time undergraduate students is welcome in principle, the implementation of this policy by government has been shoddy.
2. That as a result of the introduction of part-time fee loans plus the prospective fee increase for part-time undergraduate study the demand for part-time study may be unstable in the next few years.
3. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has failed to put adequate resource into explaining the new fees and finance regime to part-time students; while millions were spent on providing information to young full-time prospective students, part-time students merited only a £50,000 information budget.
4. The Student Loans Company is ill-equipped to cope with the new system and is unlikely to be able to provide adequate advice to part-time students hoping to access loans. Administrative chaos is a plausible outcome given past performance.
5. That the restriction of part-time loans to those studying below 75 per cent intensity is short-sighted, unfair, and will discourage part-time students from finishing their course in good time.
6. That institutional provision of part-time study will have to change to enable wider eligibility for fee loans.

Conference Resolves

1. To monitor the situation closely and be prepared to issue advice to unions when necessary.
2. To investigate how higher education institutions are responding to the new criteria for part-time loans, and the impact on study options.
3. To hold the Student Loans Company to account for how it meets the needs of part-time student loan holders.
4. To campaign for better information about student finance options to be made available to prospective part-time students, using routes in local communities, employers and through FE colleges.
5. To push for the extension of part-time fee loans to be extended past 75 per cent so that students have more flexibility in how they decide to study and can fit study around the rest of life more easily.

resolutions

Zone | Welfare

Policy Area: Nations

Conference Believes:

1. That NUS is a UK wide movement with 6 million members.
2. That NUS should seek to represent every one of those members.
3. That the NUS Priority campaign for 2011-2012 'Pound in your Pocket' only applied to English institutions.
4. That NUS UK should run inclusive campaigns that protect, defend and extend the rights of students from from across the UK.
5. That there is no provision for a full time welfare officer within NUS Scotland, NUS Wales and NUS USI.

Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate the Welfare Zone to ensure that at least one of their priority campaigns for 2012-2013 is inclusive of Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish institutions.
2. That for England-only welfare campaigns, the welfare zone will produce briefings and suggestions for how these campaigns could be adapted for the devolved nations.

Policy Area: Retention

Conference Believes:

1. The cost of university has increased over the last ten years - not just the cost of tuition fees, but the cost of accommodation, food, transport and general living.
2. NUS has just carried out both the biggest and most far-reaching piece of research on student support and the biggest study into hidden course cost in the sector.
3. Some students will arrive at university without the knowledge, pastoral care, family support and financial support they need to thrive.
4. Of those surveyed by the UCAS 'Back on Course' survey, 35% stated the reason for leaving being "course-related", whilst 32% stated financial or personal reasons.

Conference Further Believes:

1. The HE sector has failed to address the issue of retention in our universities. We have little institution by institution evidence to show who is leaving our universities early, from what course they are departing, and the reasons for their exit.
2. It is unacceptable students are dropping out Universities often unnoticed and unexamined by their institution.
3. Every student deserves the opportunity to make the most of their time at university; access to a quality student experience should never be undermined by lack of knowledge, funding or support.
4. Induction at university is a vital way of ensuring students feel supported throughout their time at University. Induction should never be confined to the first two weeks of University; it should be student specific and carried throughout the length of a student's degree.
5. Induction should focus not only on the academic experience, but on all elements of the student experience, including pastoral support, finance and extra-curricular opportunities.

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

6. Student should never be forced to take a commercial or payday loan to survive at university.
7. The personal relationship between students and staff can be key to ensuring student problems are addressed pro-actively.

Conference Resolves:

1. Building on the HE zone research on retention and work with the welfare zone lobby the government and mission groups to commit to tackling issues driving low retention, specifically where there are "high risk" groups.
2. Lobby all institutions to advertise ALF properly, and lobby to sustain/extend this fund. And using the results of the student support research, launch a study into how different modes of financial support, such as statutory and discretionary funding, as well as "progress bursaries" and designated funds, impact on retention and enhance educational outcomes.
3. Lobby institutions to include hidden course costs in the overall tuition fee.
4. For the welfare zone to campaign against commercial and payday loans targeting students and advertise information relating to the potential dangers and consequences of these quick fixes.
5. To enable students' union to carry out an investigation into the 'student life cycle' of different students on their campus to establish when students need support. Using this information, students' unions will be able to lobby more effectively for better, focused, induction processes.
6. Conduct a study into relationships between students and staff and modes of progress monitoring, including a study into personal tutor systems and their effectiveness.

