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meeting of: National Executive Council (nineteenth meeting)

place: Unison Council Chamber,

date and time: 23rd July 2012, 12.45pm

Members:	Name
President & Chair	Liam Burns
Zones	Toni Pearce (Further Education) Rachel Wenstone (Higher Education); Danielle Grufferty & James Haywood (Society & Citizenship); Vicki Baars (Union Development); Pete Mercer (Welfare);
Liberation	Aaron Kiely & Malia Bouattia (Black Students); Hannah Paterson (Disabled Students); Finn McGoldrick & Sky Yarlett (LGBT); Kelley Temple & Jo Johnson (Womens);
Sections	Daniel Stevens and Dennis Esch (International Students); Fee Wood (Mature & Part Time Students); Robin Burrett & Luke James (Postgraduate Students);
Nations	Stephanie Lloyd & Sam Reid (NUS Wales); Robin Parker & Stacey Devine (NUS Scotland); Adrienne Peltz & Claire Flanagan (NUS-USI);
Block	Alex Causton-Ronaldson, Michael Chessum, Caroline Dangerfield, Reni Eddo-Lodge, Roshni Joshi, Jake Kitchiner, Jamil Keating, Emma Meehan, Aidan Mersh, Surya Prakash Bhatta, Mark Seward, Matt Stanley, Joe Vinson, Mike Williamson, Jamie Woodcock
In attendance: Staff	Matt Hyde (Group Chief Executive), Jim Dickinson (Director Policy and Delivery); Vic Langer (Assistant Director Policy and Delivery); Simon Raynor (Director of Communications and Marketing); Nick Smith (Democratic Services Co-ordinator)
Observers:	
Apologies:	
Zones	
Liberation	Daryl Jones
Nations	
Sections	Sean Rillo-Razcka
Block	

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1. Introductory & Administration

- 1.1 Liam Burns (LB) opened the meeting and welcomed new members of the NEC who introduced themselves.
- 1.2 Apologies were noted.
- 1.3 There were no declarations of interests.
- 1.4 The minutes of the NEC meeting 21st May 2012 were approved.
- 1.5 There were no matters arising.

2. Reports and accountability

- 2.1 LB presented his report to the NEC and invited questions

Mike Williams (MW) asked for more information on the work with "Which" LB reported that this work was in line with policy passed at National Conference 2011 asking for NUS to ensure students could make informed decisions regardless of their financial background or history of higher education in their family. "Which" had been chosen because of its history as a lobbying and not for profit organisation, independent of the sector and because NUS could set clear boundaries about the language used, steering away from consumerist intentions. It was noted that this work would continue with or without NUS' involvement but this would give local students' unions a platform to populate the site. It was noted that a focus on getting contextual information to mature students, and supporting students' unions should their institution challenge information they upload, should be dealt with. [ACTION: LB]

Sky Yarlett (SY) asked whether NUS had any links with Coca-Cola or the Olympics and what LB's view was on the Games. LB responded that NUS had worked with Coca-cola for several years and had been involved in constructive engagement since 2006. The sponsored the Be a Champion project which had been very well received and had reached many students that would not normally engage with NUS. This positive view was affirmed by several other NEC members, albeit accepting concerns around legacy and community impact.

The report was *approved*

- 2.2 – 2.7 The officers had not presented written reports as the meeting met so close to the start of their terms in office.

Toni Pearce (TP), Pete Mercer (PM), Vicki Baars (VB), Aaron Kiely (AK), Robin Parker (RP), Fee Wood (FW) and Daniel Stevens (DS) gave brief summaries of their work over the past three weeks.

3. Motions and Proposals

- 3.1 Cycle of NEC business and by-laws

LB presented the NEC cycle and by-laws which were *approved* by the meeting and would become the basis for the agendas of the council over the coming year.

- 3.2 Brand Review

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The NEC received a paper on the Brand Review. They had received a presentation on this before the meeting started.

