



DELEGATE GUIDE

Introduction from your VP Dannie G (Society & Citizenship)

Welcome to this year's Society & Citizenship zone conference.

This conference is about sharing your ideas, planning future ones, and telling your elected officers in NUS, how they can support you to get where you want to be.

Whether it be working with your Amnesty or People & Planet group, campaigning on cuts or ethical investment; working with your community to break down barriers; or fighting extremism, this is the place for you!

This year we've worked to make sure students and student unions are leading the agenda. With workshops from colleges on enrichment funding and campaigns for global peace, we want to show that students up and down the country are campaigning despite their limited budgets and resources.

- Hear Alfie Meadows' story on how he ended up in surgery after the student protests, and how you can help his, and many other cases.
- Get trained up by community organisers from London Citizens to go out into your community and create change yourselves.
- Hear how the LSE fought hard last year to get their institution to return Gaddafi's blood money.
- Hear how you can campaign for a living wage for all the staff at your college or university.
- Hear from UKUncut on how to make campaigning visual, humoured, and accessible.
- Hear how you can campaign for Palestinian human rights, without being divisive.
- Take part in a debate on standing up for squatters' rights.
- Discuss how we can build international links with other student groups.
- And hear how you can make your institutions and unions greener and more ethical.

Campaigns are about breaking down barriers. And those barriers are there because some people have more power than others. Soc/Cit works to give you the skills to break down those barriers.

Today we have an afternoon of campaigns and community organising training to equip you with the skills you need to deliver similar sessions to students at your college and campus, to build a movement of people who will become the next generation of change makers.

This year we will be building campaign toolkits, so whatever your beef, whatever issue gets you down, we'll work with you and give you the tools to fight for it.

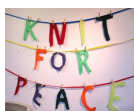
Thanks again for registering to be a part of this exciting event. I hope you enjoy the next few days, please come and chat to me if there's anything at all you need, and if you are usually a bit shy, lose yourself!

In Unity,

Dannie Grufferty
Vice President Society and Citizenship



Stalls



Agenda at a glance

Day 1	
11.00am Registration	Stalls Area Opens at 12 noon
1.00pm Opening Remarks – Main hall	Welcome to the Society & Citizenship and Welfare Zone Conference <i>Dannie Grufferty, VP Society and Citizenship and Pete Mercer, VP Welfare</i>
1.15pm Key Note Speech – Main Hall	Guest speaker Natasha Walter and Women Asylum Seekers Together
1.45pm – 2.45pm Workshops Block A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship <i>Fair Necessities – Fighting cuts to your college community</i> Toni Pearce, NUS VP Further Education and Penny Birch, Leeds City College NUS room • Ethics and Environment <i>Local action with a global impact: how a variety of tactics ended LSE's links with the Gaddafi regime</i> Charlotte Gerada, former General Secretary LSE room • Global solidarity <i>Peace One Day – how Unions can help build a global movement for peace</i> Josh Rowlands and Harry Fox Canterbury College room
2.50pm – 3.50pm Workshops Block B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship <i>Organising for Change</i> Tom Chigbo Citizens UK room • Ethics and Environment <i>Running a successful Behaviour Change campaign – theory, practical tips and advice on how to evaluate success, using university and college examples</i> Jamie Agombar NUS Services room • Global solidarity <i>Palestine and Israel – how to make human rights uncontroversial</i> Maev McDaid Liverpool Guild of Students' and James Haywood Goldsmiths SU room
3.50 – 4.05pm Break	
4.05pm – 5.05pm Workshops Block C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship <i>Defending the right to protest</i> Alfie Meadows and Hannah Dee with Fortnum and Mason defendant from UK Uncut room • Ethics and Environment <i>The criminalisation of squatting – what does this mean for the housing crisis and could it spell the end for student occupations?</i> Aakash Naik and Amanda Walters Soc Cit Zone Committee room • Global solidarity <i>Global social crisis: what might an adequate response look like?</i> Claire Arthur Oxfam room
5.10pm Organising locally to deliver change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to build a campaign team to deliver change Hannah Charnock and Dani Beckett NUS room • Activist training Tom Chigbo Citizens UK - this is available for 25 delegates, on a first come, first served basis room
6:30 – 8.00pm Film Screening	Just Do It This will be a non-alcohol event (from 7.00pm to 8.00pm there will also be the formal launch of NUS' Hate Crime reports series, No Place for Hate)
8.00pm Dinner	A street party dinner, followed by our after dinner guest speaker Joe Baden, of Open Book
10pm Evening entertainment	There will be a games night kindly hosted by Liverpool Guild of Students and Drinkaware. There will also be non-alcoholic events taking place at the Adelphi Hotel.
Day 2	
9.00am Accountability (Officers Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidents' Report • Zone VP and Committee report
9.30am Election (Officers Only)	Zone Committee Delegates are given the opportunity to stand for election to Zone Committee 2011/12
10.15am Policy Forums (Officers Only)	Policy Forums A chance to feed into NUS policy on the issues students & officers care about
	Staff sessions 9.30 – 12.30 9:30 – 10:30 – Jim Dickinson on supporting officers and campaigns 10.30 – 11.30 – Geraldine Smith on using research to evidence campaigns 11.30 – 12.30 – Paul Norman on how staff can feed into the priority campaign
12:30 Closing remarks and reflections	Dannie Grufferty, Vice President Society and Citizenship will close the conference and summarise key themes.
1pm Close of conference	

NUS Zone Conferences

What's a Zone Conference?

NUS' policy areas want to involve students' union activists, officers and staff- giving you a chance to hear from experts and each other, spaces to deliberate, network and discuss away from grandstanding speeches, and chances to feed in informally to NUS' priorities and policy making processes.

Our Zone Conferences Feature:

- Big name keynote speakers
- Plenary – issues briefings
- Panel debates – of experts
- Workshops led by external experts
- Workshops of best practice led by other unions
- Student Representative Policy Forums
- Staff/Practitioner Discussion Forums

There are also be formal democratic processes

- Accountability sessions- VP and President
- Report from Zone Vice President
- Zone Committee Elections

During each two day event, we'll be looking for student officers and students to stand to be members of our Zone Committees- an exciting opportunity to get further involved in driving the work of that Zone.

Policy making

Following the consultations at each Zone Conference, Zone Committees will be publishing their policy proposals for the year ahead, and there will be a chance for all unions to consider these, submit amendments or event submit ideas of their own in the new year.

Notes:

- Before sending Policy Recommendations Reports to Constituent members, Zones shall submit to the Democratic Procedures Committee their reports and the DPC shall ensure that the content matches the Zone title.
- All constituent members and the National Executive Council may submit up to 1400 words of policy motions or amendments into the national conference by a deadline set annually by the Democratic Procedures Committee.
- The Democratic Procedures Committee will rule out of order text which has not been submitted on the instructions of the governing body of the Constituent Member concerned or which have not been submitted in a way approved by its governing body.
- Text will be submitted electronically in accordance with rulings from the Democratic Procedures Committee. Electronic submission will be verified by the use of a secret pass code, which will be notified by the Democratic Procedures Committee to the senior Executive Officer of Constituent Members or nominated member of a National Committee.
- A form will be submitted at the same time as the copy(ies) of the text which will detail the word count, the authorising body for the text, the date of the meeting of the authorising body and contact details for at least two senior Executive members of the Constituent Member or National Committee
- The Democratic Procedures Committee will take each submission of text and first determine if the text or sections of it represent an amendment to the Policy Recommendations of any of the Zone reports. In this event it will composite them where appropriate and list these as proposed amendments to the Policy Recommendations to be debated separately.
- All other text will become composite motions under the appropriate Zone. Any text not submitted in line with regulations issued by the Democratic Procedures Committee will be ruled out of order by Democratic Procedures Committee.
- The Democratic Procedures Committee will send to all Constituent Members zone policy recommendation reports and motions documents which will include all text not ruled out of order.

