

minutes & resolutions

meeting of:	National Executive Council (twenty second meeting)
place:	Unison Centre, 130 Euston Road, London NW1 2AY
date and time:	24 th January 2013, 11am

Members:	Name
President & Chair	Liam Burns
Zones	Toni Pearce & Jeni-Marie Pittuck (Further Education) Rachel Wenstone & Rachel Thornton (Higher Education); Danielle Grufferty & Dom Anderson (Society & Citizenship); Vicki Baars & Maggie Hayes (Union Development); Pete Mercer & Colum McGuire (Welfare)
Liberation	Aaron Kiely & Malia Bouattia (Black Students); Hannah Paterson & Daryl Jones (Disabled Students); Sky Yarlett & Finn Mc Goldrick (LGBT); Kelley Temple & Jo Johnson (Womens);
Sections	Daniel Stevens & Dennis Esch (International Students) Sean Rillo Razcka & 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 (NUS-USI)
Block	Aidan Mersh, Alex Causton-Ronaldson, Mark Swards, Caroline Dangerfield, Emma Meehan, Jake Kitchiner, Jamil Keating, Jamie Woodcock, Joe Vinson, Matt Stanley, Michael Chessum, Mike Williamson, Reni Eddo-Lodge, Roshni Joshi, Surya Prakashsh Bhatta,
In attendance	
Staff	Matt Hyde (Group Chief Executive); Jim Dickinson (Director Policy and Delivery); Amy Davies (Executive Office Manager); Ffion Bartley (Democratic Services Coordinator); Rachel Firth (ACTS representative)
Apologies	Alex Causton-Ronaldson, Mark Swards, Reni Eddo-Lodge, Jo Johnson, Maggie Hayes, Jake Kitchiner, Caroline Dangerfield, Rachel Thornton

minutes & resolutions

1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Liam Burns (LB) opened the meeting and confirmed that the meeting had reached the NEC quorate (quoracy is 18 NEC members).

1.2 Apologies were *noted*.

LB officially recognised the resignation of Mike Williamson and thanked him for all the work he has done.

1.3 There were no declarations of interests.

1.4 The minutes of the NEC meeting 27th November were approved.

Stacey Devine asked for a change to the previous minutes, which should have listed her, rather than Graeme Kirkpatrick, as NUS Scotland 2nd place on NEC.

1.5 There were no matters arising.

2. Reports and accountability

2.1 LB presented his report to the NEC and asked for questions.

Robin Parker (RP) asked about the details of the Southampton “no” campaign and why the referendum was lost, despite the support of sabbatical officers. Dani Grufferty (DG) pointed out that voting had only been open for one day, that Southampton already has a large, well-functioning student union and that we hadn’t done enough ground work to convince Southampton students in the run up to the referendum, relying on the influence of the Sabbaticals.

Rachel Wenstone (RW) spoke on the need to argue an ideological, pro-collectivist case, rather than focussing solely on the economic benefits of affiliation. LB added that history shows that referenda campaigns on affiliation at long standing non-affiliates are hard to win and that there should be an important focus on more strategically and systematically promoting the successes of the NUS Group. Hence things like the brand review and continuing work on communicating our impact are so important.

The report was *approved*

2.2 The Zone Convenors presented their reports, the following questions and issues were raised:

Higher Education – RW talked about the Access Guide that was launched today (England specific).

Welfare – Pete Mercer (PM) spoke about the Mayor’s Covenant on private rented sector. NUS Welfare committee is working with Shelter and London based student unions.

Society and Citizenship – DG made an announcement about the ‘Votes at 16’ parliamentary debate and asked people to tweet their support.

Union Development – Vicki Baars (VB) made an amendment to the UD report; she was unable to attend the NUS Scotland Charity Board and Small and Specialist day due to adverse weather.

Further Education – Toni Pearce (TP) talked about the “No to FE Fees” launch, which will take place on 8th Feb. She announced that the second section of the “Resolve to Resolve” campaign was launched today.

The reports were *approved*

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

minutes & resolutions

2.3 The Liberation Officers presented their reports to note.

Following Aaron Keily's update on Black Students campaign against the redundancy of Dr José Nafafé from University of Birmingham, Michael Chessum (MC) declared solidarity with Birmingham students who were occupying buildings in protest.

Sky Yarlett (SY) congratulated Kelley Temple (KT) on the display of intersectionality shown in decision shown to support criticism of Julie Burchill's article.

Dom Anderson (DA) and TP both congratulated Hannah Patterson for her work on the 'coming out as disabled' blogs.