Policy Area: **Against discriminatory immigration**

Conference Believes:

1. A thriving international culture is critical to academic freedom, multicultural experience of all students on campus, and research;
2. International students, as a vulnerable part of the migratory community, are being singled out by the UK government as a scapegoat;
3. Many international students graduating after April 2012 will find it difficult to find work experience after the cancellation of Post Study Work visas.
4. UK Home Secretary Theresa May stated that international students "count towards 2/3 of the net migration in the UK" with plans to reduce international students numbers by 80,000 (40%).
5. Further plans will make it more difficult for international graduates of UK universities to continue study and have work experience in the UK (eg. restriction of student visas to five years, requiring students to find a job with an income of over £20,000/year, while the average wage in much of the UK is as low as £17,000).
6. A similar experiment in slashing student visa numbers in Australia resulted in massive harm to the multicultural experience and academic research in that country.
7. Since the change in government, a change in immigration policy has meant huge changes to student visas.
8. International students have a huge positive cultural impact on the UK and our Universities, making them seats of learning, where diversity and internationalism promote positive graduate attributes.
9. The international student market is projected to be worth £26bn a year to the UK economy by 2025.
10. The current visas can cause significant problems for international students, who wish to

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

volunteer, complete work placements or work experience, or even become a sabbatical officer.

11. The current visa scheme threatens international recruitment and this could have hugely negative impacts for UK HE, considering the competitiveness posed by countries such as Australia, Canada, China and the US.
12. That there are better ways of tackling bogus colleges than these draconian methods.

Conference Resolves:

1. To work with UK Education Sector and international Education sectors to launch a national and international campaign to lobby UKBA, UN to take international students out of the "Net Migration" definition.
2. To mandate NUS VP HE, VP Welfare, VP Soc & Cit to work closely with NUS International Students Campaign on Immigration, with more staff support & resources allocated from NUS
3. To lobby for more support from UK universities, colleges & national agencies on employability for international students after the cancellation of Post Study Work Visa.
4. To continue supporting the work of NUS International Students Campaign in defending the equal human rights, including working rights, of international students;
5. To take a position of opposing cuts in international student visas, as part of a position of opposition to cuts in post-16 education places, and for the restoration of international student visas to their previous number.
6. To state our opposition and dismay at the new visa changes
7. To lobby the government to implement a fairer and more flexible system that allows legitimate students to attend UK universities and access to the full student experience.
8. To ask for the creation of a new form of visa for sabbatical officers that is not linked to post study work visas, thereby ensuring equality of opportunity for international students.

resolutions

Zone | Society and Citizenship

Policy Area: Living Wage

Conference Believes:

1. That all workers should receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.
2. That fair pay includes being paid a living wage.
3. That universities and colleges should pay all their staff a living wage so the people who keep their organisations going can afford to pay for the basics and essentials of life
4. That students are uniquely placed to demand fair pay for university and college workers.
5. That as job opportunities dry up, many students and graduates are forced to work unpaid to get the necessary experience and contacts to enter their preferred profession.
6. That unpaid internships create a barrier for those people who can't afford to work for weeks, or in some cases – months without being paid.
7. That unpaid internships are illegal as they do not comply with National Minimum Wage legislation.
8. That unpaid internships are part of the problem of student and graduate unemployment – not part of the solution.
9. That a large proportion of university careers services continue to advertise unpaid internships to their students.
10. That all of NUS Services' suppliers should pay all their workers a living wage.
11. "Access to Work" is a government scheme to meet the additional costs for disabled people in work, such as the cost of equipment, taxis or a personal assistant. This help is not available for people undertaking unpaid work, thus excluding disabled people who require these adjustments. Unpaid internships are illegal as they do not comply with the Equality Act.
12. As students express a need for more employability skills, responsive unions and universities will begin to offer internal internships and placements on campus
13. That NUS cannot campaign on unpaid internships without a degree of internal analysis of students unions and institutions
14. That universities and student unions should lead the way on paying their interns
15. That student's unions should analyse ourselves and our institutions to ensure students receive fair pay.
16. The gap between the lowest paid workers and senior management in universities is too large, the biggest in the public sector, and increasing.
17. University Heads tend to earn 15.35 times the salary of the lowest paid. In the Russell group it is 19 times.
18. The average salary of university heads (approx. £250,000) is too high when many workers are paid the NMW.
19. NUS needs to be at the forefront of progressive politics on fair pay, and should champion income equality on campus. NUS should call for an incremental reversing of inequalities towards a 1:10 pay ratio.
20. NUS campaigns alongside Citizens UK for the Living Wage. This should be integrated into an overall project for greater income equality along the lines of a '1:10' campaign.

Conference Resolves:

1. For NUS to help students run their own local campaigns on the living wage and unpaid internships– providing resources, campaign support and advice.
2. To work with Citizens UK and other relevant organisations to campaign for the implementation of the Living Wage at our institutions.
3. That NUS highlights the good practice of university careers services who do not advertise

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

unpaid internships to their students.

