



# **DELEGATE GUIDE**

## An introduction from your Vice President Welfare

Hello Welfarians!

Welcome to what is set to be an epic Welfare Zone Conference! As the cuts continue to slash away at services and budgets, our challenge to ensure that students' welfare needs are met remains crucial but all the more difficult.

As a movement, we need to become more resource savvy; exploring new partnerships and approaches to pool resources, ready to fight for the provisions and services our members need as and when they come under threat, and on the front foot with setting the agenda in our local communities.

This year, our conference's focus is on localism and local action. For those of you in England, the Localism Bill will dramatically alter how local services are designed and delivered, from policing, to health, to housing. It's vital that as those committed to the welfare of students in further and higher education we are well-versed in this legislation and understand how we can ensure that we're effectively representing our members' needs in this new policy framework.

However, the stretch of localism goes beyond legislation and thus is a UK-wide concern – this is very much David Cameron's agenda: keeping central government small, and handing over much more decision making powers to local communities, and more specifically to where the power already lies within those communities. This provides both a huge opportunity and a threat to the student movement. We could see services lost and anti-student policies being passed with no input from students' unions, or we could be engaged in building local activist networks, making our impact on communities a positive one and making sure that local politicians and councillors know that they need to take student needs seriously because the student vote matters.

Welfare is a dynamic and fluid policy area. Debates around housing, community relations, alcohol, drugs, crime, faith, student support, and caring responsibilities highlight just some of the many different areas that the campaign covers. This conference will give you the chance to consider these topics, and look at how students' unions around the country are campaigning on the welfare issues that affect their students.

During the conference, we will also be electing delegates for the Zone Committee 2011/12 - an exciting opportunity to steer the Zone over the coming year. We do hope you'll consider getting involved. 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 even submit ideas of their own in the new year.

We trust you will find this event a constructive space to deliberate and network, to hear from experts and each other, and voice your opinions on NUS' priorities and policy making processes.

**Pete Mercer**  
Vice President Welfare



### Stalls



## Agenda at a glance

<b>Day 1</b>	
11.00am <b>Registration</b>	Stalls Area Opens at 12 noon
1.00pm <b>Opening Remarks – Main hall</b>	Welcome to the Welfare and Society & Citizenship Zone Conference <i>Pete Mercer and Dannie Grufferty</i>
1.15pm <b>Key Note Speech – Main Hall</b>	Natasha Walter and Women Asylum Seekers Together
1.45pm – 2.45pm <b>Workshops Block A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing</b> <i>Codes of standards and accreditation</i>   Simon Kemp   Unipol Student Homes   <a href="#">room</a></li> <li>• <b>Money</b> <i>Getting deposits back</i>   Ben Beadle, TDS   and Sarah Wayman, NUS   <a href="#">room</a></li> <li>• <b>Equality</b> <i>Student carers</i>   Rob Holland, NUS   and Kelly Temple, NUS Scotland   <a href="#">room</a></li> <li>• <b>Services</b> <i>Measuring Value and Impact in student services</i>   Raegan Hiles   AMOSSHE   <a href="#">room</a></li> </ul>
2.50pm – 3.50pm <b>Workshops Block B</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing</b> <i>Fighting Article 4 Directions and other attacks on students</i>   Ollie Kasper   Nottingham Univeristy SU   <a href="#">room</a></li> <li>• <b>Money</b> <i>Get on the bus</i>   Pete Mercer, NUS   and Tom Hollick, City College Norwich SU   <a href="#">room</a></li> <li>• <b>Equality</b> <i>Students and the Equality Act</i>   Rebecca Thomas   Equality and Human Rights Commission   <a href="#">room</a></li> <li>• <b>Services</b> <i>Supporting international students from crisis countries</i>   Helen Sawywer   NUS</li> </ul>
3.50 – 4.05pm <b>Break</b>	
4.05pm – 5.05pm <b>Workshops Block C</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Housing</b> <i>Evict Rogue Landlords</i>   Robbie de Santos   Shelter  </li> <li>• <b>Money</b> <i>The Pound in your Pocket</i>   Graeme Wise and Al Roberts   NUS  </li> <li>• <b>Equality</b> <i>Race for Equality</i>   Rob Holland and Kanja Sesay   NUS  </li> <li>• <b>Services</b> <i>Saving our nursery</i>   Francesca Bancarino   Goldsmiths SU  </li> </ul>
5.10pm <b>Localism and Local Action plenaries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Understanding Localism</i>   Cllr Nick Small, Liverpool City Council   and Pete Mercer, NUS</li> <li>• <i>Inspiring local activism</i>   Hannah Charnock and Dani Beckett   NUS</li> </ul>
7pm <b>Launch of Hate Crime reports</b>	Presentation and informal networking opportunity This will be a non-alcohol event
8.00pm <b>Dinner</b>	A street party dinner, followed by our after dinner guest speaker Joe Baden, of Open Book
10pm <b>Evening entertainment</b>	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.
<b>Day 2</b>	
9.00am <b>Accountability</b> (Officers Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presidents' Report</li> <li>• Zone VP and Committee report</li> </ul>
9.30am <b>Election</b> (Officers Only)	<b>Zone Committee</b> Delegates are given the opportunity to stand for election to Zone Committee 2011/12
10.30am <b>Policy Forums</b> (Officers Only)	<b>Policy Forums</b> A chance to feed into NUS policy on the issues students & officers care about
<b>12:30 Closing remarks and reflections</b>	Pete Mercer, Vice President Welfare will close the conference and summarise key themes.
<b>1pm Close of conference</b>	