Jamie Woodcock (JW) asked how much the project had cost. LB responded that costs were expected to be £60,000 split evenly between NUS and NUS Services Ltd. This work was last done in 2006 and students had been involved throughout the research, both officers and students currently studying in institutions. Reni Eddo-Lodge (REL) noted the importance for the organisation of having strong messages and good communication and praised the work that had been done.

VB said she believed the work should be taken with a large pinch of salt because of the variety of students involved. LB disputed this point because although Extra Card users were part of the database it was still the largest research pool undertaken.

The NEC *approved* the paper

3.3 The Chief Exec's report was noted

3.4 Budget

The paper on the campaigning allocations was discussed. Several Full Time Officers noted their approval as budget would be allocated to projects that crossed several zones rather than being forced into specific areas, with AK noting concerns over autonomy. It was hoped this would garner more cross organisational working.

The NEC *approved* the paper but asked that the meeting could concentrate on the views of councillors rather than the full time officers in future.

3.5 Appointments and Responsibilities

LB presented the paper and explained the constitutional power for presidential appointments. Conference had voted to keep these powers at National Conference 2011.

Councillors were encouraged to email Liam Burns if they had an interest in sitting on the anti-racism anti-fascism group or the Communications Scrutiny Group. AK noted his concern that The group would not be co-convened by a Jewish student. LB advised that he has had numerous conversations with the Union of Jewish Students (UJS) and asks that the committee takes step to ensure Jewish students are involved in all aspects of its work.

The councillors approved the paper including the proposal for the allocation of councillors to constituent members.

3.6 National Demonstration

The NEC received a presentation from Liam Burns on the National Presentation to note. NUS would be pursuing national deals on travel for local unions' transport. It was noted that councillors had an important role in encouraging involvement and being positive about the action. Claire Flanagan (CF) asked if BUCS had been consulted concerning the clash with sports features. VB reported that had not been discussed yet.

3.6 Motions to NEC

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#Demo2012

Proposing speech – Toni Pearce

Amendment

Proposing speech Aaron Kiely (AK)
Speech against Stephanie Lloyd (SL)

Speech for MW
Speech against Pete Mercer (PM)

Speech for VB
Speech against Rachel Wenstone (RW)

AK called for a recorded vote on the amendment

For	Malia Bouttia, Jamil Keating, Robin Burnett, Michael Chessum, MW, JW, Sky Yarlett, Aaron Kiely, Vicki Baars, Matt Stanley
Against	Dannie Grufferty, Hannah Paterson, Dennis Esch, Surya Prakash Bhatta, Luke James, Toni Pearce, Mark Seward, Aidan Mersh, Fee Wood, Jo Johnson, Stacey Devine, Robin Parker, Stephanie Lloyd, Sam Reid, Finn McGoldrick, Kelley temple, Joe Vinson, Claire Flanagan, Adrienne Peltz, Emma Meehan, Jake Kitchiner, Caroline Dangerfield, Alex Causton-Ronaldson, Pete Mercer
Abstain	Daniel Stevens, James Haywood, Reni Eddo-Lodge

The amendment fell.

Speech against the main motion – none
The motion **passed** as amended.

Liam Burns thanked Nick Smith on behalf of the NEC for his work supporting the National Executive Council over the past three years.

