

National Executive Council

Meeting of:	26th meeting of the National Executive Council of the National Union of Students
Place:	NUS HQ
Date and time:	17th September 2013, 11:00

Members

present:

Zones

Toni Pearce (President & Chair)
Joe Vinson (Further Education)
Dom Anderson (Society & Citizenship)
Raechel Matthey (Union Development)
Colum McGuire (Welfare)

Liberation

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

Sections

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

Nations

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

Block

Rosie Huzzard, Rhiannon Durrans, Harry Fox, Matt Stanley, Peter Smallwood, Charles Barry, Jessica Goldstone, Marc McCorkell, Kirat Raj Singh, Edmund Schluessel.

Apologies:

Charlotte Knight, Daniel Stevens, Chris Clements, Paul Abernethy, James McAsh, Matthew Tennant, Jeni-Marie Pittuck, Rachel Wenstone.

Absences:

Georgie Court, Rachel Thornton

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), Simon Rayner (Director of Marketing and Communications), Graeme Wise (Assistant Director, Policy), Graham Atkinson (Group Head of People), Meg Evans (Policy and Democracy Co-ordinator – minute taker), Lucy Hawthorne (Campaigning Partnerships and Policy Officer), Gemma Painter (Head of Further Education), Bethan Payne (ACTS Staff Representative), Hilary Carter (Interim Director of Policy and Research), Stacey Devine (NUS Scotland Women's Officer), Beth Button (NUS Wales Deputy President), Michael Chessum (Observer), Barbara Ntume (Observer) Samayya Afzal (Observer), Hannah

Webb (Observer)

1. Introductory & Administration

1.1 Toni Pearce (TP) opened the meeting

1.2 Apologies were noted. TP noted that Maggie Hayes had resigned from the NEC but formally thanked her for her contribution to NEC over the year.

1.3 There were no conflicts of interests declared.

1.4 Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2013:

Sky Yarlett's name was spelt wrong in the minutes and will be adjusted.

Kelley Temple wished to make an adjustment to her report.

The statement from Hull CLP was included but was deleted in the meeting so will be adjusted in the minutes.

The minutes were approved.

1.5 There were no matters arising from the minutes.

2. Reports and accountability

2.1 Presidents' Priorities

Toni:

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

Edmund Schluessel asked about the security of the email system following it being hacked a few months ago. All account users have been advised to change their passwords and new accounts will have randomly allocated passwords to avoid this happening in the future.

Peter Smallwood congratulated TP on her speech to TUC Congress. PS asked about TP's experience at Lib Dem conference and asked for feedback on her meetings with David Willetts and Shabana Mahmood. TP noted that NUS had organised a fringe with Million+ who delivered a paper on tertiary education. Additionally, NUS had organised a fringe with UUK called Bright Britain.

TP talked about taking International students out of the net migration figures in her meeting with Shabana Mahmood and pressed for updates on Labour HE policy.

In her meeting with David Willetts, TP talked about postgraduate taught funding, including HEFCE Postgraduate funding projects. They also talked about the sale of the student loanbook – DW has written to TP to clarify the position. TP wanted to get clarification on any change in terms and conditions, TP will be putting together a blog on the letter.

Jawanza Ipyana asked about TP's experiment of clearing and asked about changes to UCAS clearing processes. UCAS are going to review their data collection around gender and sexuality. There will also be a review into clearing – such as use of GCSE and A-Level module marks.

2.2 Zone Convenors gave updates on their areas of work.

Joe Vinson:

Real Education Change particularly around – JV visited UCAS with TP and there was a lot of discussion about extending UCAS to FE.

Fighting curriculum changes particularly around GCSEs – Dom Anderson led a lot of the media coverage around results day.

Fighting for information guidance and advice service – JV noted that there was a new staff member in the FE team to work on GCSE and A-Level reform.

Finn McGoldrick congratulated JV on the work he's been doing around Liberate the Curriculum and the way he's reached out to the liberation campaigns.

PS asked whether ministers had given any indication about the removal of teaching qualifications. JV met with Matthew Hancock who indicated that it would allow a broader group of people into FE colleges to teach i.e. carpenters teaching carpentry. JV noted that this was a valuable notion but there was already legislation that helped make this happen.

PS also asked about what he was doing to help FE Colleges to engage with NUS. JV noted that a lot of FE Unions had not elected their officers yet and although this was the remit of Union Development, he would be trying to engage with more FE unions.

Rachel Wenstone was at LD Conference; her report was taken as read.

There were no questions.

Raechel Matthey:

RM noted that she had done a lot of work around Pan-London Representation and the Charity Remit and Activity report, which she would talk about later in the meeting. RM outlined work that had been done around the new SU Quality Mark.

ES asked about the Quality Mark and SUEI. RM clarified what this was and expanded on the funding that NUS had received to manage the transition and extend it to FE Colleges. This will be added to the report.

Dom Anderson:

DA noted his report was as read but wanted to add a couple of things:

DA met with Hazel Blears about unpaid internships last week and was pleased that David Cameron had made a statement about an end to unpaid internships.