## 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' Welfare Zone An Introduction

### Introduction

As a zone we believe that the student experience depends on more than the academic aspects; a person's finances, standards of living, relationships, health and wellbeing are all crucial factors. This is why we exist – to campaign and develop policy to ensure that students' rights in these areas are not forgotten. The incredible breadth of this remit makes the zone hugely varied and exciting – often at the forefront of national political debates and policy formation.

### How we can help

We're committed to writing and distributing newsletters and briefings to ensure that you are up to date on the key issues and equipped with the knowledge to campaign on these at a local level. We will distribute campaign materials, provided by NUS and other organisations, to assist in your campaigning. If there are questions you have then please get in touch directly with either me or staff members (listed below) with specific questions. You can also get your name on to the welfare mailbase which will periodically send out information and briefings. We can also take your queries to the number of national boards and committees we sit on.

### Available Resources

We have a whole host of regular updates and research projects to assist your campaigning and advising work, including:

#### Periodicals:

Welfare Wednesdays – newsletter on all welfare areas, last Wednesday of every month  
Social Policy Briefings – briefing on a specific topical issue, every Friday

#### Research reports:

No place for hate – published November 2011  
Race for Equality – research into the experiences of Black students  
Living Together Working Together – Best practice publication on partnership working between institutions and students' unions  
Meet the Parents – first-of-its-kind research into the experiences of student parents  
Accommodation Costs Survey – biannual survey of the cost and type of student accommodation across the UK

### Key Contacts

**Officer** | Vice President | [pete.mercer@nus.org.uk](mailto:pete.mercer@nus.org.uk)

**Staff** | Senior Research and Policy Officer | [sarah.wayman@nus.org.uk](mailto:sarah.wayman@nus.org.uk)

**Staff** | Head of Social Policy | [david.malcolm@nus.org.uk](mailto:david.malcolm@nus.org.uk)

### Welfare Zone Committee

Pete Woodward | Ed Bending | Steph Johnson | Francesca Bancarino | Taylor Kane | Dan Youmans  
Paul Norman

### Special Projects

Drinkaware | Why Let Good Times Go Bad? | [Madeleine.harris@nus.org.uk](mailto:Madeleine.harris@nus.org.uk)

Dept for Business Innovation and Skills | Students and faith | [Kat.lucock@nus.org.uk](mailto:Kat.lucock@nus.org.uk)

### Find out more

Visit [www.nusconnect.org.uk](http://www.nusconnect.org.uk)