NUS' Society & Citizenship Zone An Introduction

The Society and Citizenship Zone's work demonstrates that our members are active and engaged citizens, and through our activities we will shape our local and international communities.

This Zone is crucial in building students' unions into truly dynamic, member led organisations. Campaigns that you run on your campuses can shape a generation of students to become more aware of the world in which we live, and the problems we face.

By engaging in this zone you can win real changes for your members whilst also shaping the communities in which we live and work. It's our job to ensure unions and universities are leading the way, responding and taking action on broader issues.

The work that we will focus on this year is divided into three key areas:

- Citizenship - students play an invaluable role within society, we work to defend the students place, as well as increase student participation, in the community.
- Ethics and environment –supporting individual students, students' unions and institutions to take action on the environment and ethical practices.
- Global solidarity – working to develop alliances with student groups across the globe and also raise awareness among our members on the rights of students globally.

How we can help you

NUS can support you and your students' unions in a variety of ways. Through NUS Connect and our nus.org.uk website we provide you with all the latest news, developments and resources. We will over this year work to develop the research and policy outputs of this zone, ensuring we're shaping agendas in which the student voice is vital. The Zone will provide you with regular newsletters and support on the issues identified above.

We also provide you with support from a range of external organisations; from Oxfam to Liberty we work together to better support you and effect change.

Key Contacts

Officer: Dannie Grufferty, Vice President (Society and Citizenship) – Danielle.Grufferty@nus.org.uk

Staff: Liz Rawlings, Research and Policy Assistant– liz.rawlings@nus.org.uk

Staff: Harriet Rowley Research and Policy Assistant – harriet.rowley@nus.org.uk

Zone Committee

NEC Place – Aakash Naik, University of Portsmouth

Amanda Walters, University of Manchester

Hero Austin, London School of Economics

Nes Cazimoglu, University of Reading

Aaron Gatley, City College, Norwich

Jack Rowley – University of the Arts/LSE (staff adviser)

Find out more:

www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/society/

Soc & Cit Zone Conference Detailed Session Guide

PLENARY | Day One | 13.00

Natasha Walter and Women Asylum Seekers Together – Main Hall

Natasha Walter is a British feminist and human rights activist. She is the author of *Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism* (2010) and *The New Feminism* (1998). She is also a columnist for *The Guardian*. Natasha is the director of *Women for Refugee Women* which campaigns for the rights of women who seek asylum. This keynote sees Natasha share the stage with women asylum seekers who will tell their stories, exploring the issues surrounding the rights of women asylum seekers and how you can get help with their campaign.

Workshops Block A | Day One | 13.45-14.45

Citizenship – Fair Necessities – Fighting cuts to your college community | Toni Pearce, NUS VP Further Education

Session outline: Enrichment funding in Further Education has received an 80% cut across the board. Enrichment funding currently pays for activities such as counselling services, careers services, clubs and societies, sports/music/extra curricular activities, tutorials, students' unions block grants, alcohol awareness and sexual health advice. One of the priorities this year for the FE campaign is to fight against these cuts. Come and talk about the campaign and learn how you can get involved.

Ethics and Environment – Local action with a global impact: how a variety of tactics ended LSE's links with the Gaddafi regime | Charlotte Gerada, former General Secretary | LSE | room

Session outline: Charlotte was the General Secretary of LSE Students' Union from 2010-2011, when LSE successfully campaigned to rid the University of its links to Gaddafi's regime. She was also NUSSE Ethics and Environment chair last year and has a vast amount of experience campaigning on issues of social justice, poverty/inequality and access to education.

Global Solidarity– Peace One Day – how Unions can help build a global movement for peace | Harry Fox and Josh Rowlands | Canterbury College | room

Session outline: NUS recently affiliated to the Peace One Day campaign. Peace One Day a global movement for peace which is building towards a Global Truce on Peace Day - 21 September 2012, a day of ceasefire and non-violence observed by all sectors of society to allow aid agencies to carry out life-saving work. This year, for Peace Day Canterbury college organised a hugely successful campaign across campus – hear from Josh and Harry about their work and learn more about Peace One Day.

Workshops Block B | Day One | 14.50 - 15.50

Citizenship – *Organising for Change* | Tom Chigbo | Citizens UK | room

Session outline: Citizens UK promote local action and community organising. Their aim is to empower people to work towards common goals through local communities and encourage people to become active and engaged citizens. Tom Chigbo was President of Cambridge University Students' Union and now works as a Community Organiser for Citizens UK in the London Borough of Lambeth.

Ethics and Environment – *Running a successful Behaviour Change campaign* | Jamie Agombar | NUS Services | room

Session outline: This session will look at the theory, practical tips and monitoring and evaluation behind running a successful behaviour change campaign, using university and college examples.

Global Solidarity – *Palestine and Israel – how to make human rights uncontroversial* | Maev McDaid, Liverpool Guild of Students and James Haywood, Goldsmiths Student Union | room

Session outline: James Haywood is the President at Goldsmiths Students' Union, and has recently returned from a student delegation to Gaza. Maev McDaid is a Sabbatical officer at Liverpool Guild of Students, and regularly returns to Palestine to campaign on human rights violations.

Workshops Block B | Day One | 16.05-17.05

Citizenship – *Defending the Right to Protest* | Alfie Meadows and Hannah Dee, with defendants from Fortnum and Mason occupation – UK Uncut | room

Session outline: Alfie Meadows had to have brain surgery last year after he was hit while protesting against the rise in tuition fees. His story personified last year's protests. He now faces a charge of violent disorder. In March, 150 UK Uncut activists were arrested after taking part in a peaceful sit-in in Fortnum and Mason. Of these charges, 109 have now been dropped. In this session Alfie Meadows, Fortnum and Mason defendants and Hannah Dee from campaigning organisation Defend the Right to Protest, discuss the vital role students have to protecting and championing protest rights.

Ethics and Environment – *The criminalisation of squatting* | Amanda Walters and Aakash Naik | Society and Citizenship zone committee | room

Session outline: The UK Government is currently trying to criminalise squatting. What does this mean for the housing crisis and could it spell the end for student occupations? Amanda Walters is a Sabbatical officer at the University of Manchester students' union and Aakash Naik is the former President of the University of Portsmouth Students' Union. They are both on the Society and Citizenship zone committee.

Global Solidarity – *Global social crisis: what might an adequate response look like?* | Claire Arthur | Oxfam | room

Session outline: Oxfam has been at the forefront of campaigning on global justice and fighting against poverty for over 60 years. Claire Arthur works in Oxfam's Campaigns and Policy Division as their Young Adults Engagement Officer. Her role involves supporting 18-25 year-olds to develop their skills and knowledge as activists, and encouraging new people to become involved in campaigning on international social justice. This work includes managing Oxfam's outreach programme at music festivals and working with Oxfam's National Youth Board. During this workshop Claire will facilitate discussion on the Global social crisis, and the issues around responding to this. She will talk about Oxfam's history of campaigning and the 'Grow' campaign – which aims to stop Land Grabs which have resulted in thousands of people to losing their homes, land and livelihoods.

Organising Locally to Deliver Change – skills training | Day One | 17.10-18.30

***How to build a campaign team to deliver change* | Hannah Charnock and Dani Beckett | NUS | room**

Session outline: Whether you're concerned about education or the environment, public service cuts or poverty, your local community or global justice, you need to learn the skills to be a great activist – to deliver change. This session will give you those skills – come and share, debate, learn, plan and make change happen with like minded students.

