

National Executive Council

Meeting of: 25th meeting of the National Executive Council of the National Union of Students

Place: NUS HQ

Date and time: 15th July 2013 11:15

Members present:

Zones

Toni Pearce (President & Chair)
Joe Vinson (Further Education)
Rachel Wenstone (Higher Education)
Dom Anderson & Matthew Tennant (Society & Citizenship)
Raechel Matthey & Maggie Hayes (Union Development)
Colum McGuire & Georgie Court (Welfare)

Liberation

Aaron Kiely & Malia Bouattia (Black Students)
Hannah Paterson & Jawanza Ipyana (Disabled Students)
Sky Yarlett & Finn McGoldrick (LGBT)
Kelley Temple (Womens)

Sections

Daniel Stevens & Arianna Tassinari (International Students)
Josh Rowlands & Emma Barnes (Mature & Part Time Students)
Anna Chowcat & Amy Gilligan (Postgraduate Students)

Nations

Stephanie Lloyd (NUS Wales)
Gordon Maloney & Robert Foster (NUS Scotland)
Fergal McFerran (NUS-USI)

Block

Rosie Huzzard, Rhiannon Durrans, Harry Fox, Matt Stanley, James McAsh, Peter Smallwood, Paul Abernethy, Charles Barry, Chris Clements, Jessica Goldstone, Marc McCorkell,

Apologies:

Charlotte Knight, Tabz O'Brien Butcher, Rachel Thornton, Rebecca Hall, Jeni-Marie Pittuck, Ben Dilks, Edmund Schluessel, Kirat Raj Singh

In attendance:

Amy Davies (Executive Office Manager), Jim Dickinson (Director Policy and Delivery), Ben Kernighan (Group Chief Executive), Alex Jones (Interim Head of Political Strategy),



1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Toni Pearce (TB) opened the meeting

TB explained the lost sign for raising points of clarification and in future there will be cards for people to use.

1.2 Apologies were *noted*

1.3 There were no conflicts of interests.

1.4 The minutes were approved.

Charles Barry raised an issue about the ULU motion and the accuracy of what parts were taken. It was agreed this would be reviewed and edited.

1.5 There were no matters arising.

2. Reports and accountability

2.1 Presidents' Priorities

Toni outlined the following:

Building for the General Election
Students and Work
Real Education Change
Women in Leadership

2.2 Zone Convenors gave updates on their areas of work.

Joe Vinson outlined the following:

Real Education Change particularly around – convince UCAS and OIA to extend to FE
Fighting curriculum changes particularly around GCSEs
Liberate the curriculum
Fighting for information guidance and advice service

Rachel Wenstone outlined the following:

Real Education Change
Student rights and protection
Sector regulations
Red line papers in preparation for GE2015
Partnership work being taken forward
Arts Education and Arts Students
Students in health and social care

Raechel Matthey outlined the following:

Student Communities – how students create 'home'
Regional community action – General Election building
Apprenticeships
Student Activities – student communities
Empowering diversity in the membership

Colum McGuire

Real Education Change
Homes fit for study – homes in private rented centre
Getting students to get involved
Student and advice
Key asks for local public services

Connor – an observer of the meeting arrived at 12:05



Dom Anderson

Students at Work

Continuing work on living wage

Working with liberations campaigns on students at work as they're more adversely affected

Working with UD on activist base and building community

Votes at 16

General Elections building

Ethical and Environmental work

Swaziland president was released on bail

There was a question on the potential of linking job creation with expropriating the banks. DA answered he would be looking at where to allocate resources in the campaign and made the decision to put resource into a realistic outcome and wins for students.

2.3 Liberation priorities were outlined.

Women's campaign

Women in Leadership will be a priority

Student Carers research being launched

KT talked about the work Womens' Campaign are doing on Lad Culture and the consultation coming up to develop the National Strategy tackling Lad Culture.