AP thanked KT for her work on the campaign to support students with caring responsibilities.

These reports were *noted*.

2.4 The Sections presented their reports.

RW congratulated Daniel Stevens (DS) for his work against UKBA enforced attendance monitoring.

These reports were *noted*.

2.5 The Nations presented their reports to note.

Finn McGoldrick (FM) congratulated NUS-USI on their work campaigning against MSM blood band and asked for clarification of NUS-USI's stance on the on-going flag row and what action, if any, would be taken. Adrienne Peltz (AP) stated that NUS-USI's role was in campaigning for further integration in education in order to build bridges in the community and that its primary duty was to protect the safety of its membership.

These reports were *noted*.

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

2.7 There were no issues raised from block

Liam asked whether the block is experiencing particular barriers to communication with local CMs. Colum said that sometimes papers from NEC are not circulated effectively and this makes communicating with CMs more difficult. Liam responded that papers are now circulated centrally through the Comms team.

Aidan added that it can be frustrating for block members who have requested support and not received it from staff and that this could contribute from low turnout at meetings. Liam refuted this link and pointed out that contact details are available online but said that we can examine how this information could be made better available.

ACTION: FB to review if proper contact information has been given to Block Members.

3. Motions and Proposals

3.1 Summary KPIs for Nations 2012-2013

This report was *noted*.

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

minutes & resolutions

3.2 Approval of estimates

There was discussion of the figures and clarification from Jim Dickinson (JD). SY stressed the importance of funding for volunteers and newly elected officers to support their transition into new roles. LB said that this is something that will be considered by the Board through the current harmonisation work on terms and conditions within the NUS Group.

Action: Matt Hyde

Vicki Baars asked if, although not included in the estimates themselves, externally funded projects could be annexed to the Estimates for the purpose of transparency.

ACTION: DF to attach details of externally funded projects to the estimates.

Adrienne Peltz requested that instead of noting that additional resource would be given to immigration campaigning through external funding and internal capacity, we stated that core funding would be given and the estimates amended as such. This was agreed.

ACTION: DF to amend the estimates to include dedicated resource to immigration campaigning through core funding.

The estimates were *approved*.

3.3 Motions to NEC

Motion 1- Syrian Students at UK Universities Fees Crisis

Proposing speech DS
Speech against: Not taken

Vote on motion: Motion un-amended *passes*

minutes & resolutions

Resolutions

Syrian Students at UK Universities Fees Crisis

NEC Believes:

- 1) Syrian students face immediate expulsion from UK universities if, due to the conflict, either they or their sponsors can no longer pay their tuition fees.
- 2) Syrian students who return to Syria before completion of their sponsored qualification, will face severe financial penalties from the Syrian authorities.
- 3) Syrian students whose student visas lapse and lose the right to work risk destitution in the UK.
- 4) Should they return to Syria those involved in anti-government protests risk detention, torture and even assassination at the hands of the Syrian regime.
- 5) The British government must make an uncompromising commitment to supporting the rights and freedoms of the Syrian people.
- 6) The Foreign Secretary William Hague ensured that Libyan students affected by the conflict in 2011 were able to continue their studies and should extend this gesture to Syrian students. ^[2]
- 7) As the duty of the NUS is to represent and support all students, it should ensure that the plight of Syrian students in the UK is not overlooked by the British government.

NEC Resolves:

- 1) to call on all UK universities to waive or reduce the fees or extend the payment periods for all Syrian students affected by the conflict, whether sponsored or self-funded, so that they can complete their studies.
- 2) that UK universities should not make any Syrian student sponsored by the Syrian government personally liable for their tuition fees but should register their tuition fees debts against the Syrian authorities.
- 3) to request all UK universities to make hardship grants, scholarships and bursaries available to all affected Syrian students, whether sponsored or privately funded, to cover their living expenses.
- 4) to call on UK universities to allow any Syrian students who have already been forced to suspend their studies to return to complete their degrees and have access to the necessary financing to cover living expenses.
- 5) to call on the British Council, UKCISA and the Universities Minister to put measures in place to allow all Syrian students registered in UK universities, whether sponsored or self-funded, to complete their studies.
- 6) to encourage the NUS and Students' Unions to lobby Universities UK and mission groups such as the Russell Group, 1994 Group, University Alliance, and Million+ to permit Syrian students to complete their studies through campaigns, resolutions and student media.

^[2] FCO Press Release 27/07/11 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/libyan-charge-d-affaires-to-be-expelled-from-uk?id=635937682&view=News>