4. To mandate the VP Society and Citizenship to lobby for NUS Services to ensure all workers across its supply chains are paid a living wage.
5. To work with student unions to make sure union and institution hosted internships are subject to the same scrutiny as internships in industry
6. To ensure students receive fair pay for their work- wherever they work
7. To lead the fight for greater pay equality on campuses by calling for a maximum pay differential in the HE sector of 1:10, and campaign on this issue.
8. Reaffirm the commitment to a Living wage for all workers within HE and FE.
9. Write to Universities UK, expressing uneasiness on the excessiveness of VCs' pay.

Policy Area: **Eden Springs**

Conference Believes:

1. That NUS has a proud history of campaigning on global justice and ethical purchasing issues.
2. That Universities are public institutions with a dedicated commitment to the public good and their purchasing and investments should reflect this.
3. That water is a natural resource which is essential to life and access to water is a basic human right, as recognised by Amnesty International.
4. That the illegal appropriation of water for commercial use is particularly problematic in the Golan Heights, where resources are scarce and distributed unequally.
5. That NUS should campaign on ethical purchasing, in line with previous campaigns on ethical investment.

Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate the VP Society and Citizenship to write to the Chief Executive of Eden Springs outlining NUS' objections to their bottling plant in the Golan Heights and asking them to remove it.
2. For NUS to constructively engage with Eden Springs.
3. To release guidance for students campaigning on ethical purchasing, including information about Eden Springs and how best to engage with their universities, colleges or city councils to lobby them to cancel their contracts.
4. To research which universities and colleges have contracts with Eden Springs and work with local SUs to lobby universities to remove Eden Springs.

Policy Area: **Gap Years**

Conference believes:

1. There has been a recent resurgence of interest in Gap Years and volunteering.
2. The ethics of some Gap year schemes are questionable; this causes issues not only for students who take part but also for the communities they are seeking to help.
3. The rise in Diaspora volunteering where people volunteer within the country of their ethnic heritage is a positive step.
4. The questionable ethics of some Gap Year schemes needs to be exposed.

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

5. Like unpaid internships, most gap year projects are only accessible to those who can afford to work for free.
6. Information on Gap Year companies, particularly 'for profit' organisations can be difficult to access.
7. A limited amount of research has been conducted about students' perspectives and experiences of Gap Years.

Conference resolves:

1. The Society & Citizenship zone will carry out research on this top inform our work in this area.
2. NUS will seek to highlight the issues both from a students' perspective and from the communities involved.
3. NUS will seek to wield greater influence through our student membership on the work of Gap Year companies.
4. NUS will seek to highlight organisations who demonstrate good practice and help ensure that students wishing to pursue a Gap Year are able to make informed decisions.
5. NUS will highlight companies who make efforts to provide opportunities to students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and the Society and Citizenship zone will work with the BSC to encourage Diaspora volunteering

Policy Area: Fight the far right

Conference Believes:

1. That while the BNP is in disarray, the far right remains a serious threat.
2. That the EDL is able to mobilise thousands on the streets, and may enter electoral politics in alliance with a BNP split, the British Freedom Party.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That the conditions feeding the far right are:
2. Widespread racism in society, encouraged by mainstream political parties and the press which promote the idea that immigration is a major cause of social problems;
3. Huge cuts and perceptions of a struggle for scarce resources, which the far right is actively exploiting;
4. Mainstream political parties have failed to challenge the narrative on immigration or on cuts;
5. That we need an anti-fascist movement which:
6. Is genuinely democratic, allowing activists to debate the way forward;
7. Relies on mass mobilisation to drive the EDL etc off our streets, instead of calling for state bans;
8. Unites workers', community and students' organisations for demands which can undercut the demagoguery of the far right: black and white, all religions and none, British-born and migrant – unite and fight for jobs, homes and services for all.
9. David Cameron's statement linking Britain's multicultural society with terrorism had an impact to deflect the anger against his government's cuts onto the Muslim community.
10. Cameron's speech was made on the day the English Defence League (EDL) brought its bigotry and violence to the streets of Luton. Mainstream Islamophobia fuels the growth of fascist organisations and racist violence.
11. Our multicultural society built on respect and solidarity is a cause for pride. We reject any moves to undermine it.