***Activist training* | Tom Chigbo | Citizens UK | room**

Session outline: Citizens UK are renowned for their activist training – giving you the skills you need to make change in your local community. Citizens UK have supported activists across the UK, winning local campaigns on the Living Wage and giving local communities the resources and skills to win through community organising. This session will equip you with the knowledge, skills and training to be an active citizen and make change. Tom Chigbo is a former President of Cambridge University Students' Union and now works as a community organiser for Citizens UK in the London Borough of Lambeth.

Film Screening and People and Planet training | Day One | 18.30

***Film Screening (18.30-20.00) | Just Do It – a tale of modern day outlaws* | room**

Session outline: Just Do It lifts the lid on climate activism and the daring troublemakers who have crossed the line to become modern day outlaws. Emily James spent over a year embedded in activist groups such as Climate Camp and Plane Stupid to document their clandestine activities. With unprecedented access, Just Do It introduces you to a powerful cast of mischievous and inspiring characters who put their bodies in the way; they blockade factories, attack coal power stations and glue themselves to the trading floors of international banks despite the very real threat of arrest.

Their adventures will entertain, illuminate and inspire. 'Rousing Stuff' Empire **** "Smart, funny, adrenalised portrait of 21st-century activism" Danny Leigh, The Guardian

Workshop (18.30-19.30) | *Climate justice and social justice: fighting to win* | People and Planet | room

Session outline: People and Planet is the largest student network in Britain campaigning to end work poverty, defend human rights and protect the environment. In this session they will talk about their current campaigns, and how students get involved and organise to win on climate justice and social justice. This session will be particularly relevant to E&E officers, and those students who are interested in running effective campaigns on ethical and environmental issues.

From 19.00 there will also be the formal launch of NUS' Hate Crime reports series, *No Place for Hate*. This will be a joint event with the Welfare zone conference.

DINNER | Day One | 20.00

Street party | Main Hall

Get the bunting at the ready because we'll be celebrating the end of day one with a fantastic street party! Local activism can change the world, but it's also fun. A dinner to remember.

AFTER-DINNER SPEAKER | Day One | Joe Baden

After-dinner speaker | *Joe Baden* | Open Book | Main Hall

Joe Baden grew up in the Old Kent Road in London. He left school at 14 and followed his Dad into the print trade, before drifting into a life of crime. After spending time in prison, Joe attempted to turn his life around and entered education. After facing numerous barriers and challenges he graduated with a degree in History from Goldsmiths University. Joe now runs the Open Book programme to open up higher and further education to addicts, offenders and people with mental-health problems. The programme has been a remarkable success, with Open Book visiting prisons and young offender's institutions to encourage people to take up education, as well as offering them ongoing emotional and practical support throughout their course.



We want everyone at our events to feel and be safe, which is why NUS has adopted a Zero Tolerance approach to Sexual Harassment. That means that under our code of conduct, which applies to all our members, we would consider any of the following as unacceptable:

1. Unwanted sexual comments, including comments about someone's body or private life
2. Unwelcome sexual invitations, innuendoes, and offensive gestures
3. Wolf whistling, catcalling or offensive sexual noises
4. Groping, pinching or smacking of someone's body
5. Moving or grabbing someone's clothes without agreement
6. Exposure of sexual organs without consent

If you witness or experience Sexual Harassment of any sort, we want you to be able to raise it with us and have confidence that it will be taken seriously. That means:

We'll deal with it seriously

At every event there will be at least two senior staff members who are trained and ready to discuss any concerns or issues you might have about others' behaviour. They will deal with your concerns swiftly and seriously and the perpetrator will be removed from the event if necessary. These staff members will be highlighted at the start of every event.

If you see it, you should report it

Just because something wasn't done to you personally doesn't mean that you can't or shouldn't raise a concern - it is much better if you do.

You can choose whether to make something "formal"

NUS' code of conduct distinguishes between formal and informal complaints, which we are currently in the process of reviewing. In the meantime, you can choose whether you want to make a 'formal' or less formal complaint. Making a formal complaint may sound daunting but all it means is that we can record that you've raised a concern, and can contact you with progress on our investigations. Making a 'formal' complaint makes it easier for us to take firm action. However, if you would rather raise something informally we will still support you and take your concerns seriously.

You can choose whether to be "on the record" or anonymous when raising an issue

If you've seen or heard something unacceptable, or something has happened to you, we can ensure that the perpetrator is not told who made the complaint. We understand that it can be difficult to come forward with complaints about sexual harassment, and we will ensure you are supported at every step of the process.

Delegate List (as at 17/10/11)

Brad	Murrant	Student Engagement Officer	South Downs College
Joe	Vinson	President	Cornwall College Students' Union
Leona	Sutton	Student Governor	Cornwall College Students' Union
Harry	Fox	President	Canterbury College Students' Union
Josh	Rowlands	VP FE Candidate	Canterbury College Students' Union
Graeme	Kirkpatrick	Depute President	NUS Scotland
An	Other	officer	Dudley College
Krissy	Meyer	International Students' Officer	University of Sheffield Students' Union
Ben	Fisher	Community Officer	Leeds University Union
James	Haywood	President	Goldsmiths Students' Union
Zuki	Majuqwana	VP Housing & Community	University of Birmingham Guild of Students
Angela	Gooderson	President	University of Chichester Students Union
Leigh	Hankinson	President	York St John Students' Union
Thomas	French	Campaigns & Involvement Officer	Leicester
Pat	Plested	Campus Officer	UCA Students' Union
Tim	Ellis	President	York University
Sarah	Lewis	Environment and Social Justice Officer	University of Nottingham Students' Union
Maev	McDaid	President	Liverpool Guild of Students
Tim	Rees Jones	Finance & Services Officer	UCLUnion
Natasha	Gorodnitski	Ethics & Environment Officer	UCLUnion
Luke	Durigan	Education & Campaigns Officer	UCLU
Lily	Flaherty	Charity and Fundraising Officer	University of Essex Students' Union
Chris	Reeves	Ethics and Environment Officer	University of Essex Students' Union
Jo	Johnson	AP Community Wellbeing	Leeds Met Students' Union
Phillippa	Faulkner	Vice President Services	Edinburgh University Students' Association
Hugh	Murdoch	Academic Services Convener	Edinburgh University Students' Association
Max	Wakefield	VP Community	University of Bristol Students' Union
Sophie	Richardson	President	Queen Mary Students' Union
Tom	Peel	VP Community	Hull University Union
Samaira	Anjum	VP Community	MMUnion
Ellis	Jones	VP: Academic Experience	Oxford Brookes Students' Union
Emma	Harris	Commercial Services Officer	Staffordshire University Students' Union
Matthew	Tennant	Environmental and Ethical Officer	University of Cumbria
Laura	Tombs	C118	University of Cumbria
Allanah	Bayliss	Ethical Issues Officer	Union of UEA Students
Anna	Tomson	Womens Officer	Union of UEA Students
Tom	Riglar	Sustainability Officer	Ravensbourne Students' Union
Anja	Falhenkamp	Officer	SOAS
Bindz	Patel	Campaigns Coordinator	KCLSU
Dave	Lewis	Student Engagement Manager	SUARTS
Charlotte	Britton	Welfare Officer	Swansea University Students' Union
Hannah	Paterson	Delegate	University of Manchester Students' Union
Lisa	Barnett	Community Warden Scheme Coordinator	University of Birmingham Guild of Students
Leo	Boe	President	University of Warwick Students' Union
Jenny	Gill	Campaigns and Welfare Officer	Teesside University Students' Union
Kelley	Temple	Women's Officer	NUS Scotland
Luke	Reynolds	VP Welfare	University of Birmingham Guild of Students
Steph	Johnson	VP Welfare & Representation	Reading University Students' Union
Tash	Ross	Community & Student Rights Officer	Union of UEA Students
Nicole	Lucas	VP Welfare and Students' Rights	London South Bank University Students' Union
Rachel	Eyre	Welfare Officer	UCLUnion
Celica	Douglas	Vice President	University of Chichester Students Union
Rich	Pearson	FXU President Welfare	Falmouth and Exeter Students Union (FXU)