The next meeting is 27th September 2012

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Policy Area: #Demo2012

NEC Believes

1. The government cuts are having devastating impact on access to opportunities into education and employment.
2. Youth unemployment is at record high it is unacceptable that 50% young black men out of work and we have the highest youth unemployment in 20 years.
3. Access to life long learning is a fundamental right, the introduction of FE fees and loans and the scrapping life long learning centers are decimating access to education across all ages.
4. The austerity agenda is devastatingly affecting those who already struggle to access and stay in education, women's access, LGBT estrangement, black students safety & retention and support for disabled students are all under attack or are being forgotten.
5. Cuts to disabled benefits and welfare provision are an insidious attack on access and the ability to live an independent life in and out of education
6. The media portrayal of young people as antisocial, hopeless and lazy only serves to feed the governments agenda and create false inter generational dichotomies
7. Young people have been betrayed in all areas of their lives, from education to housing benefit
8. There is currently no support for access to postgraduate taught study, with upfront, unregulated fees where students are expected to take commercial career development loans to pay for study.
9. We oppose the discriminatory tier 4 visa changes driven by xenophobic views of international students, that fail to recognize the public good of international students in our institutions.
10. The austerity agenda is an ideologically driven attack in our future.
11. The retraction of opportunities, be they educational or perhaps more appropriately in employment, are being felt across the UK regardless of home nation.
12. Record levels of youth unemployment, institutional mergers, unsustainable funding arrangements and the betrayal of students by certain MPs over the Vote for Students are all issues that NUS
13. Scotland, Wales and NUS-USI will want MPs to answer for and prospective parliamentary candidates to respond to come the 2015 General Election
14. That the proposal for NUS "to organise a national demonstration in the first term in 2012-13 against cuts, fees, high interest on student debts and privatisation" passed at NUS National Conference 2012 by a massive, enthusiastic majority.
15. That the clear democratic mandate National Conference gave for NUS to organise a national demonstration must be respected.
16. In the same motion (305) as the call for a national demo, conference overwhelmingly declared itself "opposed to all private providers in education" and voted to demand: "Tax the rich to fund education"
17. Conference voted in parallel to call for "Stop the cuts to courses, departments and jobs: tax the rich and business to fund education" in FE

NEC further believes

1. We stand united with all those affected disproportionately by the austerity agenda and have a responsibility to fight against cuts and support our local communities.
2. 100 sabbatical officers at SU12 met to discuss demo2012 where the general theme focused on community, loss of opportunity and students as citizens.
3. NUS should provide an alternative radical vision for tertiary education, without arbitrary barriers where people can move through education throughout their life.
4. We will be a movement impossible to ignore by society - SUs are progressive forces and need to demonstrate their worth in their local area.
5. One of the fundamental questions arising out of the government's agenda for education is about who pays for it.

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6. Funding education by taxation of the rich and big business is in line with our policy on education funding, is clear, and will chime with broad layers of students, trade unions, and the public.
7. Conference is the sovereign democratic body of NUS, and policy it passes should form a cornerstone of what we do in practice.

NEC resolves

1. For demo 2012 to address the issues raised from a series of conference policy and consultation at UK wide events, focusing on a positive alternative to the education policy of Governments past and present.
2. Demo 2012 is a fantastic opportunity to begin building an active student movement for the general election in 2015, and so NUS should ensure we retain and inspire a new generation of activists.
3. NUS should demonstrate for positive alternatives and solutions to the cuts through alternatives such as the Robin Hood Tax and an increase in corporation tax.
4. Parliament should hear how angry the student movement is, and therefore the march should go past Parliament.
5. It is vital that NUS answers the legitimate concerns of unions in our plans to minimise risk for participants.
6. We understand that the implications of education cuts extend beyond students and therefore we should encourage a family and community friendly atmosphere.
7. As many access needs as possible need to be met when planning for the demo.
8. NEC will commit to building for the demo before to ensure maximum impact, and
9. NUS will facilitate workshops with students' unions and their allies prior to the demo.
10. NUS will support local action taken by students' unions in the run up to and after the demo. NUS will support students' unions to make the messages of the demo relevant to their local communities, so students are seen as active citizens, and to empower students to work together with their community, ensuring that the demo is seen as providing action around a wider message of opportunity, uniting those with or without access to education.
11. To build a communications strategy that creates the conditions in which the media can tell the real story of the demonstration, our students' story.
12. Be proactive in building and maintaining relationships with journalists ahead of the demonstration.
13. Create a media toolkit to allow SU's and student activists to work with their local and regional media effectively, ensuring our message reaches communities across the UK."
14. For the NUS national demonstration to march on parliament on November 21st.
15. To make it the organisational priority of the NUS to build this national demonstration over the summer and autumn of 2012.
16. To make the slogan 'Tax the rich to fund education' central to our message around the national demo