DA visited four unions in the last week – mostly been talking about how member unions can engage with priority work, as well as talking about voter registration.

DA arranged a meeting with Hope Not Hate about possibly working together on the European elections.

DA organised a Twitter campaign around #Doctors4Syria and reported back that David Cameron and William Hague both agreed to support the campaign.

Talked to TUC Congress at a Fringe event. As a result, DA will be working with the TUC on their Green workplaces scheme.

The Student Green Fund was launched successfully – there were some questions about why Southampton was in receipt of money. DA clarified that this was because it was a project in conjunction with HEFCE so did not relate to NUS affiliation status.

DA noted the success of community organising in the trade union movement, mentioning a strike of workers he saw yesterday on his way to work. He also noted his disgust at the Sun's front page this morning.

Kirat Raj Singh asked about NUS's involvement in ensuring that DC and WH stick to #Doctors4Syria pledge. DA clarified that this was a difficult situation because of Russia and China's potential veto but will keep up the pressure on DC and WH to stick to their pledge.

ES asked about situation in Swaziland and asked about a situation in Nigeria where ten students had been killed. DA noted that he wasn't aware of the situation but was happy to talk about it to see about moving forward.

PS asked about voter registration – DA updated on how that was going. Also asked about whether DA would meet with Syrian students. DA said that he would be happy to do so.

JI asked about what NUS would do to keep up the pressure on the Swaziland situation. DA emphasised how NUS was going to continue lobbying.

Colum McGuire

Birmingham Met niqab ban – CM worked closely with Kelley Temple and Aaron Kiely on this. The ban was overturned but the lack of student representation at the institution was noticed and CM will be working with RM and JV on building representation in the college.

The Global Mental Health Summit has nearly sold out and 17 unions now joined up to the Time to Change pledge.

CM thanked NEC members for publicising the Office of Fair Trading review into academic sanctions on students for non-academic debt.

Homes fit for study – CM released a housing briefing last week to Students' Unions, which became the most downloaded housing document from NUS Connect.

Amy Gilligan asked about what work NUS had done to link up with TUC on Manchester demo. CM noted that Hannah Paterson was going to update on that.

Josh Rowlands asked about Child Free to Child Friendly – CM and JR to catch up about this after the meeting.

PS asked about local public services and what CM had in the pipeline. CM talked about the partnerships that Students' Unions can make with local government, especially specific to Welfare zone, such as transport. This will be a theme of Welfare Zone conference in October.

KRS asked about interfaith meeting – what was CM going to be doing to help support SUs on interfaith matters. CM talked about the document that was being created for students' unions on working with faith organisations and contacts for national faith organisations, as well as the funding programme being run awarding students' unions money to carry out work on interfaith

2.3 Liberation priorities were outlined to note

Black Students Campaign

Birmingham Met campaign – AK had been working with CM, KT and Malia Bouattia, as well as the Black Students' Campaign on this.

AK thanked NEC who marched against the EDL in Tower Hamlets on September 7th.

Matt Stanley wanted to formally commend AK and MB for the Birmingham Met campaign. TP wanted to add commendations to CM and KT and noted how proud she was to see officers from all portfolios working so well together across the organisation.

FMCG wanted to formally thank AK for his work with the LGBT campaign when a number of Pride events booked racist act to perform.

Gordon Maloney asked AK is there anything NEC could do to help with Stop and Search consultations. AK believed that the consultation was for England and Wales only but will clarify and then send something out.

DA also offered his help as VP Society and Citizenship during Black History Month.

Disabled Students Campaign

HP outlined her report for note:

HP has been working with Disabled People against the Cuts. She has also been working on the Save the NHS demonstration in Manchester and working with Students' Unions about mobilising students for the demo.

She has developed an Anti-ATOS toolkit and asked NEC to pass onto their member unions. This includes guidance on dealing with ATOS at Careers fairs.

Disabled students' allowance is being reviewed. HP stated that a potential option is that DSA might be pushed onto education providers. Producing several action plans to prepare for different outcomes.

HP touched on the Time to Change pledges that CM had mentioned in his report and praised how tangible the pledges were and how positive the Global Mental Health Summit was going to be. 'Coming out as Disabled' day will be December 6th – HP will be asking NEC members to participate in the day if they wish.

TP made an announcement about rules around observers, citing Rule 112 in the Constitution concerning National Executive Council meetings:

“Any other person may request to be an accredited observer (without speaking or voting rights) at meetings of the National Executive Council by writing to the National President, who shall be empowered to give such accreditation, which shall not be unreasonably withheld. No person without prior accreditation shall be entitled to observe meetings of the National Executive Council.”

LGBT

Real educational change – FMCG will be working with SY and RW about access to education, especially around access agreements. Also working around FE Teaching Training campaign and what the impact will be on LGBT students.

FMCG and SY had developed an Out in Sport – Train the Trainer session on inclusivity training in sport to enable students' unions to deliver training in-house to volunteers. There will also be an Out in Sport Trans guide. SY also talked about work around Trans education.