Lukas	Slothuus	Community and Welfare Officer	LSE Students' Union
Ed	Bending	VP Wellbeing	University of Brighton Students' Union
Rosie	Tressler	Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer	University of Nottingham Students' Union
Mat	Denton	Welfare Officer	University of Sheffield Students' Union
Harriet	Rankin	Welfare Officer	Leeds University Union
Matt	Saint	Vice President (Equality, Welfare & Diversity)	Lancaster University Students' Union
Danny	McGuire	Cross Campus Welfare Campaigns Officer	Lancaster University Students' Union
Katy	Hargreaves	Welfare & Equality Officer	newcastle university students' union
Simisola	Smith	VP Academic Affairs	KCLSU
Sarah	Clarke	Ethics and Social Justice Campaigns Officer	University of Warwick Students' Union
Dan	Ridsdale	Vice President Education and Welfare	York St John Students' Union
Sean	Rillo Raczka	Chair of Council	Birkbeck Students' Union
Suzi	Burtenshaw	Welfare & International Officer	Leicester
Colum	McGuire	Vice President Welfare	Kent Union
Stefan	Popovic	Campaigns Officer	UCLAN SU
Naomi	Mackrill	VP Community & Diversity	University of Bath Students' Union
Olly	Trumble	Vice President (Events & Democracy)	Lancaster University Students' Union
Stephen	Smith	JCR President, Fylde College	Lancaster University Students' Union
Emma	Payne	VP Welfare and Community	Exeter Students' Guild
Ayumi	Okada	VP Welfare	Solent Students' Union
Jenny	Batty	President Welfare & Equal Opps	Aberdeen University Student's Association
Gordon	Moloney	Enviro & Ethics Officer	Aberdeen University Student's Association
Jo	Bartson	Vice President (Welfare and Education)	Canterbury Christ Church Students' Union
Lukas	Slothuus	Community and Welfare Officer	LSE Students' Union
Chris	Cottam	Representation and Community Support Coordinator	UWE Students' Union
Louise	Goux-Wirth	VP Community and Welfare	UWE Students' Union
Nick	Pringle	Delegate	University of Manchester Students' Union
Sarah	Kerton	Day Delegate	University of Manchester Students' Union
Ruth	Brewer	Vice President	Liverpool Guild of Students
Jennifer	Krase	Student	Bangor Students' Union
Kim	Cooper	Volunteering and Fundraising Coordinator	Liverpool Guild of Students
Carl	Hawkes	Welfare & Community Officer	Hallam Union
Alex	Hopkins	Equality and Diversity Officer	University of Essex Students' Union
Julia	Seal	Accommodation & Community Officer	University of Nottingham Students' Union
Andy	Morgan	Welfare Officer	Ravensbourne Students' Union
Oscar	Williamson	VP Education and Welfare	Queen Mary Students' Union
Callum	Martin	President for Communication and Democracy	RGU Union
Fairooz	Aniqa	Culture and Diversity Officer	SUARTS
James	McGarvey	Vice President Community Engagement	Liverpool Students Union
Mahaboob			
Basha	V.R.S.A	Internatioanl & Overseas stduents officer	Swansea University Studenst' Union
Lizzy	Norman	Student Engagement Assistant	LSE Students' Union
Charlie	Hopper	Equality and Diversity Officer	Leeds University Union
			University of Strathclyde Students' Association
Darren	Young	Vice President Equality & Diversity	The University of Stirling Students Union
Hollie	Cameron	Vice President Education & Engagement	Roehampton Students' Union
Claire marie	Fitzsimons	VP Welfare & Community	Northumbria Students' Union
Francesca	Di Giorgio	Environmental Activities Coordinator	SOAS Students' Union
Arianna	Tassinari	Co President Welfare and Education	
Jason			
Utitofon	Jackson	welfare Officer	London Metropolitan University
Ivy	Migue	VP: Student Experience	Oxford Brookes University
Sophie	Bennett	VP - Welfare and Equality	University of Bristol Students' Union
Gus	Baker	President	University of Bristol Students' Union
Jack	Heskett	Welfare Development Officer	Loughborough Students' Union
Gemma	Wright	Welfare VP	University of Wolverhampton Students' Union
Karina	Clarke	Equality officer (UC)	Blackpool students union
Jawanza	Ipyana	AP Diversity	Leeds Met Students' Union
Kim	Hargreaves	Education & Welfare Officer	Staffordshire University Students' Union

Sam	Holding	Ethical & Environmental Officer	University College Birmingham
Emma	Whittaker	Welfare Officer	University College Birmingham
Jaswinder	Blackwell-Pal	30th Nov Student Agitator	Goldsmiths Students Union
Hannah	Evans	Non-Portfolio Officer	Union of UEA Students
Luke	Jennings Hatt	Disabled Students Officer	Union of UEA Students
Emma	Meehan	Vice President Societies and Activities	Edinburgh University Students' Association
Calum	Lesley	Welfare Convener	Edinburgh University Students' Association
Paul	Dunne	Officer	Universities at Medway Students' Association
Stephen	Durning	VP for Student Experience	Northampton Union
Hannah	Davis	Vice President Sports	Kent Union
Chidinma	Nwokoro	Student	Liverpool Guild of Students
Oliver	Kasper	Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator	University of Nottingham
Jenni	Hastings	Advice Coordinator	Liverpool Guild of Students
Sophia	Daly	Students Union Liaison Officer	Dudley College
Rebecca	Powell	Student	Bangor Students' Union
Chloe	Merna	Student Advisor	University of Cumbria Students' Union
James	Phillips	President	MidKent College Students' Union
Robert	Hughes	Welfare Officer	York University Student Union
Roz	Pilling	Information and Advocacy Manager	University of Cumbria Students Union
Thomas	Hollick	President	City College Norwich Students' Union
TBC	TBC	TBC	Kent Union
Richard	Ayre	Student	Solent Students' Union
Victoria	Kettlewell	President	Mid Cheshire College
Emily	Spiers	Governor	Mid Cheshire College
Margot	Bishop	Training & Development Coordinator	Reading University Students' Union
Mel	Fox	Academic & Welfare Co-ordinator	York University
Robert	Hughes	Welfare Officer	York University
Paul	Norman	Membership Services Manager	MMUnion
Ghalia	Albarazi	Student Delegate	University of Manchester Students' Union
Sahibzada	Yousaf	Student Delegate	University of Manchester Students' Union
Lily	Badger	Student Support Advisor	University of Birmingham Guild of Students
			London South Bank University Students' Union
Makinde	Opeyemi	Representation and Democracy Coordinator	Queen Mary Students' Union
Tom	Sutton	Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator	Liverpool Students Union
Gary	Hughes	Student Voice Manager	SUARTS
Billie	Pearson	Vice President LCF	Swansea
Zahid	Raja	NUS Wales Black Student Officer	Staffordshire University Students' Union
Margaret	Mulholland	Membership Services Manager	Staffordshire University Students' Union
Katy	Mitchell	Student Trustee	Staffordshire University Students' Union
Liat	Norris	Student Trustee	Union of UEA Students
Jo	Spiro	Student Support Services Manager	Dudley College
An	Other	officer	SOAS
Maham	Hashmi	Student	SOAS
Lishun	Huang	Student	York University
Becky	Warburton	Volunteering Co-ordinator	Kent Union
TBC	TBC	TBC	South Downs College
James	Eke	Welfare Committee	Liverpool Guild of Students
Luke	Staunton	Student	South Downs College
Vicky	Hayward	Womens Officer	

Reports and Plans Introduction

Under the constitution, the Vice President of the relevant Zone is required to present a report on the work of their Policy Zone so far this year. Their Zone Committee will have been meeting to drive the work of the Zone following debates and mandates arising from National Conference. In addition, the National President is required to attend at each Zone Conference and present a report on the Priority Campaign(s) of the National Union.