Disabled Students Campaign

Review of disabled students living allowance

Looking at how allowance is distributed in FE to be better delivered

LGBT

Real educational change – Monitoring, curriculum change,

Out in Sport – trans students

Black Students Campaign

Increasing black representation

Black history Month in October – guide

General election 2015 – black manifesto along with operation black vote

ARAF

European elections – to prevent Fascists being elected

Equality in Education – moving along work on attainment gap

Working with environmental groups

Maila is working on a Black women's event

2.4 Sections outlined their priorities.

International

Fixed fees for international students

Campaign against Immigration changes and the current immigration rules for international students

A large research project on international students

Mature and Part time – haven't

Working around student parents

Council Tax

NHS funding

Mature student funding

Student support

Postgraduate

Funding

Looking for student support

Work with UCU around postgraduates who teach

2.5 The nations outlined their priorities.

NUS Wales – Stephanie Lloyd

Imagine Education
Community engagement
European elections
FE union development

NUS Scotland – Gordon Maloney

Free, Fair and Funded
Independence Referendum
Conference Mandate on referendum neutrality

NUS USI

Apprenticeships

2.6 There was nothing to report on the Scrutiny and Special Groups.

2.7 Block of 15 feedback

Peter Smallwood – Attended a London Unions event on the discussions on ULU and pan London representation.

3. Discussion and Consultation

The Priority work 2013-14 discussion was moved to the end of the meeting

4. Motions and Proposals

4.1 NEC Standing Orders, Cycle of Business and Meeting dates

Typo on Point 18 (a) should say submit 14 days before meeting and presented to NEC 10 days before meeting

Typo on the dates should read 17th September for the next NEC date

There was an amendment made to the standing orders by Charles Barry to include a clause to allow for a chair's ruling on matters of dispute over the interpretation of the standing orders, articles or rules.

The paper was *approved*.

4.2 Workplans for Zones, Liberations and Sections

TP Presented the allocation of budgets for the workplans.

The paper was *approved*.

4.3 Detailed internal budgets

Rachel Presented the Dibs paper. The NEC *approved* the internal budgets.

4.4 Appointments and responsibilities

Typo of Colum's McGuire name.

Change the NUT and BMA to British Medical Association and National Union of Teachers.

Toni will look at the allocation of women in the South and make the amendments

Pete Mercer should be taken out of the paper

Sky Yarlett wanted noted that they don't like presidential appointments as it's divisive in the FTO team.

4.5 Elections

Clerks to the NEC

James McAsh
Ben Dilks
Charles Barry
RON

Nominations Committee

Jess Goldstone
RON

Jawanza Ipyana
RON

4.6 Ordinary Motions

Motion 1: Migration rules: the noose tightens

Speech For: Arianna Tassinari

Add Amendment to Motion 1

Speech for: Jawanza Ipyana

Speech against: None

VOTE: PASSED

Add Amendment to Motion 1

Speech for: Emma Barnes

Speech against: None

VOTE: PASSED

Parts to Full Motion 1. Remove Resolves 5 and 6

Speech for removing parts: Stephanie Lloyd

Speech against removing parts: Gordon Maloney

VOTE: PASSED (parts are removed)

Parts to Full Motion 1. Believes 7 and Resolves 7

Speech for removing parts: Finn McGoldrick

Speech against removing parts: James McAsh

VOTE: PASSED (parts are removed)

VOTE on full motion 1 as amended: PASSED

Elections announcement:

Dilks and McAsh are elected Clerks to NEC

Goldstone and Ipyana are elected to Nominations Committee

Motion 2: Affiliation

Speech for: Daniel Stevens

Speech against: None

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 3: Anti-Racism and Anti-Facism

NEC further believes 10 bullet point 3.

Speech for Motion: Dom Anderson

Amendment to Motion 3

Speech for: Jawanza Ipyana

Speech against: None

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 7 has become an add amendment to Motion 3

Defending the Muslim community! Mobilise against racism and fascism!