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

Conference Resolves:

1. To produce dedicated NUS anti-fascist materials with this perspective.
 2. To fight for these ideas in any anti-fascist campaign NUS supports.
 3. To add NUS to the signatories of the statement initiated by Unite Against Fascism in defence of multiculturalism.
 4. To help student unions organise Love Music Hate Racism and Love Music Hate Homophobia gigs and festivals to help foster a culture of anti-racism and solidarity on our campuses.
 5. To reaffirm our commitment to mobilising students for counter-demonstrations against the EDL and to organise an anti-fascist speaking tour alongside UAF and other organisations
-

Policy Area: **A Generation Lost**

Conference Believes:

1. The past decade has witnessed the failure of young people by successive governments, with the introduction and trebling of tuition fees, scrapping of the Education Maintenance Allowance, record levels of youth unemployment, introduction of Ant-Social Behavioural Orders and damaging cuts to the funding of youth services and widening access.
2. The rhetoric of deficit reduction and austerity is not likely to stop any time soon. Further reductions in spending are likely across all Government departments throughout this parliament.
3. The media portrays young people as anti-social, aggressive trouble makers or as lazy benefit scroungers.
4. The lack of coherence in our qualifications frameworks or sufficient information, advice and guidance acts as a barrier to fair access and progression.
5. Too often "youth voice" is delivered by tokenistic positions that use a false façade of already privileged and confident young people as youth engagement, when those from poorer backgrounds, ethnic minorities and the "feral class" are left out in the cold.
6. Students have the right to have their voice heard as members of the local community.
7. Students can be disproportionately impacted by council decisions

Conference Further Believes:

1. If we don't build a consensus that promotes the rights of young people over the 'squeezed middle' before the next General Election then an entire generation will be written off by this and the next parliament.
2. We should continue campaigning to scrap tuition fees, reinstate the Education Maintenance Allowance and re-introduce public funding in higher education, but our asks must become broader and create a holistic narrative around the experiences and opportunities of young people.
3. We must include all areas of government policy in our mission to improve prospects for young people. Rejecting the role of industry in supporting this aim is naïve and counterproductive.
4. Young people should be genuinely involved in policy making throughout local and national government, not dismissed as ignorant, apathetic or irrational.
5. The government is proposing to scrap the legal obligation for people to provide their local Electoral Registration Officer with information.
6. The government is proposing to switch from a system of household to individual electoral registration.
7. Many students live in HMOs and frequently move address.

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

8. Students and young people are already disproportionately not registered to vote.
9. The Electoral Commission warns that proposed changes could result in up to 10 million people unregistered.
10. Students previously registered under household registration are at risk of being left off the register.
11. Students and young people are often first time voters, and the government should make every effort possible to get them to register to vote.

Conference Resolves:

1. To create innovative policies for the next General Election that prioritise:
 - a. access to quality education by those who could benefit most
 - b. social policies that champion young people rather than demonising them
 - c. national/local governance with young people from all backgrounds at the heart of decision making.
2. NUS must fight to ensure a better deal for our lost generation including:
 - a. A coherent, accessible and fair tertiary education system, supported by efficient and independent information, advice and guidance
 - b. A fair and sufficient student support system that provides young people with real opportunities to stay in education and fulfil their potential
 - c. Fair representation of young people throughout society, including within politics and the media
3. To call for coordinated demonstrations in cities throughout the UK, demanding urgent action from this Government to protect and defend the rights of an entire generation of young people.
4. For NUS to develop a toolkit for councils & unions which identifies the sorts of issues that may disproportionately affect students.
5. For NUS to encourage dialogue between councils & unions.
6. For NUS to develop a good practice resource of work between councils & unions
7. To support Student Unions in encouraging students to register to vote.
8. To oppose the government's changes to make voter registration optional.
9. To oppose the government's plans to introduce individual voter registration

Policy Area: **Opposing Unpaid Internships in the Creative Arts**

Conference Believes:

1. That under National Minimum Wage laws introduced in 1999, anyone who "works" is entitled to the current hourly rate. That currently stands at £6.08 for those aged 21 and over.
2. That of the arts internships advertised on a Department for Business Innovation and Skills-sponsored website, 92% were unpaid.
3. That on the same website, seventy-seven per cent of advertised fashion internships were unpaid.
4. That on the same website, 76% of PR internships were unpaid.
5. That on the same website, half of the media internships were unpaid.
6. That an intern is not a "voluntary worker".
7. A "voluntary worker" is "A worker employed by a charity, a voluntary organisation, an associated fund-raising body or a statutory body"

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

8. That "internships" and "interns" are not defined in law.
9. The Arts Council for England believes that the majority of interns actually qualify as 'workers' in the definitions of the NMWA 1998 and must be paid.
10. That the Trade Union Council fears that internships are replacing paid work for young people and pushing down pay for those in work.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That the definition of "unpaid or unsupported intern" or "unpaid or unsupported internship" is an intern that is not remunerated for performing necessary or critical duties ("work").
2. That any student on "work placement" should be paid for their labour as a productive worker.
3. That unpaid internships and work placements not only undermine those graduates and students taking part in such practices within the Creative industries, but such practices undermine the industry as a whole and lead to lower pay for all workers.