PS asked about if LGBT campaign was going to do any work about boycotting Sochi. SY clarified the position that a boycott was not a practical option but the LGBT campaign would be doing everything they could to support LGBT students who might be in Russia for a year abroad or at the games.

Women's campaign

Birmingham Met campaign - KT highlighted that she was glad that people were talking about this issue but she was concerned at the lack of Muslim women being given a voice. Encouraged NEC members to share blogs written by Muslim women and not shut those voices down.

Learning with Care report was due to launch the day before NEC but will be launched the day after. The Consultation on Lad Culture is going out to campuses and would like NEC to publicise to members.

KT and Rhiannon Durrans went to BYC AGM and opposed Conservative Party candidate for honorary president due to them voting for an increase in tuition fees.

2.4 Sections report:

AG gave an update on PG committee work as the committee had just had its first meeting.

Arianna Tassinari gave an update; the committee has divided up responsibilities amongst itself.

Emma Barnes gave an update on the first meeting of the Mature and Part-Time committee. There will be some work around retention of MPT students, supporting RW in research into professional services, and work around Students' Unions being accessible to MPT students (e.g. opening hours)

Josh Rowlands reported that 'Child Free to Child Friendly' has received some funding to roll out to FE campuses as well.

2.5 Nations report:

NUS Wales – Stephanie Lloyd

Budgets haven't been finalised but it is likely that there will be a 5% cut to FE and a 5% cut to HE budgets this year. There will be a review on funding in Wales in about Spring.

Rhiannon Hedge (RHe) added a request for officers to make sure if they have translated material that they didn't send stuff that was entirely in Welsh with no English to Welsh unions, because unions can only use materials with both languages.

NUS Scotland – Gordon Maloney

Emailed report round to NEC and gave a verbal update.

Last Wednesday, the Scottish government released its budget. GM reported a £4million increase in college funding, £19million increase in HE spending and an increase in SLC funding but this hasn't been allocated yet.

Outward mobility – Scottish government are piloting a scheme to support tuition fees and maintenance loans for students studying abroad.

Increase in FE sabbatical officers at Scottish colleges. GM working with Scottish government to define terms around funding models. Legislation now says that a student association needs to be strong, autonomous and well-funded for Colleges to be publicly funding.

There has been a big increase in funding for overheads for Scottish funding body, which will dramatically reduce waiting times.

There will now be a Council tax exemption for students going onto study more (i.e students going from an HNC to an HND)

GM praised Stacey Devine for her work in getting Bill Walker MSP to resign.

There has been work with Scottish Refugee Council around funding and maintenance support.

There will be a review of DSA in Scotland.

Scottish government have agreed in principle to regulate PG fees.

Working with LGBT campaign around Commonwealth Games.

Robert Foster working on apprenticeships.

NUS Scotland Black Students' Campaign working on Black History Month.

NUS USI

Verbal update from Rebecca Hall (RH)

RH congratulated GM on The Gathering.

Attended USI National Council.

RH has been doing a lot of work on Apprentice engagement in Northern Ireland.

RH has visited seven unions.

RH has been promoting voter registration at FE colleges.

Held a trilateral meeting with TP and USI president.

Working on integration within the education system, promoting integrated education in Northern Ireland.

A lot of work around the Lobbying Bill – great response from MPs.

Work with DA about establishing Student Green Fund in NI.

DA thanked RH and Fergal McFerran on the work they did mobilising students in the #Doctors4Syria campaign.

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

2.7 Block of 15 feedback

RD has been in contact with her unions and will be visiting Chester union in the near future. PS has done some work around Lobbying bill and has arranged a meeting with Chloe Smith with TP and RM.

CB has had some feedback about minutes not going up online. TP will follow up.

KRS asked for some clarity about the role of Block members in terms of reacting to issues. TP advised that it would be best to contact the SU first, especially remembering that SUs are autonomous. TP also advised that it would be good to contact the officer whose remit it fits into the best but encouraged flagging up issues to officers.

HP added it would be useful for NEC members not to go straight to social media to talk about projects or issues and to try and raise issues with the officer first, rather than sending out confusing messages first.

3. Organisation Reports

3.1 NUS UK Trustee Board minutes 25th July 2013 – Noted

3.2 Raechel Matthey (RM) presented the initial review of Officer Development Programme – nearly 800 officers attend the ODP over the summer. There is going to be a review of summer training on this year. More liberation training will be included in all courses. Communicating what involvement students can have with NUS throughout the year in terms of training and development.

Looking at Train the Trainer sessions and thinking about how training can be delivered through Students' Unions themselves.

RM will be giving feedback to November meeting of the Charity Board but would like feedback from anyone who attended training across the summer.

GM would like a breakdown of the feedback if it exists, especially split by nations. RM noted that she was glad that people were coming in at a higher level to train and is excited by the challenge as it really demonstrated the development of SUs and officers. RM will circulate further data once it is made available.

KT congratulated RM on the training programme and the level of communication across all the officers. Noted that she would like to see the Liberation event to be an overnight event.