During this session of Zone Conference (which will be student only) you will hear from the relevant VP and the National President and will be able to ask questions about their work. At this time you may propose formal report motions as follows:

- The reference back of a specified part of the relevant Report.
- A motion of censure on the Zone Vice President, Zone Committee or National President
- A motion to commend the Zone Vice President, Zone Committee or National President for a specific area of work.

If you have any questions about Reports and Plans, you should raise them with the relevant Vice President or the Chair for this session of Zone Conference

Society and Citizenship: Dannie Grufferty Report and Plan

The Society and Citizenship Zone Report includes an update on policy passed at National Conference. We are working on a range of other issues, including ethical, environmental and global justice work. Further information can be found at www.nusconnect.org.uk/campaigns/society



Motion: Protecting the student voice

Report

Soon after this motion was passed, there were elections in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as local elections in certain areas in England and a referendum on the Alternative Vote electoral system. For the referendum, guidelines were sent to students' unions. Students' unions were not able to take a stance on AV, but could launch voter-registration drives, educate students on both the 'yes' and 'no' arguments, as well as encouraging them to vote.

We are also continuing to work on the Votes at 16 campaign; Dannie attends the Votes at 16 Coalition Steering group set-up by the British Youth Council and a new website was launched in April which included comprehensive case studies detailing why young people aged 16 and 17 should be able to vote.

We also launched a Save Citizenship education campaign. Citizenship education is crucial in engaging young people in politics and educating them about their rights and responsibilities as active citizens. We published information about the campaign on the NUS websites asking the Government to keep Citizenship education as part of the national curriculum.

Plan:

- We will work with the London students' unions to register students for the London Assembly elections next year as well as encouraging them to vote.
- We will continue to lobby against any attempts to remove students' ability to register their vote at their home and term-time address.

- We are working with Oxfam to teach global citizenship in schools and FE colleges, stressing the importance of being active politically on both a local, and international scale.

Motion: Drugs Patents

Report

This motion maintains that the research and drugs that are made in university laboratories should be used for the greater good – they should be accessible and affordable to those who need them. Drug patents often mean that medicine becomes prohibitively expensive for some of the poorest people across the world who need them most. This issue is new to NUS and we are researching the best ways to move the campaign forward.

Plan:

- We will set up a meeting with the British Medical Association (BMA) to discuss working together to lobby universities to ensure that every drug is licensed with a concrete, effective and transparent strategy to make affordable versions available for people who need them most.
- We will research the best ways to highlight this issue to students' unions and look into cases where Unions have been successful in lobbying their universities against drug patents, distributing best practice.

Motion: Education for All

Report

Education is a basic universal right. Since National Conference, we have worked to highlight to students the inequalities of education across the world. We petitioned the UK Government and the EU after the Bahraini regime harassed students and their families who were photographed attending a peaceful protest in solidarity with the Bahraini pro-democracy movement. At least 9 students attending these protests in the UK had their subsistence grants axed and told that their tuition fee payments would be stopped.

In Chile, students are fighting against inequalities in their education system. We sent a letter of solidarity to Camila Vallejo, President of the Universidad de Chile Students' Federation (FECH) in their campaign against the marketisation of education in Chile. We have also publicised the student uprisings and political protest through the NUS websites.

We have called for the immediate release of the President of Swaziland NUS. We are writing to the Swazi Ambassador with ACTSA.

Plan :

- To continue to work with the European Students' Union, global student organisations and NGO's to apply pressure to countries that are persecuting those in education.
- Work with the Helena Kennedy Foundation to lobby the Government to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers in the UK can access higher education – currently they are classed as 'international students' and therefore face prohibitively high fee levels.
- We are working on some research with Oxfam relating to our members' understandings of the global south and development issues. We hope this will form the basis of the first international strategy for NUS which will lay the foundations for how we can work to have a global reach.

Motion: Toxic fuels and ethical investment

Report

Last year we partnered with People & Planet to coordinate Go Green Week. We highlighted the week, with articles on the NUS websites. We also collated best practice and highlighted the simple yet important changes that we can all make to reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.

On ethical banking we have achieved a huge win! The Charity & Social Banking Team from Co-op Bank now have a package for students' unions, providing affordable banking packages. These are bespoke and are available to unions regardless of size and turnover. Look out for more information about this shortly.

NUS recently completed a major piece of research for the Higher Education Academy on student attitudes to education for sustainable development. We have recently been commissioned to carry out a follow-up survey.

NUS has been at the forefront of behaviour change campaigning over the last two years. Our Degrees Cooler project engaged 17,000 students and staff in 20 universities through three projects: i) Student Switch Off, an inter-halls energy competition for first year students; ii) Green Impact, a departmental environmental accreditation scheme with an awards element and, iii) Going Greener, a student-led bottom-up greening campaign. It has been regarded as a great success.

Plan:

- Work with People & Planet to support and plan Go Green Week 2012, which is scheduled from 6-10th February.
- We have teamed up with the Higher Education Academy to organise a student engagement event on the 22nd February in Leeds University Union, where we will be presenting the findings the research commissioned by the HEA on student attitudes towards the inclusion of education for sustainable development within the curriculum.
- We will be distributing information to students' unions about how they can change from unethical banks across to the Co-op.

Motion: Uprisings

This motion asks NUS to support the mass uprisings for democracy and social justice across Africa and the Middle East.

We supported the day of action in London on 12 February at Trafalgar Square. Students dressed in black, white or red (the colours of the Egyptian flag) in solidarity with the people of Egypt and the wider Middle East and North Africa in their demands for an end to repression, for their freedom, their basic human rights and immediate reforms.

Plan:

- We will research ways in which NUS can build links with student and workers' organisations in Tunisia and Egypt.

Motion: Local Action First

This motion asks NUS to work on local community and citizenship issues. This year we launched the 'Love Your Neighbourhood' campaign, publicising resources and best practice on nus.org.uk and NUS Connect.

We have affiliated to Citizens UK as part of a strategic partnership to work together to promote local action and community organising. Their aim is to empower people to work towards common goals through their local communities.

The theme for this year's Society and Citizenship zone conference is localism. We have attempted to provide the skills and resources through workshops, speakers and training to allow students' unions to become centres of local activism and for students to effect change on the issues they most care about.

Plan:

- The marketing department at NUSSL is undertaking a project to identify what turns someone who has engaged with NUS into an activist.
- NUS is running **Student Activism 2011** – the UK's biggest ever student activism conference. The free event will give students activism training to make sure they have the skills and resources to run effective campaigns. The event will be delivered through a huge range of workshops, talks, discussions, master classes and debates, and will culminate in a mass rally.
- We're working on defending students' right to protest. Any changes to protest laws could have drastic effects limiting students' ability to campaign against local cuts and other issues. We're

collaborating with Liberty to produce a guidance document for students on the right to protest within the law, written in partnership with Liberty's legal director. This will be released at Activism 2011.