Speech for: Rosie Huzzard
Speech against: Aaron Kiely

Parts to Motion 7 remove Further believes 2, 3rd Bullet point
Speech for: Rachel Wenstone
Speech against: James McAsh
Speech for: Rachel Wenstone
Speech against: James McAsh
VOTE: PASSED (parts are removed)

Parts to Motion 7 remove further believes 1, 2nd bullet point
Speech for: Finn McGoldrick
Speech against: Rosie Huzzard
Speech for: Aaron Kiely
Speech against: Gordon Maloney
VOTE: PASSED (Parts are removed)

Vote for amendment as amended: PASSED with a recorded vote

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| FM | RF | GM | JM | RH | SY | MS | AK | MB | AG | AT | RW | JR | EB | FM | AC | RH | SL | CB |
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| HP | RD | CM | HF | JV | DA | DS | MM | KT | JG | CC | RM | JL | PS | MH | PA |
| Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo | Ab | Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo | Fo |

VOTE for full motion as amended: PASSED

Motion 4: Councillors against the cuts

Speech for: James McAsh
Speech against: Paul Abernethy
Speech for: Gordon Maloney
Speech against: Rachel Wenstone
VOTE: FELL

Motion 5: Expropriate the Banks

Speech for: Rosie Huzzard
Speech against: Dom Anderson
VOTE: FELL

Motion 6: Defend the NHS

Speech for: Gordon Maloney

Amendment 1 to Motion 6
Speech for: Arianna Tassinari
Speech against: none
VOTE: PASSED

Amendment to Motion 6
Speech for: Jawanza Ipyana
Speech against: None
VOTE: PASSED

Speech against amended motion: None

Parts to Motion 6 Remove resolves 1 and 3
Speech for: Colum McGuire
Speech against: James McAsh
VOTE: PASSED (parts removed)

Parts to Motion 6 Keep Resolves 2
Speech for: Matt Stanley
Speech against: Peter Smallwood
VOTE: PASSED (resolves 2 passed into policy)

VOTE to amended motion: PASSED

Emergency Motion 1: Comprehensive Spending Review

Speech for: Joe Vinson
Speech against: None
VOTE: PASSED

Toni went back to paper on appointments on the task and finish (special committee) to highlight what it is.

AOB

Action list

| Item | Action | Lead | Deadline | Progress |
|------|---|------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Make changes to the minutes from the 9 th May as agreed in section 1.4 | AD | 17/09/13 | This has been amended |
| 2 | Make changes to the standing orders paper as agreed in section 4.1 | AD | 17/09/13 | This has been amended |
| 3 | Makes changes to the appointments paper as agreed in section 4.4 | AD | 17/09/13 | This has been amended |

Resolutions:

Migration rules: the noose tightens

NEC Believes:

1. Students from Croatia, which joined the European Union on July 1st 2013, now face “transitional arrangements” restricting their right to work similarly to the restrictions previously condemned by NUS on Romanian & Bulgarian students;
2. Nine months after London Met's loss of Highly Trusted Sponsor status, some London Met students still await the return of their passports and therefore are unable to leave the country;
3. Shortly before it was wound up and moved to direct Home Office control, UKBA were found to have consistently missed targets for processing visas;
4. An additional 6% has been cut from the Home Office's budget in George Osborne's spending review, meanwhile outsourcing of Home Office functions to scandal-ridden companies like G4S, Serco and Capita continues;
5. International student numbers in FE are plummeting;
6. The Home Office intend to introduce £3,000 bonds for visitors and students from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ghana & Nigeria in November, arguing visitors from these countries are at particular risk of violating visa conditions or using public services like the NHS. This list of countries does not match the list of countries of origin of people in the UK most likely to violate visa conditions;
7. The attacks on the education landscape combined with the migration rules further disadvantages international students who define into any liberation campaign for example the multitude of barriers for disabled international students who, if from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Ghana or Nigeria face £3000 bonds for themselves, £3000 if they bring a carer and the additional support and equipment costs that the HEI's and the UK local and national government refuses to fund.
8. The government have consistently failed to provide any evidence that “benefit tourism” is occurring in significant amounts.
9. Access to health care is a basic human right.