Conference Resolves:

1. To unilaterally oppose the practice of unpaid or unsupported internships and work experience, with highlight to the those in the Creative Arts.
2. That the National Union lobby for work placement to be paid on top of loans and bursaries.
3. To promote institutionalized support mechanisms for students on work placement or internship, working in conjunction with institutional careers services.
4. To support Unions to lobby their Careers Services to properly vet placements advertised on their website and social media, and for Careers to remove advertised unpaid placements from their books immediately.
5. That the National Union works to support Arts Unions and those Unions with Arts provisions in lobbying the Creative Arts industries to oppose unpaid internships.
6. That the National Union initiates a survey of arts students nationwide to collect names of companies for which unpaid internships are common practise.
7. Further, through the use of this data and monitoring to publically name and shame organisations that exploit or through bad practice have undermined the needs of students so long as sufficient information is available.
8. To work with the Welfare Zone to formulate a "Your rights as interns" documents outlining rights, best practice and avoiding exploitation etc, to be distributed to all constituent members for circulation throughout their membership.

Policy Area: **Citizenship**

Conference Believes:

1. That Citizenship education is a vital part of school and college life
2. That the Coalition are set on breaking up its curriculum and the way its delivered
3. Citizenship is thought to be the fastest growing subject at GCSE. More than 100,000 teenagers take a qualification in it each year.
4. That grants for PGCE Citizenship students were scrapped in 2011 and there was little to no interest in this issue from the media
5. Michael Gove was quoted saying the curriculum "must not cover every conceivable area of human knowledge or endeavour and should not become a vehicle for imposing passing political fads"
6. Gove has also said that his intention is to "restore the national curriculum to its original purpose – a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines".

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

Conference Further Believes:

1. That citizenship education offers a platform for young people to engage in politics and advocacy, thus inspiring the future leaders of tomorrow
2. That students' unions through student activities and liberation groups have the ability to deliver education, advocacy, training and resources to young people in schools, and students in FE.

Conference Resolves:

1. For the Society and Citizenship zone to work with the FE zone to put a petition to Downing Street to save citizenship education
 2. To work with allies to co-ordinate the lobbying of MPs on this issue
 3. To work with the NUT on building up local NUT student groups to help co-ordinate campaigning on this issue
 4. To lobby to get PGCE students doing citizenship the full teaching grant
 5. That where there is a lack of movement from policy-makers and politicians, NUS supports students' unions to engage with trade unions and councils to look at ways for students to complement the delivery of citizenship and activism in schools at FE.
-

Policy Area: Move Your Money

Conference Believes:

1. That banks are still reporting huge profits, RBS for example declared £2 billion in the three months to September 2011
2. UK taxpayers have given an estimated £500bn to banks in the form of bailout and guarantee schemes
3. That banks continue to practice risky speculation with what is public money, exposing us to future crises and instability
4. That some students' unions, and many institutions bank with unethical providers such as RBS who fund tar sands amongst other things
5. That the Society & Citizenship zone and NUSSL have launched a national deal with the Co-operative bank for SUs to easily and efficiently switch their bank provider

Conference Resolves:

1. For the Society & Citizenship zone to run a national campaign to get SUs to bank with the Co-operative bank
 2. To support the 'Move Your Money' campaign and get students to pledge to switch their provider to a bank with an explicit ethical commitment
 3. To mobilise our members around days of action when banks report profits and announce executive bonuses
 4. To support 'shareholder activism' and get students along to AGMs of banks to lobby them on their practices.
-

Policy Area: Peace One Day

resolutions

Conference Believes:

1. In 2001 a United Nations General Assembly resolution was unanimously adopted by UN member states, formally establishing an annual day of global ceasefire and non-violence on the UN International Day of Peace, fixed in the global calendar on 21st September
2. Peace One Day is calling for and working towards a day of ceasefire and non-violence on the 21st September 2012; a Global Truce which could be the largest reduction in global violence in recorded history, both domestically and internationally
3. On Peace Day 21st September 2010, in all 192 UN member states, and 28 organizations carried out 88 humanitarian activities across 31 countries
4. POD Education aims to advance learning in areas of conflict resolution, global citizenship and human rights, and NUS can play a key role in this.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That on the 27th February 2012 the NUS along with students' unions from across the globe, including South Africa, the USA, Nepal and Sri Lanka, called for the students of the world to unite as one on the run up to global truce 2012 and beyond
2. That FE colleges have taken a lead on the POD campaign on campuses, including Canterbury College linking it to 'Blue Monday' and anti-bullying campaigns; and Wakefield College planning a POD education day.