CB noted Conference policy about developing training for PTOs and asked RM about it. RM noted many of them had not been elected yet so summer would not be an appropriate time for training. Hoping to develop some PTO training for this semester, will play a big part in the review. ES asked about the sample sizes of the feedback. RM clarified the work of the Membership team to ensure that the quality of the data was good and to find out more in terms of feedback to ensure that it is representatives and also to gather feedback and themes from unions who could not attend or could only send one delegate.

In response to KT, CM wanted to raise the question of making the liberation training overnight as he didn't know if that would mean that delegates would be people who 'get' liberation already, rather than ones who need it.

DA congratulated RM but all of those involved in the training around liberation and how ground-breaking it was.

Mark McCorkell also praised the liberation training and especially the Visualising Homophobic session.

4. Proposals

4.1 NUS London: Delivering Pan-London Representation for students in the capital.

TP noted that there had been some controversy around the London paper and the decision to not accept an amendment to it. TP outlined her reasons for this and the reasons for the ruling. Firstly, she outlined the process reasons for this and secondly, reasons around political autonomy.

TP ruled that the paper was a proposal to create an NUS Area under rules 2000-2009 of the Constitution. As the clerks to NEC could not agree on whether this was a paper or a motion, the Chair made a ruling, the powers of which are set in Article 140 of the Constitution. TP ruled that the paper was a proposal to create an area, which cannot be amended in the way a motion would be and therefore was allowing it to be heard as a paper, which would be voted on with a simple majority. TP further outlined that she did not believe the decision to create NUS London should be made by NEC, but by London students' unions themselves.

Rosie Huzzard wished to make a challenge the Chair's ruling.

SY asked for some clarification about the paper. TP explained what the paper laid out.

AT asked for a recorded vote on the issue.

PS asked RHu if every union in London had been consulted on the amendment. RHu responded that all unions in London had a chance to respond.

Moved to a recorded vote.

AK	MS	PS	SL	FMCG	JR	EB	MMc	JG	DA	RD	CMCG	RM	RHa	FMF	JI	HF
Fo	Fo	Fo	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ag	Ab	Ag

JV	HP	RHe	AC	AG	ES	AT	CB	BD	KR	MB	TOBB	KT	SY	GM	RF	RHu
Ag	Ag	Ag	Fo	Fo	Fo	Fo	Ab	Ag	Fo	Fo	Ab	Ab	Fo	Fo	Fo	Fo

13 For, 17 Against, 4 Abstentions. The challenge to the Chair's ruling falls.

RM moved to discuss the paper. NUS has policy passed at Conference about London student representation. Noted that not all SUs in London had been consulted but there was consensus amongst themselves that they wanted it to be student-led and politically autonomous. RM clarified that she could not create a full-time officer for the area, set its budget or its strategy and vision, but is proposing to set NUS London up as an area.

Questions to the paper:

RHu – Asked which Unions were consulted. RM does have the list but has spoken to the Unions involved in the ULU consultation and with other meetings with unions between now and the end of October. RM stated that she wanted to put this back into the hands of students in London.

GM: Hasn't spoken to many people but gets a feeling that that a lot of officers are unhappy that the paper doesn't recognise the work that has already happened. RM responded that her priority was to put this power into students' hands.

TP asked for a formal minute to be made about the work of the London Union of Students.

AT: Noted that it was important to recognise the timescale on this, given that ULU was going to disappear by the end of the 2013/4 academic year. RM wants to establish a timeline for this process but wants to place the democratic decisions in the hand of London unions.

ES has been approached by member unions about representation about international students. He also asked about private providers and their role in NUS London, as well as the role of satellite campuses. His third point was on what RM meant by autonomy in terms of writing standing orders, as the constitution only refers to political autonomy in terms of nations and liberation. ES noted that NUS International Students Campaign's conference has repeatedly voted for increased political independence, with the word "autonomy" sometimes being used in association with this and with international students voting for the campaign to have control over its own standing orders. He also noted that London, unlike Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland, is not a devolved area and the Greater London Authority has no control over post-16 education.

On this basis, he challenged the assertion in the NUS London proposal that the NUS London area should be autonomous.

JV praised RM for involving FE colleges so much in the process and praised the partnership between HE unions and FE unions in the creation of an NUS London area.

PS noted that there were few members of NEC from London unions so it was up to London unions to decide. Responding to ES about devolved powers not existing in London, he noted that the Mayor's office controlled a lot of areas that had an impact on the lives of students.

In response to ES, RM noted how she was excited to look at how NUS could work with private providers and satellite campuses but this would sit with the Unions to decide autonomously. Additionally, she did not want to make policy on international students but this could be made by those at the Area Conference.

RHu wanted reassurance that the London Union of Students would be invited to these consultation meetings as a major stakeholder and to recognise work already done. RM praised the work of LUS and thanked those involved, including the current ULU sabbatical officers, but had to also recognise the concerns of certain London CMs about the LUS.