## Detailed Session Guide

### KEYNOTE | Day One | 1.15pm – 1.45pm

#### Localism in action: Supporting asylum seekers

Natasha Walter, Women for Refugee Women and members of Women Asylum Seekers Together London and Manchester

We are hugely excited to announced that Natasha Walter will opening our Zone Conference this year. Natasha is a writer, broadcaster and campaigner. She is the author of Living Dolls: The Return of Sexism and The New Feminism. She is also the founder of Women for Refugee Women. She, along with a number of women from Women Asylum Seekers Together will be opening up the Welfare and Society and Citizenship Zone Conferences, speaking about issues for asylum seekers and the action we can be taking at a local level to support this group.

Audience: All delegates

### WORKSHOPS Block A | Day One | 1.45pm – 2.45pm

#### Housing – Codes of standards and accreditation

Session presenter: Simon Kemp, Unipol Student Homes

**Session outline:** In this session, Simon Kemp from Unipol will provide information on codes for student accommodation and how you can use them to promote your members' rights as well as providing updates on the new Unipol/Accommodation for Students accreditation scheme for off-street properties.

**Audience:** All delegates (UK wide, though there may be some elements specifically referring to England)

#### Money – Getting deposits back

Session presenters: Ben Beadle, TDS

**Session outline:** Ben Beadle from TDS, one of the three Government approved Deposit Protection Schemes will speak about how the schemes work, trends that have developed over the four years since TDP became law. Come along with your questions and experiences of TDP!

**Audience:** FE and HE unions, England and Wales, though may be of interest to delegates from elsewhere in UK

#### Equality – Student Carers

Session presenters: Rob Holland NUS and Kelley Temple NUS Scotland

**Session outline:** This session will be exploring the policy implications for student carers and beginning a discussion for how we can better support students with dependents

**Audience:** All delegates

#### Services – Measuring value and impact in student services

Session presenter: Raegan Hiles, AMOSSHE - The Student Services Organisation

**Session outline:** In this session, Raegan will be detailing the work that AMOSSHE carried out last year developing a toolkit for student services to measure their value and impact.

**Audience:** All delegates

## WORKSHOP Block B | Day One | 4.35pm – 5.50pm

### Housing – Article 4 directions

**Session presenter:** Ollie Kasper, Nottingham University Students' Union

**Session outline:** Ollie Kasper, Campaigns and democracy coordinator from Nottingham University Students' Union will be speaking on Nottingham's campaigning activity over the last eighteen months to campaign against anti-student initiatives being developed in the local community. Come along to this session to share ideas and effective practice as well to find out what developments we might expect in coming months.

**Audience:** HE unions, England

### Money – Get on the bus

**Session presenters:** Pete Mercer, NUS and Tom Hollick City College Norwich SU

**Session outline:** In this session, Pete will be showcasing the work of his primary campaign for this semester, Get on the bus. This campaign aims to defend young people's travel subsidies locally, discounts which all too often mean the difference between college being accessible and not. Pete will be joined at this session by Tom Hollick, President of City College Norwich SU who will be speaking about their successful campaign to save their local travel subsidy.

**Audience:** All delegates

### Equality – Students and the Equality Act

**Session presenters:** Rebecca Thomas, EHRC and Rob Holland, NUS

**Session outline:** Rebecca Thomas, Senior Stakeholder Relations Officer at EHRC will be speaking alongside Rob Holland on the Equality Act, and how students and students' unions can use the protections in this legislation.

**Audience:** All delegates

### Services – Supporting international students in crisis

**Session presenters:** Helen Sawyer, NUS

**Session outline:** This session aims to help students' unions prepare for and respond to international students in crisis. Participants will have the opportunity to consider the role of students' unions in these situations and how they can best support affected students.