Motion: Don't Attack Iran

This motion calls for NUS to support the Stop the War Coalition and their efforts to prevent any attack or non-military sanctions on Iran. We have been monitoring the foreign-policy situation with regards to Iran. However, due to other commitments and priorities for the zone, as well as the current lack of political movement on this issue, there have been fewer resources and less time expended on this policy than on the others.

Plan:

- We will continue to monitor the foreign policy situation with regards to Iran, periodically reviewing our work on this issue.

Motion: Trade unionisation internationally

This motion maintains that NUS should work closely with trade unions to achieve our goals, and continue to support the rights of workers. It also states that students' unions should endorse the work of the Workers Rights Consortium, a US-based campaigning organisation that deploys staff into clothing factories across the world to assess labour standards and resolve issues locally by working with workers and management. In April, NUS Services voted to affiliate to the Workers' Rights Consortium.

We have continued to work closely with trade unions and to promote workers' rights. Last year the Society and Citizenship zone committee attended a stunt in Westminster for the PlayFair campaign to ensure which workers' rights are upheld in the London Olympics.

We have also completed a briefing with UCU on internships – highlighting the NUS and UCU policy on unpaid internships, as well as providing information and advice to students' unions and local UCU branches about how to exert pressure on their local institutions to encourage good practice across the sector.

Plan:

- We will continue to work closely with trade unions on our unpaid internships campaign, which ties in a key student issue with protecting and extending worker's rights.
- On unpaid internships, we will be lobbying to put an Early Day Motion on the issue through parliament and we are developing an interactive website where unpaid interns can share their experiences; whether they carried out an internship, or whether they were unable to afford to.
- We will continue to work closely with trade unions, exploring ways in which we work together to achieve common goals.

National Executive Council (NEC) Motions relevant to Society and Citizenship:

Motion: Supporting Peace One Day

NUS has officially joined the Peace One Day campaign – a global movement for peace. Spearheaded by Jeremy Gilley, Peace One Day is a movement campaigning for a Global Truce on September 21st 2012. A Global Truce would signify a day of ceasefire and non-violence observed by all sectors of society to allow aid agencies to carry out life-saving work.

Plan:

- We will work with students' unions in action to build up to September 2012.
- We will continue to educate students on issues of global citizenship and promote messages of peace, both at a local and international level.

Motion: Dialogue on Israel/Palestine

In September, the NUS NEC passed a motion on dialogue surrounding Israel/Palestine. The motion supports self-determination for the Palestinian and Jewish peoples through two states for two peoples as

the possible peaceful solution, recognising that there are multiple narratives of national liberation within the region.

Plan:

- Through the Society & Citizenship Zone Committee we will encourage unions to host 'roundtable' dialogue events on campuses and learning environments.
- We will strengthen existing interfaith initiatives to promote good relations between religious groups on campus.
- NUS currently supports a research student, Ruth Sheldon, who is doing a collaborative PhD with NUS and Kent University on "Student engagement with Israel/Palestine." She is in her 2nd year of the project, doing fieldwork on 2/3 campuses, up until December when she will be writing up.
- One of the workshops at Society and Citizenship zone conference is focused on discussing human rights in Israel/Palestine and how to approach these debates in a way which isn't divisive or controversial.

Society and Citizenship research!

Gap Years/Gap Yabs

In order to take the Society and Citizenship zone forward, we are hoping to complete more research, so we can be pro-active in setting the agenda for Society and Citizenship issues in the UK, and make sure students' issues are right at the top of the agenda. We are working with the Black students' campaign and Inspirational Volunteer Journeys to look into our members' preconceptions and experiences of gap years abroad. We will be holding a focus group at Society and Citizenship zone conference and consulting with students' unions to help us publicise what we are hoping will be groundbreaking research in this area. Listen out for more information throughout the Conference.

Report and Plan National President | Liam Burns

Party Conferences

I attended all three of the main political party conferences. This was an opportunity to meet with a wide range of people either in political parties and other organisations who we share common interest with. Whilst I met a lot of people and attended a range of



Liberal Democrats

Spoke on the following panel:

- NUS/New Statesman/Million +
All in it together? Winners and Losers of university reform,

Labour

Spoke on the following panels:

- Social Market Foundation and Universities UK
Widening Participation in Higher Education
- 1994 Group
The Progressive Academy: How should Labour respond to the coalition's university reform plans?
- NUS/New Statesman/Million +
No turning back: Where next for universities and students?

Had meetings with:

Sunny Hundall – Editor of Liberal Conspiracy
Simon Baker – Times Higher Education
Martin Doel – Association of College

Interview with LBC

Conservatives

Asked a question of David Willetts MP in the main conference hall from the main stage

Spoke on the following panels:

- Social Market Foundation and Universities UK
A Market in Higher Education: Is it achievable?
- NUS/Total Politics/Million +
Beyond the Oxbridge Obsession: Will the coalition deliver for universities, students and social mobility?
- Policy Exchange and University Alliance
Beyond the Cuts: Universities and graduates at the heart of growth

Had meetings with:

Ben Howlett – Chair of Conservative Future

Martin Bean – Open University

White Paper Response

In September we submitted our response to the HE white paper. The title of the white paper, “*Students at the Heart of the System*” suggests that ministers are seeking to express and represent a positive attitude to the notion of a powerful and influential student in higher education. We believe it delivers nothing of the sort.

Our response shines a light on the following messages to government.

- The strategy could destabilise the higher education sector and damage quality
- The strategy will not empower students in a way that matches its ambitions
- The strategy is socially regressive and tends to worsen inequality in higher education
- The strategy has no answers to crucial questions facing the higher education sector

Following on from the white paper I have commissioned a series of briefings that will look at the a series of topic areas covered and have asked that each briefing looks at NUS response, other sector bodies response, an analysis of what this means for students and any actions that students’ unions should take locally on these issues. The topic areas that will be covered over this term are:

- Part-time study
- Payments
- Student experience
- Returning to study
- Student choice and information, advice and guidance
- Postgraduates
- Employer links, work placements and HEAR
- Equality impacts
- Access and social mobility
- New providers of HE

The full report can be found here: <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/asset/News/6001/White-Paper-Response-NUS.pdf>

HE Bill

It is anticipated that the government will release its higher education bill in the spring of 2012. In order to predict what we are going to be campaigning for and against we will be carrying out an exercise that takes the issues contained in the White Paper to work out what does and doesn’t need primary legislation.

The Pound in Your Pocket: The Future of Student Financial Support - Commission

The 'Student Support Commission' is now underway. The scope of the commission's work will cover student support in both further and higher education in England.

Membership

Name	Position	Institution
NUS NEC		
Liam Burns	National President	NUS
Pete Mercer	VP Welfare	NUS
Student Officer Section		
Rebecca Bridger	President	Loughborough Uni.
Josh Clare	President	Newman Uni. Col.
Hannah Cusworth	VP Access & Academic Affairs	Cambridge Uni.
Meg Evans	Academic Officer	Uni. East Anglia
Jake Kitchener	President	Sheffield Hallam
Thomas Hollick	President	City College Norwich
Georgia Thresh	Postgraduate Officer	Nottingham Uni.
Joe Vinson	President	Cornwall College
Expert Adviser Section		
Brian Carroll	Head of Learner Services	Chesterfield Col.
Lynne Condell	Chair of NASMA	LivJM / NASMA
Paul Norman	Membership Services Manager	Man Met Uni.

Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference for the Commission:

1. *Make the case, based on evidence, for reform of and additional investment in student financial support*
2. *Raise the profile of student financial support issues broadly and within students' unions, improving their knowledge and understanding of those issues*
3. Develop proposals for reform and improvement of the financial support system, establishing a foundation for future campaigning by NUS and students' unions

The planned duration of the Commission's work is nine months, taking us to the end of the NUS 'political year' in June/July.

Teaching Grant for 2012/13

We have submitted our consultation response to HEFCE regarding how teaching funds will be distributed for students beginning study in 2012. The full response is available here:

<http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/news/article/highereducation/2642/>

However the main points made included:

- HEFCE must ensure 2011/12 students have parity in terms of treatment and spending compared to students 2012/13 and beyond, throughout the course of their degree.
- Non-mainstream spending on Widening Participation must be protected, if not increased, for 2012/13 and onwards.
- Clarity and protection of funding for students who undertake sandwich years (ERASMUS, placements etc) must be given.
- It should be mandatory for institutions to publish how fees are spent and in what subject area so that cross-subsidising between subjects/services can be scrutinised by students' unions.

- OFFA should monitor how institutions mitigate against a narrowing of access caused by the AAB+ offquota mechanism.
- HEFCE should allow, and give guidance on, using contextual information when defining which students fall into the AAB+ cohort.
- QAA should report on the accuracy of KIS data presented to 2012/13 students as part of their new judgement on public information.
- The average fee for an institution, in terms of reaching £7,500 to allow participation in the 'auction', should not be inclusive of fee waivers.
- HEFCE should de-couple FECs from HEIs in regards to the average fee level as a measure for entering the auction process.
- HEFCE should give a formal role to the students' union in confirming/reporting 'quality' before an institution can enter the auction.
- HEFCE should have powers to ensure retrenchment of subject areas are done in a geographically coherent manner.
- HEFCE should produce modelling of the differential institutional impact of the proposals, including the impact that this may have on WP for the sector as a whole reflecting the different students attending these institutions.
- OFFA must be given sufficient regulatory power to request financial intervention by HEFCE where it is clear lower socio-economic backgrounds disproportionately attend institutions with reduced funding.
- Support should be given to explain the new system to prospective students free of judgements as to the merits, or otherwise, of the system itself.

Early Repayment Response

NUS responded to the BIS consultation on early repayments as well as including our views on this in the NUS response to the HE White Paper. As a part of the follow up briefings to the White paper response, we will be releasing a more detailed briefing on this issue alongside the views of other sector bodies to the membership. Our views on early repayments have been referred to in press work and public engagements.

Our position is that if government wanted to make the higher education funding system as a whole considerably more progressive, it would implement a graduate tax. That is not on offer, and in seeking to make the system it has announced more progressive, the focus should be on the treatment of low-to-medium earners not high earners.

Government should not implement large (and potentially punitive) early repayment penalties for high-value payments or on voluntary payments by high earners. Instead, it should act to further protect low-to-medium earners from repaying early on the basis of debt aversion, by enabling them to put the money they would have spent irrationally on paying down their debt into a special savings account offering interest relief of greater value than interest currently obtainable on the market.

Additionally, it may be practical and proportionate to fund the costs of this scheme through a low early repayment surcharge on high-value early repayments. The aim would be to fund some specific, direct costs, and not to haphazardly simulate the accrual of interest that may or may not have been avoided in repaying early.

Hidden Course Costs

NUS is producing a toolkit to support students' unions who are campaigning to remove hidden costs at their institution. We have already had significant wins in Wales, with HEFCW's guidance letter on publishing costs upfront. Their guidance letter outlines the following:

The cost of attending higher education covers a wide range of elements in addition to tuition fees, accommodation and travel costs. Some costs are within the control of HEIs (eg, cost of study visits/field courses), while others are not (eg, cost of equipment).

There are three categories of costs:

- mandatory costs,
- necessarily incurred costs, and
- optional costs.

Along with gathering some excellent local work by students' unions in England, we hope to ensure that HEFCE delivers similar guidance and that we are able to make the case beyond simply publishing costs up front.

We believe that in addition to this, universities should be including far more within their fee – indeed any activity which is necessary to pass the programme should be included in the tuition fee. Where there are high cost optional activities such as international field trips, we expect means-tested support from the institution; and finally we believe that resources such as books and journals should be at a sufficient level within institutions so as to minimise a students' outgoings. Along with this final belief, we have supported the journal costs campaign with UUK.

We have conducted a short survey with the membership, with 51 unions answering to the range of costs covered by their institution. The majority of institutions are still charging resit fees, and simple things like printing and laboratory clothing are still not included. It was heartening to see that three quarters of respondents were actively discussing course costs at institutional level, but it is clear that we have more work to do as a movement to secure a better deal for our members.

To this end we have held workshops at NUS with campaigns staff from across the movement and have included our beliefs about course costs in our responses to the White Paper and in the press.

Long Term Election Strategy

Over this year we will be using opportunities where we interact with students' unions to get input into our thoughts on where we go with regards to our planning for the 2015 general election. The next General Election is due to be called in May 2015. It has been mooted that NUS should focus a future strategy on 'reversing the market' ahead of the GE2015. The challenge ahead is for NUS to develop a clear vision for further and higher education for 2015 and then to plan on how to deliver this vision.

We will be looking for input from students' unions in this process in a variety of ways as well as having key meetings with stakeholder organisations to carry out some 'horizon scanning' exercises.

Activism 2011

Taking place in central London on Saturday 19 November, [Student Activism 2011](#) is a free event which will include workshops, debates, training sessions and talks, organised by you – students, student officers and figures from other sister organisations. Sessions will no doubt be varied – from discussions about how we best utilise social media in campaigning; to debates about the costs of education, who should pay, and how; to the sharing of experiences from other campaigners and campaigning organisations; to workshops on how best to develop a local campaign. **ACTION:** Get students registered for this event now.

Work with HE Zone

As part of the 'presidential priorities' I have also been heavily involved in work around widening participation and admissions and access with

Widening participation

- **Supporting students' unions to engage in WP**

Widening participation champions: We have recruited and met with 20 HE students' unions from around the country who have committed to deliver widening participation activity and to share their practice while doing so.

Widening participation webpage: We have created a WP webpage to bring together policy and practice on widening participation including outreach, admissions, access, and retention for the benefit of students' unions. We will add briefings and information throughout the year.

- **Admissions and access**

Post-qualification admissions: We have represented students on the UCAS admissions process

review and tariff points review, supporting the introduction of post-qualification admissions.

AAB and contextual data: We have responded to both the HEFCE consultation on student number controls and the BIS consultation on the White Paper outlining our concerns around how we believe the AAB policy is regressive and inhibits the use of contextual data in admissions.

Access agreements: We are discussing with OFFA how we can formalise student union involvement in shaping and commenting on access agreements. We will be providing students' unions with a range of materials and resources to ensure that they are able to lobby and negotiate locally to improve their institutions offer.

Work with Welfare Zone

In addition to working with the VP Welfare on the student support commission I have also been involved in the "Get on the Bus" campaign set up with a view to Assisting FE students' unions locally to lobby their local decision makers to protect travel subsidies for 16-19 year olds where under threat and nationally challenge decision makers to consider how we can ensure that further education remains accessible for all. We launched this campaign at FEstival and already have a road trip planed, building up to Student Activism 2011.

We are pulling together resources to assist students' unions to be able to:

- Campaign against Local Authorities that are attempting to remove travel subsidies
- Lobby transport bodies to ensure that travel discounts for students are clearly advertised and easy to access.

Standing for Election To Zone Committee

All the activities, briefings, reports and training that you see at Zone Conference will have been led by the Zone Vice President and the Zone Committee. These committees consist of elected students and co-opted members of union staff who have an interest in the Zone's work – and you could be one of them.