CB wanted to know how NUS's democratic processes will reflect a new area and would RM be taking anything to National Conference about this – such as having an NEC area for London students. RM

confirmed that she would look into this if the area was created and if the area wished and would support them in this if this is the case.

JI thanked members of NEC on both sides of the debate for clarifying arguments and making it less confusing.

SY asked whether this was a constitutional amendment. TP noted that it was not. SY also asked if NEC had the power to remove an area. TP confirmed that NEC could stop 'recognising' an area but it would not stop it from existing. If NEC voted to remove an NUS Area, the area would still exist, but it would not be an NUS Area.

Vote passed. NUS London was officially recognised as an NUS area. There were 19 votes for, 0 against, 7 abstentions.

4.2 RM presented the Charity Activity and Remit letter for approval of the NEC. The areas were taken from NUS Conference policy and from the manifestos of the FTOs. There were no questions.

Vote passed.

4.3 Allocation of campaigning budgets.

TP presented the campaigning budgets.

PS asked why the Postgraduate budget had been cut in half. CM added that there had been budgets allocated within the zones to work on these areas as well.

RHu asked for assurances that budgets going down would not affect the work going on. TP clarified that the budgets were not allocated by TP but people put forward their allocations. SY asked about the Liberations budgets. An amount had already been allocated in the departmental budgets to subsidise activist training.

ES asked about whether a figure of £190,000 reflected inflation. TP clarified that there was an underspend on this figure last year that would cover inflation but also that these numbers were approved by Conference.

Budgets were approved by NEC.

5. Consultation

5.1 Priority Work:

Real Education Change – JV and RW are putting together some red lines about things that NUS believes about the value of HE and FE. Working on lobbying OIA and UCAS to extend their remit to FE. Lobbying BIS to fix terms and conditions for student loans, as well as lobbying for removing International students from the net migration figures.

General Election – NUS ave recruited a Community Organiser and will soon be recruiting Regional Organisers and establishing a Community Organiser academy. Also working with Cabinet Office and Bite the Ballot around voter registration.

Students in Work – TP signed a partnership agreement with TUC on better working conditions, fighting against unpaid internships and apprenticeships and against workfare.

6. Motions

6.1 Motions to NEC.

FMCG put forward a procedural motion to change the order paper. NEC voted to allow Motion 11 to move up the order paper.

Motion 11: A fair year's work deserves a fair year's pay

Speech for: Sky Yarlett

Speech against: No speech against.

Vote: PASSED

Motion 1: GCSE and A Level Reform

Speech For: Joe Vinson

Speech against: No speech against

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 2: Protecting welfare of international students

Speech for: Colum McGuire

Speech against: None

VOTE: PASSED

Parts: To remove Believes 5

Speech for: Edmund Schluessel

Speech against: Colum McGuire

Vote: FELL

Parts are kept and moved into policy.

Motion 3: Keep FE Teachers Qualified

Speech for: Joe Vinson

Speech against: None

VOTE: PASSED

Motion 4: Working with UCU

Speech for: Edmund Schluessel

Speech against: None

VOTE: FELL

Parts 1: To remove Resolves 8

Speech for: RM

Speech against: AG

Vote on Parts: Passes (parts are removed from the motion)

Parts 2: Removes Resolves 2 and 5
Speech for: KT
Speech against: None
Vote on Parts: Passed (Removes Resolves 2 and 5)

Vote on amended motion: PASSES

Motion 5: Syria

Challenge to the Chair's ruling on the interrelationship made by ES.

Vote: Falls

ES withdrew amendment 5.3

Main motion

Speech for: RM

Amendment 1 to Motion 5:

Speech for: Aaron Kiely

Speech against: Hannah Paterson

VOTE on amendment 1:

Parts 1 to Amendment 1 to Motion 5:

Speech to add parts: Aaron Kiely

Speech against adding parts: Charles Barry

VOTE to add parts to become policy: FALLS (Parts are deleted)

Recorded vote to keep (K) or delete (D) parts.

AK	MS	PS	SL	FMCG	JR	EB	MMc	JG	DA	RD	CMCG	RM	RHa	FMF	JI	HF
K	K	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D

JV	HP	RHe	AC	AG	ES	AT	CB	BD	KR	MB	TOBB	KT	SY	GM	RF	RHu
D	D	D	D	K	K	Ab	D	D	D	K	D	D	D	Ab	D	D

Vote on Amendment 1 with Parts removed: FALLS (Amendment 5.1 falls)

Amendment 2 to Motion 5:

Speech for: Rosie Huzzard

Speech against: Aaron Kiely

Parts 2 on Amendment 2 to Motion 5:

Positive parts on NEC Notes 1,2,3 and Resolves 1,3

Speech for: Dom Anderson

Speech against: None

Challenge to the interrelationship from AK.