**Audience:** All delegates

## WORKSHOP Block C | Day One | 4.05pm – 5.05pm

### Housing – Evict Rogue Landlords

**Session presenters:** Robbie de Santos, Shelter

**Session outline:** Robbie de Santos is Policy Officer for Shelter. He will be joining us to speak about Shelter's campaigning activity around regulation in the private rented sector, Evict Rogue Landlords

**Audience:** All delegates

## Money – The pound in your pocket

**Session presenters:** Graeme Wise and Al Roberts, NUS

**Session outline:** This session will provide an introduction to the priority campaign on financial support (The Pound in your Pocket), the 'Commission', and the student support landscape.

**Audience:** England, HE and FE

## Equality – Race for Equality

**Session presenters:** Rob Holland and Kanja Sesay, NUS

**Session outline:** This session will outline the findings from this research, published in May 2011. It will also explore the actions that students' unions and individuals can take to improve the experiences of Black students.

**Audience:** All delegates

## Services – Saving our nursery

**Session presenters:** Francesca Bancarino, Goldsmiths SU

**Session outline:** Last month, Goldsmiths Students' Union officially opened their nursery which has now been formally handed over by the university for them to run. All the more incredible as just two years ago, the university had decided to close this 'excellent' graded Ofsted childcare facility. The past two years, Goldsmiths SU have campaigned tirelessly, first to save this nursery and then to make the case for how they could run it. Come along to find out more.

**Audience:** All delegates

## Local action plenaries | Day One | 5.10pm-7.00pm

### Understanding localism

**Session presenters:** Cllr Nick Small, Liverpool City Council and Pete Mercer, NUS

**Session outline:** in this session, Cllr Nick Small will speak about the impact that the localism agenda is having for

**Audience:** England only (may be of interest to delegates from elsewhere in UK)

### Inspiring local activism

**Session presenter:** Hannah Charnock and Dani Beckett, NUS

**Audience:** All delegates



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
Philippa	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
Allannah	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	International & Overseas students officer	Swansea University Students' 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			
Utifon	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



# Zone Conference 2011 | Delegate Guide

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
Makinde	Opeyemi	Representation and Democracy Coordinator	London South Bank University Students' Union
Tom	Sutton	Representation and Democracy Co-ordinator	Queen Mary Students' Union
Gary	Hughes	Student Voice Manager	Liverpool Students Union
Billie	Pearson	Vice President LCF	SUARTS
Zahid	Raja	NUS Wales Black Student Officer	Swansea
Margaret	Mulholland	Membership Services Manager	Staffordshire University Students' Union
Katy	Mitchell	Student Trustee	Staffordshire University Students' Union
Liat	Norris	Student Trustee	Staffordshire University Students' Union
Jo	Spiro	Student Support Services Manager	Union of UEA Students
An	Other	officer	Dudley College
Maham	Hashmi	Student	SOAS
Lishun	Huang	Student	SOAS
Becky	Warburton	Volunteering Co-ordinator	York University
TBC	TBC	TBC	Kent Union
James	Eke	Welfare Committee	South Downs College
Luke	Staunton	Student	Liverpool Guild of Students
Vicky	Hayward	Womens Officer	South Downs College

## 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

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### Welfare Zone: Pete Mercer Report and Plan

#### Housing: shifting the focus

##### Report

Since National Conference we have:

We have been working hard to ensure that we are broadening how we represent student housing needs.

We have joined up with Lord Whitty on a panel called Housing Voice, and will be hosting a number of enquiries in student areas over coming months to look at how policy could be developed to allow greater provision of affordable housing across all housing sectors.

In response to some potentially damaging developments, we have successfully lobbied against proposed changes to the government's recognition of the ANUK Code, whilst working with other organisations and partners to tighten legislation on tenancy deposit protection.

We've also continued to provide tailored support to students' unions with responding to local consultations and discussions around article four directions, HMO quotas and other issues likely to disproportionately impact students.

NUS have joined up with Unipol and Accommodation for Students to develop an accreditation scheme for off-street properties. This is a scheme that will for the first time aim to provide a general list of standards for student housing, complementing accreditation schemes where they currently exist and operate successfully, and providing a framework for places where they do not.