Conference Resolves:

1. For the Society and Citizenship zone to create a campaign kit specific for FE on how unions can get involved in the run up to global truce 2012
 2. To hold training and education days that help get students to understand what they can do to help on various levels, ranging from working with liberation campaigns on bullying and violence against women on a local scale; to how we can work towards peace on a larger international scale
 3. To use the POD networks to build international alliances with other students' organizations
 4. To create a Principal/VC pledge to support Global Truce day.
-

Policy Area: Solidarity with Syria

Conference Believes:

1. As of 13th February 2012, at least 8117 Syrians had died as a result of the violence in Syria since March 15th 2011 (Violations Documenting Centre. Accessed at: <<http://www.vdc-sy.org/>>)
2. A report published in January 2012 by global civic organization Avaaz claimed the number of those detained from March 2011 – January 2012 to be 69,000.
3. Due to the Syrian government's violent crackdown on anti-government protesters, Damascus has been suspended from the Arab League. ('Syria unrest: Arab League observer mission head quits'. BBC. Accessed at: <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-17001032>>)
4. Despite William Hague's condemnation of the Syrian regime and Britain's public support of the Syrian people, the Syrian Embassy remains open and its staff remain employed in London.

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

Conference Further Believes:

1. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other human rights organizations have stated that the Syrian regime is guilty for committing crimes against humanity.
2. It is the responsibility and duty of the international community to voice concern over and take action in order to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people.
3. The Syrian regime has no remaining legitimacy and is beyond the point of negotiation.
4. The British government must make an uncompromising commitment to support the rights and freedoms of the Syrian people.
5. The first step to doing so is the closure of the Syrian Embassy and the suspension of any diplomatic relations.

Conference Resolves:

1. The NUS to encourage Students' Unions to publicly condemn the Syrian regime and show solidarity with the Syrian people through student media.
2. The NUS to support scholarships to students for the post Assad reconstruction.
3. To call for Assad's removal, a trial against him for crimes against humanity and for the initiation of a transition towards a stable and representative government.
4. NUS to lobby and pressure the British government to:
5. Expel the Syrian ambassador and boycott Syrian diplomacy
6. Impose economic sanctions on Syria, in the form of freezing the assets of Assad and any members of his government (ensuring that these sanctions are compensated for by investing in non-governmental humanitarian organizations).
7. To raise awareness amongst students in the UK and to help them identify with the struggle of people overseas.

Policy Area: Student Fuel Poverty

Conference Believes:

1. Households are currently considered by the government to be in 'fuel poverty' if 10% or more of the household income is spent on keeping the house at an adequate temperature.
2. Those living in private rented accommodation are more likely to be living in conditions of 'fuel poverty'.
3. The Living in Wales Survey (2008) estimated that around 26% of Households in Wales were living in conditions of 'fuel poverty'.
4. The English Housing Survey revealed that 4.0 million households in England were classified as being in fuel poverty in 2009 (18% of all households). This is three times the number of households that were in fuel poverty at the low point in 2003, and there have been increases in each year since 2003.
5. Not being able to afford heating is detrimental to both physical and mental health both of which have an impact on student experience.
6. Hidden course costs, the recession and cuts to student support mean that more students are suffering from fuel poverty.
7. Students across the UK are not usually associated with 'fuel poverty' because their housing situation is deemed 'temporary'.
8. The effects upon students are likely to increase with the rise in prices of the 'Big six' energy providers.

Conference Resolves:

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

1. Conduct research on the extent to which students are living in fuel poverty.
 2. Highlight solutions that involve the use of sustainable energy.
-

Policy Area: **Don't Attack Iran – Fund Education Not War**

Conference Believes:

1. Over the past decade hundreds of thousands of young people have been active in the movements against war and for global peace, from opposing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to calling for an end to Britain's nuclear weapons system.
2. According to the Treasury, by mid 2010 Britain had spent more than £20 billion on the wars against Iraq and Afghanistan. The cost of Britain's war on Libya last year totalled £2 billion.
3. The cost of renewing Trident, Britain's nuclear weapons system has risen to £100 billion.
4. Government figures show that it would have cost just £2bn per year to abolish tuitions fees, before they were trebled.
5. The wars on Afghanistan and Iraq have been a waste of money and a waste of lives. One million dead in Iraq and hundreds of thousands killed in Afghanistan – and at the cost of billions of pounds to the British taxpayer.
6. There are dangers of new wars being launched by the Western powers in the Middle East. These wars will bring even more death and destruction to the Middle East and could cost the British taxpayer billions of pounds.
7. There is no evidence that Iran is developing nuclear weapons. Iran, unlike Israel and Pakistan, is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It has the right to develop civilian nuclear power.
8. £20bn has been spent on wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, more than the £7bn HE budget.
9. Attacking Iran could lead to thousands of casualties, as in Iraq, and provoke retaliation with devastating effects. Current Western rhetoric recalls the Iraq war, when a threat was fabricated to justify an attack.
10. The cost of war is unacceptable. Spending on an attack at a time of deep cuts to public services is immoral.
11. Nuclear disarmament should be a long term goal, but war is not a solution to nuclear proliferation.