Speech for challenge: AK

Speech against challenge: TP

Vote on the challenge: FALLS (TP's ruling is upheld)

Vote to add parts 2: PASSES (Moved into the main motion)

Vote on the amendment: FALLS (The amendment is deleted, apart from the parts)

Amendment 3 to Motion 5: Withdrawn

Parts on Motion 5 on Resolves 1

Speech to delete Resolves 1: ES

Speech to keep Resolves 1: FMCG

Vote to remove Resolves 1: FALLS (Parts are kept and move into policy and stay on the main motion)

Vote on main motion, plus parts from 5.2

Speech against main motion as amended (to balance speeches): AK

Vote: PASSES

AOB:

TP presented the allocation of regions and zones for Block of 15 members – approved by NEC.

PS asked NEC members to think about what they write on social media about each other as it can be hurtful.

SY thanked NEC for passing Motion 11.

CB asked the VPs, President and Block to have a conversation about what the role of Block would be having been given zone allocations.

Item	Action	Lead	Deadline	Progress
1	Adjust Sky Yarlett's name in the July 25 th minutes	ME	November NEC	Completed
2	Adjust Kelley Temple's report	ME	November NEC	Completed
3	Remove Hull CLP letter from minutes	ME	November NEC	Completed

Resolutions:

GCSE and A Level Reform

NEC Believes:

1. The Tory-led Government is proposing a series of reforms to GCSE and A Level qualifications that seek to force our education system back to the 1970s.
2. Within the GCSE qualification; modular courses will be scrapped, coursework significantly reduced and exams taken purely in the summer term, only at the end of two years.
3. The opportunity to re-sit will also be curtailed, reducing the opportunity to re-sit and capping re-sits at one per subject.
4. These changes will come into effect for English, maths, sciences, history and geography from September 2013.

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5. The grading structure is also set to change to a numbering system from 1-8, with number 8 equivalent to an A* and 1 to a G.
 6. From September 2013 students will no longer be able to sit A level exams in January, in either their first or second year of A level studies. A levels will still be examined unit by unit, but all exams will be taken in the summer exam period.
 7. There are also proposals to change the structure of assessment within A levels so that the qualifications are fully linear. This means all assessment will be undertaken at the end of the course, rather than at the end of each year of A level study.
 8. As a result the AS qualification will be 'de-coupled' from an A level making it a standalone qualification.
 9. There are also significant proposed changes to subject content in GCSE and A levels. For instance GCSE History will have a reduced weighting towards world history and GCSE English literature will no longer contain an element on world literature.
 10. Most recently the controlled assessments on 'speaking and listening' have been removed from English and English Language GCSEs. This change has been brought in more quickly than the other reforms in an immediate bid 'to protect standards'. This will impact students in the middle of their GCSEs, who have already completed this aspect of the assessment criteria.
 11. Michael Gove's ideologically driven reforms will reverse the huge steps taken in our education system that have allowed many people, particularly liberation students to succeed.

NEC Further Believes:

1. That subject content alterations across GCSEs and A levels could have serious implications for liberation students due to the removal and marginalisation of significant and diverse voices.
2. The changes in qualification structure could also adversely affect students who struggle with assessment by exam due to their educational support needs. The removal, and capping, of re-sits could further impact students for a number of reasons, particularly if they have to deal with significant upheaval during their education.
3. These reforms will not only impede the success of students from liberation backgrounds but all who take GCSE and A level qualifications. There are serious concerns that that the proposed reforms will not adequately prepare students for future study or employment. Their focus is too narrow and has a too limited sense of how students should learn and be assessed.
4. Coursework and controlled assessment are essential to building a student's research and presentation skills. It is these skills which can be more valuable, for further study or employment, than the ability to re-call vast quantities of information.
5. In reference to the recent removal of 'speaking and listening' from English and English Language GCSEs, there is further concern that qualifications are being altered in a seemingly inconsistent and irrational way. In this instance whilst students are in the middle of their GCSE qualification and have already completed the assessment objectives in this area.
6. A variety of sector experts in HE have also stated that they believe the reforms are detrimental to students who want to move on to University.
7. These reforms will lead to the breakup of 'three country regulation', meaning different exams will be sat by students in Wales and Northern Ireland to those sat in England. This could cause disparity between progression choices for students and workers who move across the nations.

NEC Resolves:

1. To utilise the research already done with the membership on both GCSE and A level reform to lobby Michael Gove, demanding he abandon these reforms.
 2. To hold Michael Gove publically to account on the reforms proposed and made, specifically highlighting reforms that will have a detrimental effect on students with a liberation background.
 3. To submit responses to the current GCSE government consultations highlighting the views and concerns from the membership.
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4. To produce a campaigns resource for colleges to use during Freshers to engage students to critique their recent GCSE experience, and then to further lobby their MP's locally on the issue.
 5. To work with trade unions in the education sector who also believe these reforms are an attack on fairness and equality.
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Protecting welfare of international students

NEC Believes:

1. International students have come under attack from all sides in recent years, and this has most recently included:
 - a. Proposals for landlords to check the immigration status of their prospective tenants
 - b. Proposals for migrants to the UK to be required to purchase insurance or pay a levy in order to access NHS healthcare
2. NUS has been active in opposing each of these proposals and believes that international students should be entitled to a hassle-free and supportive experience of study in the UK.
3. International students can find themselves vulnerable, particularly in relation to housing where not being able to provide a UK-based guarantor can lead to them being charged six months' or more rent up front.
4. There have been a number of private companies emerging seeking to exploit these vulnerabilities for profit, as well as a number of scams where international students are asked to pay significant sums of money for property that isn't available or doesn't exist.
5. International students should be entitled to access free healthcare in recognition of the significant financial contribution they make to the UK, through fees, taxation and expenditure. To expect them to make additional contributions for access to the NHS is politically motivated, arbitrary and unfair.