##### Plan

By National Conference 2012 we will:

To develop a 'neighbourhub' with resources for dealing with housing and community issues locally

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Following the event get all the handouts, presentations and resources and contacts at <http://www.nusconnect.org.uk/welfare>



To publish a briefing on the localism bill and what it means for students' unions and local communities  
To ensure there is timely information available for unions on housing benefit changes coming in January 2012 (shared room rate) and January 2013 (all other changes to house size and rates)  
To continue to lobby Government for tighter regulation of letting agencies  
To have launched a national student housing accreditation scheme with AfS and UNIPOL  
For the Accommodation Costs Survey 2012/13 to be underway  
To have launched an accommodation cost matrix to guide officers when lobbying their institution on hall prices

## Getting to the heart of student health

### Report

Since National Conference 2011 we have:

Over the past few months, we have met with a number of organisations to develop relationship with a view to be able to provide more comprehensive links through to organisations involved in raising awareness on health issues, or shaping policy in this area.

We have also continued to work on our Measuring Welfare work – looking at what students' unions deliver to support students, and how we can measure this to ensure we are delivering services that work for students. This work is now in NUS' three-year strategic plan.

NUS Services are also re-writing their CSR strategy which will be ratified at Convention. This will no doubt contribute to the ways in which we can support students' unions becoming responsible retailers.

We have released commercial bar crawls guidance for license enforcement officers and have been lobbying locally in those areas affected by these events. We have also started meetings with the Home Office to explore how we can work together nationally to ensure such events occur without damaging community relations or proving significant risk to students.

### Plan

By National Conference 2012 we will:

We will have completed interviews with students' unions, on measuring welfare services

We will have started to design implement a series of pages on nusconnect and nus.org.uk signposting to health organisations.

Launch a mental health toolkit, in conjunction with the Disabled Students Campaign

### Self Harm

Due to the high number of areas we have worked on so far, we have not been able to dedicate any resource as yet to the policy mandate regarding self harm, but see this as something that will dovetail well with the student health policy work.

## Help! We can't afford our education! Protecting students' financial support in a time of cuts, cuts, cuts

### Report

Since National Conference 2011 we have:

This has been a key area of work for the Welfare Zone since national conference. This area, now known as 'Pounds in your Pocket' has become the priority campaign for NUS, with me and Liam leading on this area.

Work we have already carried out includes setting up a 'commission' to look at students' finances and planning research to identify what our policy direction should take.

Additionally, we have also launched the Get on the Bus campaign, 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 FEFestival and already have a roadtrip planned, building up to Student Activism 2011.

We have also continued to engage with the SLC and student finance bodies to ensure that issues are resolved quickly and ensure that this service continues to improve.

## **Plan**

By National Conference 2012 we will:

- Launch research on the student support landscape, steered by the Student Support Commission.
- Put together policy proposals for the future of student financial support, based on research undertaken.
- 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.

## **Championing diversity in our movement**

### **Report**

Since National Conference 2011 we have:

The Welfare Zone has spent a great deal of time ensuring we are linking up and crossing over with Liberation campaigns where possible.

A fantastic example of this includes the launch of the Hate Crime reports, 'No Place for Hate' – at this Zone Conference. The reports cover incidents of hate crime related to gender and social orientation, ethnicity, faith or belief and disability.

In terms of our interfaith work, we have run two large training events with HE sabbs and staff and two FE union staff training days. This training also has helped to increase unions' participation in Interfaith Week, happening between 20th and 27th November 2011. We have also launched the Hate Speech guidance. We have also designed and distributed interfaith calendars to support unions in ensuring they are creating space for different faith groups throughout the year.

We have continued to work with ECU on briefings to keep students' unions up to date on powers in the equality act, including a briefing on new protections for pregnant students or student parents. We also have EHRC at our zone conference to continue our drive to ensure that students' unions are well equipped with knowledge on how to utilise the powers in Equality Act on our campuses.