NEC Further believes:

1. We have no reason to think the government will treat Croatians any better than the prejudiced, xenophobic way they treat Romanians and Bulgarians;
2. Continued cuts & outsourcing are contributing to flagrantly unacceptable visa & permit delays for students;
3. The singling out of nationals of six South Asian and African countries as less trustworthy than other students leaves no doubt UK migration policy has a racist character. The bonds are likely to disrupt the family lives of students from these countries and penalise students not from wealthy backgrounds;
4. Increasing the bureaucratic burden on people coming to the UK through English-language tests, bond schemes, permits and other means, while cutting budgets and outsourcing to unaccountable private sector firms, makes racist & xenophobic treatment of students by the government more likely;
5. This takes place against the background of a political climate in which increasingly cynical attempts are made to exploit the legitimate anger and uncertainty caused by austerity and economic crisis by diverting it to self-destructive ends through increased oppression of migrants, Muslims and Black people.
6. Xenophobic and racist rhetoric is being ratcheted up as the 2014 European elections approach. NUS must actively challenge these dangerous ideas, as well as the brutality of austerity which creates the fertile soil of scarcity and desperation in which they may grow.
7. Government proposals to charge migrants for access to the NHS are capricious and unnecessary. There is little evidence that the £30 million savings that the government are proposing are likely to be achieved by excluding migrants from free healthcare. The projected cuts would represent less than 1% of the NHS budget if achieved, but will have a significant impact on international students.
8. Despite paper commitments to granting leave to remain in the UK on compassionate grounds, the UKBA and Home Office have often deported recent graduates whose lives depend on access to advanced health care which they cannot obtain in their home countries.

NEC Resolves:

1. We will work more closely with ARISS (Association of Romanian International Students' Societies), SAND (Students' Association of Nigerians in Diaspora) and other international student networks to push back against visa restrictions;
2. We call for the reversal of cutbacks and privatisation of Home Office functions;
3. We demand an anti-racist migration policy in the UK. We oppose the introduction of bonds, work permits and the Home Office-run English language interview scheme;
4. We will actively encourage in-work students of all backgrounds to join and be involved in trade unions. This is especially important for international students, whom employers sometimes seek to super-exploit as a pool of cheap labour, or even as part of attempts to weaken existing union agreements, for example through the use of agency staff;
5. NUS will ensure that any and all work undertaken against migration rules does not leave behind those whose intersectional identities places them at further disadvantage.
6. To oppose all proposals to exclude migrants to the UK from free-at-the-point-of-use access to the NHS.

Affiliation

NEC Believes

1. Collaborating closely with migrant groups and supporting their campaigns is important in combating growing anti-immigration sentiments.
2. Notes previous motions on migration.

NEC Resolves

1. To affiliate to the Migrants Rights Network.
2. To affiliate to the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants.

Anti-Racism and Anti-fascism

NEC Believes:



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1. Far right mobilisations, such as those of the English Defense League's (EDL) and the British National Party (BNP) are a threat to society.
 2. It is a national priority for the student movement to stop fascists from winning MEP seats by mobilising the progressive majority to vote.
 3. The student movement must never give a platform to fascists because fascism seeks to eliminate free speech and democracy, and annihilate its opponents and minorities.
 4. Giving fascists a platform in the student movement destroys the safe spaces our campuses must be for Black, Jewish, Muslim, women, LGBT and disabled people.
 5. Racism is a scourge in society, including on campuses, it must be opposed.
 6. Discrimination and harassment of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities – among the most marginalised minorities in the UK – is considered an “acceptable” form of racism.
 7. The violent eviction of 83 families from Dale Farm, which was home to almost 1,000 people for more than 30 years. This cost Basildon council £7 million!
 8. More than 90% of Travellers planning applications are initially rejected by local government authorities, compared to 20% overall.
 9. Basildon council recently voted to take ‘direct action’ against families living at the roadside near Dale Farm.
 10. While the BNP and EDL are in disarray, the far right remains a serious threat, taking inspiration from the Front National in France and the rise of Golden Dawn in Greece.
 11. Fascist views towards disabled people is evermore becoming mainstream with disability hate crimes reported in England and Wales at its highest levels since records began and some police force areas reporting more than a 160% year on year increase. This has been fuelled by fascists using public platforms, for example, to advocate for the compulsory abortion of disabled fetuses.
 12. The dramatic increase in racist, mainly anti-Muslim, incidents and attacks since the brutal murder of Lee Rigby by Islamists in Woolwich.
 13. The launching of groups around the 'Anti-Fascist Network' by activists dissatisfied with Unite Against Fascism, including South London Anti-Fascists, which has played a major role in recent mobilisations. antifascistnetwork.wordpress.com
 14. That there is an urgent need to us to mobilise students to fight Islamophobia, racism and fascism, including on counter-demonstrations against the EDL, BNP and similar groups.
 15. That student unions and student activists should contact mosques and Muslim community organisations to offer support for self-defence.
 16. That we must also oppose attacks on civil liberties, for instance the resurrection of the Communications Data Bill or “snooper's charter”.
 17. That the media's coverage of the Woolwich killing has contrasted with its usual lack of interest in racist attacks.
 18. That the main victims of Islamism, both in this extreme and in more moderate forms, are Muslims and ex-Muslims - women, LGBT people, secularists and atheists, left-wingers and dissident/critical people in Muslim communities.
 19. That everything said about anti-Roma and Traveller racism in the motion remitted from national conference is correct.

NEC Further Believes:

1. NUS must actively campaign against racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and the far right as these are dangers which threaten the welfare of millions of our members.
 2. The BNP is a fascist organisation which stands for an “all white Britain”, a goal which can only be achieved by violence, the annihilation of entire groups of people and the ending of democracy.
 3. BNP leader Nick Griffin and Andrew Brons are standing for re-election to the European Parliament in 2014. It should be a national priority for the student movement to stop fascists from winning MEP seats by mobilising the progressive majority to vote.
 4. The student movement must never give a platform to fascists because fascism seeks to eliminate free speech, democracy and annihilate its opponents and minorities.
 5. The lesson of the 1930s was that the Nazis used violence to gain power and carry out a Holocaust. They slaughtered millions – in the gas chambers and concentration camps – of Jewish people, Eastern Europeans, communists and trade unionists, Romani, LGBT and disabled people.
 6. Giving fascists a platform in the student movement destroys the safe spaces our campuses must be for Black, Jewish, Muslim, women, LGBT and disabled people.
 7. The racism and disadvantage experienced by Roma and Traveller is a disgrace.
 8. The eviction of Traveller sites is a form of discrimination which results in people being forced onto the road against their will and children being pulled out of education.
 9. Conditions feeding the far right include:
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- Widespread racism, encouraged by a government and press promoting the idea that immigration is a major cause of social problems;
- Huge cuts and perceptions of a struggle for scarce resources, which the far right actively exploits;
- A labour movement failing to challenge narratives around multiculturalism having failed.

10. We need an anti-fascist movement which:

- Is genuinely democratic, allowing activists to debate the way forward;
- Challenges all racism, including Islamophobia and anti-semitism, and campaigns for migrants' rights;
- Mobilises to drive fascists off the streets, instead of calling for state bans;
- Unites workers and communities for demands to 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.

11. That there are a number of problems with Unite Against Fascism

- Its lack of internal democracy and accountability, including for the behaviour of senior members (in particular the Martin Smith affair);
- Its downplaying of women's oppression and LGBT oppression in the name of 'unity';
- Its failure to deal with broader political issues feeding the growth of racism and fascism.