NEC Resolves:

1. To continue to be active in lobbying the government to reconsider its harmful proposals in relation to the NHS and landlord immigration checks
 2. To ensure that the housing issues facing international students are examined in detail through the upcoming research project
 3. To help students' unions to feel equipped with the information they need to campaign for their institution to improve support for international students
 4. To work with other relevant organisations to lobby for online property websites to be active in preventing their sites from being used to promote property scams
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Keep FE Teachers Qualified

NEC Believes:

1. 'The Further Education Teachers' Qualifications (England) Regulations 2007' are in the process of being revoked.
 2. The existence of the regulations in secondary legislation means that their revocation does not necessitate a vote in parliament.
 3. Further Education caters to a diverse demographic, as well as multiple subject disciplines.
 4. Given this diversity of provision, it is crucial that subject and/or industry knowledge is complemented by sound knowledge and experience of teaching pedagogy, rooted in formal teacher training.
 5. The revocation of FE teaching regulations will result in a disparity between teaching standards in colleges and teaching standards in schools, where teaching qualifications are mandatory.
 6. A consultation conducted by BIS (Department for Business, Innovation and Skills) suggests that
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- a. 74% of industry professionals and sector bodies believe that teachers and trainers in FE should have a professional teaching qualification
 - b. 80% of industry professionals and sector bodies believe that, by deregulating the FE teaching profession, there will be unintended and adverse consequences for the sector
7. That the timing of this revocation was brought forward unjustifiably, and ultimately coincided with the week of A Level results, which has resulted in limited media exposure for the issue.
 8. This reform is part of the Tory-led government's wider disregard for further education and shows how little they care about standards in FE.
 9. That whilst qualifications need to have strong links to their respective employment area, this does not necessitate deprofessionalising the entire further education workforce.
 10. All students should be predominantly taught by a professional with a teaching qualification, and that links to employment sectors can feature in qualifications in other ways.

NEC Resolves:

1. To write to the Secondary Legislative Committee before Sept 16th to raise our concerns with the removal of the need for qualifications to teach in FE using evidence gathered from NUS' membership.
 2. To hold the Minister for Skills publically to account on for this decision, and to publically question why the views of the sector have been ignored.
 3. To work with sector bodies to produce a pledge to which colleges and training providers can sign up to, advising on the qualifications, training and industry knowledge FE teachers and trainers ought to possess, and what colleges should do to support CPD for their staff.
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Working with UCU

NEC Believes:

1. University & College Union (UCU) represents over 100,000 lecturers & academic staff in higher & further education across the UK.
2. UCU's May 2013 congress voted to invite collaboration with NUS:
 - a. to "work with the NUS to highlight the importance of safeguarding equality for staff and students in the face of cuts & contractual changes";
 - b. to "hold a joint conference with NUS on the defence of HE against neo-liberalism in 2014";
 - c. to "campaign for public education";
 - d. to "reject consumerist approaches which divide students and staff";
 - e. "to work with NUS to investigate the relationship between the provision of accommodation by universities and local accommodation prices and if appropriate, campaign to promote the building of affordable student accommodation by universities."
 - f. "to seek to join with NUS [...] to lobby to protect the right of unemployed and low paid students to free and resourced education"
 - g. "to work with the NUS as a joint campaign" "to improve provision at local levels to the best of the public sector and for improved provision (underwritten by employers, not funding bodies) for staff employed on casualised contracts"
3. UCU also voted "to call a conference in the autumn term around the theme 'From the cradle to the grave - Defending education for all', to approach all education unions (including the NUS) and campaigning education groups to ask for their support in organising the conference and inviting them to provide speakers and ideas on how we can launch a national campaign."
4. UCU voted to "note[] the NUS's recent campaigning on postgraduates who teach" and in response will "design and implement a low subscription regime for PhD students and other low earners that would not be linked to the members' highly volatile income, with an aim of securing and developing the next generation of UCU activists."

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5. UCU voted to “note[] the recent NUS report: 'That's What She said: Women students' experiences of 'Lad culture' in Higher Education'” and in response to “work with the NUS in developing joint campus strategies and campaigns for identifying and addressing the serious problems that 'Lad Culture' has on many female students' educational experiences and its continuing effects throughout their lives”
 6. UCU are consulting on a response to UCEA's offer on national pay & conditions with an eye to rejection, with potential industrial action in Autumn 2013. FE lecturers in England may also vote on industrial action this Autumn.