### **Plan**

By National Conference 2012 we will

- Have published all four hate crime reports, and toolkits to support students' unions dealing with hate crime locally.
- Released hate speech guidance and have organised a national hate speech training conference.
- Have continued to support student officers with the Prevent agenda, releasing briefings and guidance.

## **Looking out for our students**

### **Report**

Since National Conference 2011 we have:

Finished analysis on the Measuring Welfare survey, and reported back on the findings so far to delegates at SU 2011.

We have also worked with AMOSSHE on their delivery of the Value and Impact project.

We continue to work with Advice UK on the Advice Pro project, and have set up a steering group to find out more about to deliver a national case management system.

## **Plan**

By National Conference 2012 we will:

- Have conducted interviews to explore this area in more depth with unions
- Developed a plan for delivering support tools to unions within the next few years
- Released an SOS Toolkit, guiding student unions on how to save student services
- Developed ways in which unions can share resources easily through NUS websites to facilitate the sharing of best practice.

## **International students**

We will work with the International Students campaign to identify the best ways to deliver our work supporting international students.

## **Students with Dependents**

### **inc. Students with children and caring responsibilities (2009)**

This was a motion that was due to lapse at last National Conference. It was proposed that this motion should be saved from the policy lapse, which it was to ensure that there remained over-arching policy on student parents and carers. This provides a general policy steer for the campaign, however there are some parts which are not applicable due to having been done (e.g. research and report) or no longer relevant (e.g. references to particular Government departments or agendas which have subsequently changed).

## **Report**

Since National Conference 2011 we have:

Continued to provide tailored advice to individual students/student unions on issues relating to students parents and dependents.

Been invited to sit on a steering panel for research being undertaken by Claire Callender into student parent childcare.

Supported a growing number of students' unions (successfully!) lobbying for their institution to collect data on students with caring responsibilities, or conducting their own research with their members. This has been a really exciting development over recent years and really adds to our knowledge about how we can better support this group.

## **Plan**

By National Conference 2012 we will:

- Have planned further work required to gain more insight into the experiences of student carers nationwide
- Supported the work being undertaken by NUS Scotland into student carers

## **Defend the welfare state**

## **Report**

Since National Conference 2011 we have:

We have continued to campaign and lobby regarding the cuts agenda, including through a coordinated

response with our different interactions with various Government departments and in consultation responses.

We have also supported the Disabled Students Campaign in their work with the Hardest Hit campaign.

## **Plan**

By National Conference 2012 we will:

- Provide briefings on changes to benefits and the impact on students
- Continue to work with the liberation campaigns in campaigning against cuts and the disproportionate affect it will have on their members

## **Loud noise and hearing**

Will we be picking up this issue in semester 2 when health in general will take greater priority

## **Schedule 7**

We will be working with other zones/campaigns to discuss how we can resolve some of these issues in collaboration

## **Mature students' rights**

We will be working with other zones/campaigns to discuss how we can resolve some of these issues in collaboration

## **Challenging Racism on campus and in our communities**

### **Report**

Since National Conference 2011 we have

So far I have worked with liberation campaigns to join demonstration against the EDL, having spoken at the anti-EDL demo in Tower Hamlets.

I have also worked with organisations, such as UAF, OCMC and the Muslim Council for Britain, on dealing with the Prevent agenda and the effects it has on minorities, religious groups and local communities.

Substantial and ground-breaking research has been undertaken on hate crimes against students, having released the Interim Report detailing top-level findings.

### **Plan**

By National Conference 2012 we will:

- Have published all four hate crime reports, and toolkits to support students' unions dealing with hate crime locally.
- Released hate speech guidance and have organised a national hate speech training conference.
- Have continued to support student officers with the Prevent agenda, releasing briefings and guidance.
- Continue to share best practice on interfaith projects and run training sessions, as well as promote events in the run up to National Interfaith Week

## 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 Manager	Services	Man Met Uni.
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## 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 FFestival and already have a road trip planned, 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 one 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/presidents)

[education@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto: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](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/student-education)

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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](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/student-welfare)

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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](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/student-activities)

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

[finance-and-governance@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto: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](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/finance-and-governance)

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