Conference Resolves:

1. For NUS to work with the Stop the War Coalition and Student CND to campaign for the British government to change its twisted spending priorities and fund education not war, to scrap Trident and scrap tuition fees.
 2. For NUS to send an open letter to the Foreign Secretary William Hague proposing that the government end the war on Afghanistan, refrain from launching new wars in the Middle East and use the money saved to fund education and other public services.
 3. To condemn any future war with Iran, releasing statements to this effect.
-

Policy Area: **Defend the Welfare State**

Conference Believes:

For the latest news follow @NUSNEC and visit www.nusconnect.org.uk/nusnec

resolutions

1. Britain's deficit is lower now, as a proportion of GDP, than after the Second World War when the welfare state was created. The deficit is a result of bailing out banks which are now paying out billions in bonuses.
2. In other European countries similar austerity programmes have been met with mass resistance including general strikes.
3. To demand heavy taxation of the rich and full nationalisation of the banks to fund decent jobs, education and services for all.
4. To fight for a government based on the organised labour movement which carries out these measures in the interests of workers, students and the majority of society.

Conference Resolves:

1. To make the case against all cuts and austerity.
2. To support all protests and strikes against the cuts, including protests outside the conferences of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties.
3. To coordinate with the TUC, trade unions and anti-cuts campaigning organisations for a united defence of public services and the welfare state.
4. To support calls for a general strike.
5. To offer NUS support to campaigning activity like UK Uncut and the Occupy movement.
6. To affiliate to the Coalition of Resistance.
7. Austerity is an inappropriate response to the crisis. Ongoing stagnation is the direct result of falling demand in the economies.
8. The sharp increases in debt and deficits are the direct result of the financial crisis of 2008. It was not spending on public services that produced the increase in public debt.
9. Austerity pushes the costs of the crisis onto those who can least afford it and students are directly affected by austerity measures. Applications for university places are down this year. Removing EMA has hit over 600,000 students.
10. Austerity programmes, consisting of sharp cuts in public expenditure, are being implemented across much of the developed world. George Osborne has extended austerity measures beyond the lifetime of the current Parliament.

Policy Area: **International student activism**

Conference Believes:

1. In July 2011, former MP & cabinet undersecretary Kim Howells declared, as reported by the BBC, that international students, particularly those from Libya, are "security threats" and that international student recruitment risked bringing "violent jihadists" into the UK;
2. Howells' comments in the midst of the Libyan civil war distressed Libyan and other international students in the UK;
3. NUS International Students Campaign and NUS Wales Black Students Campaign partnered to campaign with demonstrations and publicity against Howells' statements;
4. In the wake of Howells' comments, Cardiff Lord Mayor Delme Bowen circulated a letter encouraging international students to "get involved in the life of the city";
5. At the same time, Libyan Cardiff University graduate and practising dentist Nizar Mhani returned to Libya to lead the "Free Generation Movement" in resistance to the Gaddafi regime;
6. The Free Generation Movement's campaign vandalised property but did not carry out violence against people and was lauded by media sources across the UK and internationally;

resolutions

7. Mhani represents part of a proud tradition of international students who became politicised while studying in the UK and which also includes, among others, Mohandas Gandhi, founder of Kenya Jomo Kenyatta and Bill Clinton.
8. Howells' comments represent a current of opportunistic mock paranoia used to justify tighter, more discriminatory policies on migration;
9. Attitudes such as Howells', like programmes such as PREVENT, discourage international students from taking active roles in their students' unions and in their broader communities;
10. The contribution of UK international students to the world political stage has been profound and positive.

Conference Resolves:

1. To condemn Kim Howells' statements regarding international students;
 2. To applaud Nizar Mhani for his positive and effective contribution to the downfall of Gaddafi;
 3. To give solidarity and support to NUS International Students Campaign and NUS Black Students Campaigns in actively opposing a culture of scapegoating and paranoia regarding international students;
 4. To encourage NUS constituent members, while being sensitive to the political considerations of international students' origins, to facilitate international students taking active roles in their students' unions and community, not only through international societies but also through activism and through standing for elected positions.
-

Policy Area: Twin with Egyptian Universities

Conference Believes:

1. The Egyptian revolution against the Military Council (SCAF) continues
2. The Military Council is no ally of the Egyptian people
3. We stand unequivocally on the side of those risking their lives to fight for freedom, justice and dignity and against the regimes that repress them.
4. The students at the American University of Cairo and other institutions have been right to kick out their Principals and Chancellors linked to SCAF and Mubarak regime