12. We need local anti-fascist campaigns and a national anti-fascist network which

- Is genuinely democratic, allowing activists to debate the way forward;
- Challenges all racism, including Islamophobia and anti-semitism; campaigns for migrants' rights; and actively takes up, rather than downplaying, LGBT and women's oppression;
- Seeks to unite workers and communities for demands to 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.

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NEC Resolves:

1. To actively challenge racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and fascism on our campuses and in our communities.
2. To campaign for no platform for fascists within NUS or in our Students' Unions.
3. Launch a massive student voter registration drive as part of campaign to get Griffin and Brons out of the European Parliament in 2014.
4. Reaffirm our support for NUS organising an annual Anti-Racism/Anti-Fascism Conference and providing adequate resources for this work.
5. Continue working with Searchlight, One Society Many Cultures and Love Music Hate Racism.
6. To work with self-organised Gypsy, Roma and Traveller groups, as well as the Traveller Solidarity Network.
7. To produce dedicated NUS campaigning materials based on these arguments, including a campaign guide for Constituent Members and student activists.
8. To establish contact and organise discussions about working together with the Anti-Fascist Network.

Defend the NHS

NEC believes

1. That the fight to defend the NHS is extremely important, and that it is our duty to mobilise students as part of it.
2. That the recent government's announcement of proposals to introduce charges for non-EU migrants to access NHS services constitutes a further attack on the public character of the NHS;
3. That these proposals are essentially xenophobic in character, and are likely to disproportionately affect international students in the UK;
4. That is fundamental that any campaign to defend the NHS also includes a firm and principled opposition to any proposal to introduce charges for NHS treatment for foreigners.
5. That the fight to defend wider health and care services under the control of local authorities and the department of health is extremely important particularly within the context of a lack

of media coverage. It is our duty to mobilise and educate students about the numerous cuts to services such as social care and services for the disabled.

NEC resolves

1. To support the 29 September demonstration in defence of the NHS at Tory party conference called by Unite the Union, and work with constituent members to mobilise students.
2. To publicly oppose any proposals to introduce charges for NHS treatment for migrants, and to include opposition to these proposals as a major component of any broader campaign to defend the NHS as a public and free health service.

CSR

NEC believes:

1. The Comprehensive Spending Review for 2015/16 announced on 26 June 2013 involved cuts to the BIS budget including:
 - a. Axing the £150 million National Scholarship Programme
 - b. A further £45 million cut to the HEFCE teaching budget
 - c. A real-terms cut to student maintenance grants
 - d. £260 million cuts to FE provision
 - e. The CSR also announced new burdens on jobseekers including:
 - f. Longer waits for eligibility
 - g. Increased frequency of signing in
 - h. Sanctions for non-English speakers who fail to attend courses to improve their English
 - i. Requiring single parents with children aged over 3 to work
 - j. Requirement to annually re-verify any claim that is conditional on specific circumstances
2. The measures announced in this austerity CSR will fall particularly hard on poorer young people and graduates trying to afford their education or seek employment following a qualification.
3. The government is also attempting to sell the student loan book into the hands of private finance.
4. The consequence of a student loan book sale will be reduced accountability of government to students and incentivising changes to the terms and conditions on which loans are offered that are unfavourable to students.

NEC resolves:

1. To strongly condemn the government for punishing the most vulnerable students and graduates for the failures of unregulated private finance.
2. To work to make the case for public investment in education, particularly further education whose students have been hit the hardest during the term of this government.
3. To lobby ministers across the UK to recognise and address the negative impact of the current public spending settlement and make redress.
4. To work to expose the combined impacts of a punishing bureaucracy and a faltering graduate job market on student and graduate jobseekers.
5. To oppose the sale of the student loan book under any terms that harm students.
6. To continue to lobby for the terms and conditions of student loans to be fixed in law.