NEC Further believes:

1. Previous cooperation between NUS and UCU, for example on the 2010 compact preparing for Demo-Lition and the 2013 joint statement on workload, has been fruitful.
2. NUS Postgraduate Campaign overwhelmingly supports closer work with UCU.
3. Government attacks on education affect not just us now but future students for potentially decades to come. Small-scale disruption now pales in comparison to the long-term harm of cuts, privatisation and marketisation.

NEC Resolves:

1. We accept UCU's Invitation to work together conferences on:
 - a. Lifelong education and
 - b. Opposing neo-liberalism
2. We will strengthen our links with UCU, which supports free education, in jointly campaigning for public education & against the students-as-customers model of student-institution relations.
3. We thank UCU for recognising NUS's work on postgraduates who teach & will investigate facilitating routes to UCU membership for postgraduate members of NUS through NUS Digital & other means
4. We will share upcoming housing research with UCU & invite their cooperation in developing the housing models agreed at NUS 2013 conference
5. In developing our position on education funding in the 2015 general election we will work with our lecturers and the broader trade union movement

Syria

NEC Believes:

1. The Syrian conflict is messy and complicated, and neither side have much regard for civilian casualties. A humanitarian crisis has ensued, with the current death toll at 100,000 and over 1.5 million refugees.
 2. The use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime is barbaric.
 3. In response to the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime against civilians, On August 27, U.S. Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel announced that, should President Obama give the order, the U.S. military is ready to launch attacks on Syria
 4. On 29th August 2013, British MPs rejected a Government motion to support the principle of military intervention in Syria by 285 votes to 272
 5. The student movement has a proud history of debating the politics of the wider world, something to be protected and encouraged.
 6. A deep concern for the humanitarian crisis and solidary with those affect by it does not translate on the NUS taking a simplistic position on intervention
 7. Without a formal steer from membership on such an emotional and highly charged conflict, we are not able to accurately represent the membership on the issue of intervention.
 8. Bashar Assad's murderous dictatorship is responsible for mass killing, torture on a vast scale and an enormous humanitarian disaster inside Syria, with whole towns reduced to rubble, two million refugees, four million internally displaced, seven million in immediate need of humanitarian aid, and over a hundred thousand dead. Syria's rulers have used huge violence to protect their wealth and privileges, while reinforcing and exploiting sectarian divisions in order to cling onto power.
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9. Now it looks likely that the regime has used chemical weapons against civilians.
 10. An important factor keeping Assad in power is large-scale foreign intervention: by Russia, which has kept up a flow of weapons, and Iran and Hezbollah, which have forces on the ground. We call for an end to Russia's arming of Assad and the withdrawal of Iranian and Hezbollah forces from Syria.

NEC Resolves:

1. To maintain at this stage no position on intervention.
2. Mandate the Vice President (Society & Citizenship) to review this in light of evidence that may emerge and bring the issue back to the NEC.
3. To continue to support Syrian students in the UK, facing financial difficulty and immigration problems as a result.
4. To mandate the VP Society & Citizenship to report on what NUS and constituent members can do to support student, workers', human rights and other democratic organisations in Syria.
5. To continue campaigning in defence of Syrian students in the UK.

A fair year's work deserves a fair years pay

NEC Believes:

1. That currently there are two part-time LGBT Officers, an Open Place Officer and a Women's Place Officer. This comes from LGBT Conference taking the decision to ensure a representative LGBT movement and splitting the LGBT Officer.
2. That the success of the LGBT campaign has meant that in recent history it has become apparent that the LGBT Officers work beyond their part-time hours.
3. The work of the LGBT Officers means it is beneficial to the campaign to have the officers located in London, in terms of meeting with stakeholders, working with other NUS officers, being available for national action and in close proximity to government.
4. That to live in London on a part-time wage is practically impossible, especially when doing close to full time work with irregular hours.
5. "LGBO (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Other) Students were more likely to be in debt, and higher amounts of debt, than their heterosexual counterparts." Pound in your Pocket.
<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/news/article/38530/Pound-in-Your-Pocket-Briefing-Lesbian-gay-and-bisexual-students/>
6. In Evaluating Estrangement it was highlighted that LGBT students had been facing estrangement, possibly due to societal views in regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. Evaluating Estrangement 2010-2011
http://www.poundinyourpocket.org.uk/downloads/Evaluating_Estrangement.pdf
7. Having a part-time paid position will exclude many from standing in election. Including but not limited to students with dependants, students who are not out to their family – and couldn't live at home.
8. That the Liberation officers increase the diversity of the full time officer team and the NEC, and are often elected directly from education and are less likely to have been sabbatical officers.
9. NUS has a strong history of championing workers rights running campaigns around both the minimum wage and more recently the living wage.
10. Liberation is should be embedded in the work of NUS and that this cannot be achieved without liberation officers
11. The NEC is responsible for submitting estimates of expenditure to Conference and should submit estimates in the year ahead that address these issues

NEC Resolves:

1. That the estimates for 2013-14 should reflect sufficient budget allocation for the LGBT campaign to allow both of the LGBT officers to be full time
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