Conference Resolves

1. To congratulate the students of the American University of Cairo and other institutions
 2. To organise speaking tours of youth and student activists from Egypt on our campuses.
 3. To roll out a twinning programme with Egyptian students across the campuses
-

Policy Area: Tarsands

Conference Believes:

1. That the Earth has a finite amount of natural resources that should be used in a sustainable manner to ensure a decent standard of living for future generations.
2. Sustainable living has positive benefits for global social equality.

resolutions

Conference Resolves:

1. To support the Tar Sands-Free campaign
-

Policy Area: **University of Sanctuary**

Conference Believes:

1. Asylum seekers and refugees encounter immense barriers to Higher Education
2. Asylum seekers are charged international fees by universities, cannot work in the UK or access UK funding.
3. There are over 15 Cities of Sanctuary in the UK and universities can sign these agreements and become a 'University of Sanctuary'.
4. Education is a human right and should be accessible to all on the basis of merit alone.
5. Access to Higher Education would help asylum seekers and refugees to as it would help them successfully adapt to life in the UK.
6. Asylum seekers and refugees culturally and intellectually enrich our campuses and general society
7. Prejudices against asylum seekers and refugees are unjust and unacceptable.

Conference Resolves:

1. To educate students about asylum seeker and refugee issues by working with student groups and other organisations to help Students' Unions co-ordinate their own Refugee Weeks.
2. To provide advice and information for SUs to aid in lobbying their institutions to become Universities of Sanctuary and to affiliate with the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics.
3. To work with CARA to develop a minimum standard for which affiliated universities would need to meet
4. To seek a national agreement on university provision for asylum seekers and refugees. To lobby the government to provide funding for asylum seekers and refugees education

resolutions

Motions to NEC 21st May 2012

Motion 1: Autumn Demonstration

NEC believes

1. NUS Conference voted to support an autumn demonstration
2. According to the survey conducted at conference more than 50% of all delegates at this year's conference were Sabbatical Officers

NEC further believes:

1. We must fulfill the democratic mandate given to us
2. We have a massive opportunity to start building momentum behind the call for the national demonstration among the newly elected Sabbatical Officers.

NEC resolves:

1. To congratulate National Conference to voting 'yes' to the national demonstration.
2. To organise a national meeting for Sabbatical Officers, local cuts groups, interested students to discuss the cuts, restructuring of our university system and the national demonstration. This meeting should be organised no later than June 24.
3. To organise a speaking tour throughout the colleges and universities with either speakers from Quebec or Chile where student protests have won massive concessions off of equally vicious governments. This should be in the immediate run-up to the national demonstration.
4. To approach the UCU in particular to support and mobilise for the national demonstration
5. To send an open letter to other trade unions to join and mobilise the demonstration.

Motion 2: Solidarity with the Quebec student strike

NEC believes:

1. For more than three months now more than 170 000 secondary and tertiary students have been on indefinite student strike in Quebec, Canada.
2. Students are protesting against a 75% increase in tuition fees.
3. The demonstration in Montreal on March 22 was the largest student demonstration in Canadian history
4. The students have been met with fierce police tactics. One student even lost his eye due to shock grenade.

NEC further believes:

1. That international solidarity is a weapon.
2. That Quebec students have been an inspiration to countless students around the globe.

NEC resolves:

1. To organise a picket outside of the Canadian embassy.
2. To hand a letter to the Canadian embassy congratulating Quebec students and calling upon the Canadian government to stop the crackdown.
3. To invite a Quebec student over to the UK to address Sabbatical Officers, students and others in the movement.

Motion 3: Staff Support for Student Sections Campaigns

resolutions

NEC believes

1. Over the past few years NUS has been able to begin to specifically target and address the issues of key demographics of the overall student population, including international, postgraduate and mature & part-time students.
2. While much progress has been made in representing student sections, the campaigns are unable to reach their full potential in positively influencing the lives of the students they represent.
3. Given the current context of rising fees and lack of a publicly-funded student support system for postgraduates, devastating changes to immigration policy and further increasing international student fees, and the detrimental effects of the new funding system on mature & part-time students, NUS has not been able to adequately prioritise and address issues faced by these student demographics.

NEC further believes

1. Students' Unions agreed to pay a levy with the introduction of a full-time member of staff working on postgraduate issues in 2009.
2. NUS does not currently have a full-time member of staff fulfilling this role.
3. Given the level of support required across all three sections campaigns, a full-time role should be created and broadened out to include the International and Mature & Part-time campaigns, and should be additional and supplementary to current support.
4. A full-time staff member position should be created to support and deliver the work of the Student Sections, as outlined in the supporting document.

NEC resolves

1. The National President will investigate possible sources to fund a new, additional, full-time staff position for the Student Sections Campaigns.

DRAFT