If you are a student, then at the conference you'll have the chance to stand for election to the Zone committee. This guide offers you some reasons why you may want to stand, what you should know about being on a zone committee and also some things you might want to do to get elected.

Zone Committees

To help divide the work of the National Union there are 5 NUS "Zones", each of which deals with a different portfolio of work. These portfolios are Further Education, Higher Education, Society and Citizenship, Union Development and Welfare. The Zones are led by a committee and report to the National Executive Council on the work they do; as noted in the constitution:

1. Each zone will have a coordinating committee consisting of the following members:
2. The Vice President (Full Time Officer) for that Zone who will act as the Chairperson
3. The National President (Ex Officio)
4. Five individual members elected by and at the Zone Conference, where except for the FE Zone Committee and the HE Zone Committee at least two of which must be from the FE Sector. In the case of the FE and HE committees all of the six individual members must be from the relevant sector.
5. Non voting representatives of Nations, NUS-USI, Social Policy Campaigns and Liberation Campaigns as the Zone committee sees fit.
6. One individual member elected by and at Zone Conference, who shall also act as the NEC member for that zone.
7. Up to three co-opted members at the invitation of the committee who will be non voting and may not be individual student members of the National Union.
8. Zone committees will regulate their proceedings as they see fit save that they must meet at least 4 (four) times per year. They will report their work to the National Executive Council.

This means that a zone committee member will:

- Help the Vice President decide what the priorities for the Zone are
- Feedback on work done during the year and monitor policies from National Conference
- Help steer what the Zone works on next
- Ensure that the wider membership are consulted on what is going on

This will be done through a series of meetings and discussions. If elected you will get support from NUS staff to make sure you can involve yourself in this without personal expense to you and that your experience is a positive one.

Why would I stand?

The only prerequisites for standing for election to Zone committee are that you are a student and that you are passionate about the work that the Zone is doing. You will want to make a difference to the lives of your fellow students and to make sure that their leaders are working on the right things. You'll want to listen to what others say and with them come up with ideas for NUS to implement across the United Kingdom. In short – you'll want to offer ideas, promote students and offer guidance to the National Vice- Presidents.

How do I stand?

The election rules are set by the NUS Chief Returning Officer, Matt Robinson. There are 6 positions on each zone committee that are available for election.

Nomination | Nominations will open during the opening plenary of each event. Nominations will close at 6pm on day one of each event. Candidates not intending to attend at day one of the event may obtain a nomination for from elections@nus.org.uk. Forms submitted in this circumstance must reach NUS HQ in London by 5pm on the Friday before the event. Those seeking to stand in the election must obtain five nominations from at least five constituent member unions.

Publication of nominations | All received nominations will be published in a prominent place on the first night of each event. Anyone wishing to object to the nomination of a candidate on the grounds of eligibility or for any other reason will be able to do direct to the Returning Officer and Deputy until 8.00am on the second

day of each event.

Manifestos | All candidates in attendance at the event will be able to book to use computers to design a manifesto which will be no larger than a single MS PowerPoint Slide and will be reproduced by NUS in time for the election to an A5 size. Anyone not intending to attend at day one of the event may submit camera ready artwork with their nomination form to NUS HQ in London by 5pm on the Friday before the event. No other printed campaign material shall be allowed for these elections.

Question Time | There will be a question time between 9.00am and 11.00am on the second morning of each event. Candidates must attend in person. Failure to do so will result in automatic withdrawal from the election.

Balloting | Ballot papers will be issued on a one ballot per union basis at registration. No replacements will be given. Ballots will be collected by the returning officer or their deputy following the question time for each election.

Count | The count for each election shall take place in the Hotel in a room notified by the returning officer or their deputy. Each candidate may send one observer to attend at the count.

If you have any questions you should contact the election representatives present at the conference who will be made clear to you or contact us at elections@nus.org.uk.

How does voting work?

NUS, and most students' unions, use a transferable vote system for their elections. This means that you don't just vote for one candidate, instead you vote for all of them giving different preferences. You vote #1 for your first choice, #2 for your second and so on. The candidate with the least votes, or who gets enough to be elected, is taken out and their votes are transferred to the next (i.e. if your #1 candidate got the least votes and was removed, the vote would go to the #2 candidate).

Although relatively complicated to count, what this means for candidates is that it is worth trying to get everyone to vote for you. This is because even if you aren't their #1 choice their vote could still be worthwhile.

How do I get people to vote for me?

The manifestos you produce and the speeches you do will help, but the main way you will get votes is by talking to other delegates. Find out what they care about and what they want to see. Explain your background and how you want the Zone to develop. Remember that you are representing all students and students' unions, not just your own and so you'll want to reflect this in what you do and say.

Remember that unions only have one vote and that it is the students, not the staff, who have a say in who gets elected – so use your time wisely.

How should I prepare?

Think carefully about why you are running and pick your most important points. This will normally be no more than 3. You can use these as the basis for your manifesto and speech. You should practise what you plan to say in your speech beforehand, and remember that you always speak faster when you are nervous.

What happens if I get elected?

There will be a big round of applause in the immediate aftermath, but you will be contacted soon after the end of the Zone Conference by the people in NUS who are there to support volunteers. They will give you some key dates and information that you should read through so you can quickly get involved in the work that you ran to do.

What happens if I don't get elected?

Zone committee is just one of a great many opportunities that are available for students to get involved in the student movement. NUS always need campaigners and activists, contributors to our online and print publications and representatives for our other democratic groups. Your students' union will also need students to be involved for their campaign work as well as representatives and people to take part in running their union. As such, even if you don't get elected you should stay involved and use the passion that made you run in the first place.

ARE YOU UP TO DATE?

Every week NUS publishes a range of information products- to ensure you are getting all of these just contact us at conversation@nus.org.uk

Every Day By Midday- Daily Media Digest

All the day's education news direct to your inbox

Monday

FE explained- briefings that ensure you're in the know

Tuesday- NUS Update

The very latest from NUS' campaigns

Wednesday- Last Week Next Week

Find out what NUS has been saying to people that matter

Thursday- Education Information

The latest from the HE Policy Team

Friday- Social Policy Briefing

The latest from NUS' Welfare and Social Policy Teams

NUS' e- networks provide a way for student officers and staff to share best practice and information on a number of different issues.

presidents@jiscmail.ac.uk

This is primarily aimed at Presidents and lead officers in students' unions to enable them to network and share best practice. To join visit www.jiscmail.ac.uk/presidents

education@jiscmail.ac.uk

This is aimed at education officers or those responsible for academic representation within unions. To join visit www.jiscmail.ac.uk/student-education

student-welfare@jiscmail.ac.uk

This is aimed at Welfare Officers and those with responsibility for student support, equal opportunities or wellbeing issues within unions. To join visit www.jiscmail.ac.uk/student-welfare

Student-activities@jiscmail.ac.uk

This is aimed at sports, societies, volunteering and Rag officers and those with responsibility for supporting a range of student activities. To join visit www.jiscmail.ac.uk/student-activities

Student-media@jiscmail.ac.uk

This is aimed at student newspaper, magazine, radio and television outlets within students' unions. To join visit www.jiscmail.ac.uk/student-media

finance-and-governance@jiscmail.ac.uk

This is aimed at officers with responsibility for the 'internal affairs' of a students' union such as finance, services and governance. To join visit www.jiscmail.ac.uk/finance-and-governance

fe-officer@jiscmail.ac.uk

Is aimed at student officers in FE. Join at www.jiscmail.ac.uk/fe-officers

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