nus NATIONAL CONFERENCE

AGM Live Policy 2016-19

If you need this document in another format contact NUS on 0845 5210 262 or email events@nus.org.uk

Key information

Purpose of this document

This document contains all the policy currently in effect for the Annual General Meeting. This is the policy that the NUS Boards are responsible for implementing.

Policy Lapse

Policy Lapses in 2 circumstances:

1. If a subsequent policy over-rides it.
2. After 3 years unless National Conference votes to renew it.

Policy passed at National Conference 2016 will lapse at the end of National Conference 2019.

What You Need To Do

If you are considering submitting policy to National Conference you should first check whether any policy is currently 'live' for that issue and whether you need to change the National Union's current stance on that area of work.

If you require this document in an alternative format, please contact **democracy@nus.org.uk**.

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DPC Triennial Rules Review Motions

Motion 601 | Let's make policy more accessible, relevant and democratic

Conference believes

1. NUS policy currently lapses after three years
2. The NUS constitution currently stipulates that delegates can challenge policy due to lapse at conference
3. DPC is currently mandated to factor in time in the order paper to discuss challenges to the policy lapse
4. There is no opportunity to amend these policies and the parts procedure does not apply to this section of conference

Conference further believes

1. That re-adopting policies written three years ago is not the best way to ensure a relevant and robust policy document
2. That all motions and amendments debated at National Conference should be open to the same amending processes as other motions
3. That policy submitted to conference should have been submitted by a Constituent Member that same year

Conference resolves

1. To delete rules 466-469 ad replace with:

Policy to be updated after each National Conference

466 Democratic Procedures Committee will publish National Conference policies that have been in existence for three years at the same time as zone reports are published

467 These policies will automatically lapse at the end of the final session of National Conference

468 Constituent Members are welcome to resubmit the policies, either rewritten or in their original form, through the usual policy motions and amendments process in accordance with rules 407-414.

469 Any such submissions will be treated in the same way as any other policy motion or amendment submitted to National Conference.

Motion 602 | Improving the definition of Emergency Motions

Conference believes

1. That Constituent Members are able to submit emergency motions relating to issues/events that happen in between the submission deadline for motions and amendments and National Conference

Conference further believes

1. That the current definition of what constitutes an emergency motion does not reflect the zoned nature of the work of NUS.

Conference resolves

1. To delete rule 432 and replace with (additions are in bold): An emergency motion is one whose substance concerns events occurring after the latest date for the submission of ordinary motions for discussion by the forthcoming meeting of the National Conference. No motion is an emergency motion unless the present work of the National Union, **or the work of one of its zones,** would be severely impaired by the failure of the forthcoming meeting of the National Conference to discuss the issue.

Motion 603 | More time debating your motions

Conference believes

1. That the number of National Conference delegates attending compositing meetings was a fraction of the total number of delegates
2. That following the adoption of the current constitution, the newly formed Democratic Procedures Committee chose to implement a priority ballot process to allow conference delegates to determine the order of motions and amendments
3. That year on year the number of delegates participating in the priority ballot has increased

Conference further believes

1. That the priorities of DPC are to facilitate as many motions and amendments being debated as possible and to ensure debate is fair and accessible
2. That DPC has identified challenges to the order of motions and amendments made at conference as taking time away from debate, meaning less motions and amendments are debated and less delegates have the opportunity to speak
3. That the priority ballot is the fairest way of giving conference delegates control over the order of motions and amendments

Conference resolves

1. To work closely with Students' Unions to further the rise in participation in the priority ballot
2. To delete rule 377f and replace with 'That the question, currently under debate, be now put.'
3. To delete rule 377g and replace with 'That the question, currently under debate, be not put'.
4. To delete rule 380h

Motion 604 | Eligibility to stand for NUS positions

Conference believes

1. That under the current system according to Article 16 members of the NEC and other NUS Committees, who are not registered students or a students' union sabbatical officers at a constituent member of NUS, can run for NUS positions by using NEC and other NUS committees as their 'constituent member'.

2. This allows people who have not been students or students' union sabbatical officers for over a year to be election candidates.
3. That under the current system, full time NUS officers are able to run for both block of 15 and other committees of NUS.
4. That under the current system full and part time NUS Officers are unable to be a candidate for the NUS Trustee Board or Democratic Procedures Committee, unless at least five years has passed between the end of their term as a full time officer and close of nominations.

Conference further believes

1. That our elected representatives should have up-to-date lived experience as a student, students' union sabbatical officer or NUS full or part time officer.
2. That full time NUS officers re-running for voluntary positions after their terms in office does not contribute to a healthy culture of developing national leaders from student or students' union sabbatical positions.
3. Full time NUS officers should be more limited to what positions they are able to run for to ensure that they aren't able to indefinitely re run for positions across NUS.

Conference resolves

1. To insert Section 620 and renumber accordingly:

Eligibility

i. Eligibility for elected office to shall be restricted as follows and may be further restricted in the relevant rules.
ii. Individual student membership shall mean Article 16.1 (Students of a Constituent Member aged 16 or over) and 16.3 (the Sabbatical Officers of Constituent Members, including NUS FTOs)
iii. Individual committee membership shall mean Article 16.2 (the Committee Members as defined at 143.1) and 16.4 (sabbatical convenors of NUS Area Organisations)
iv. Candidates for all full time officer positions and for membership of any of the principal committees of the Nations, Sections, Zones and Liberation campaigns must be individual student members at the close of nominations for the position;
v. Candidates for all other positions must be individual student members or individual committee members at the close of nominations for the position;

2. To add this Rule after 209 and renumber accordingly:

210 No Full Time Officer shall be eligible to stand for election to any voluntary position on the NEC or any other NUS Committees as defined in 143.1 a) – f).

3. To delete Rule 204 and 206 and replace with

204 A person shall be eligible for election to any of the offices named in clause 98 of the constitution if, at the close of nominations, they are an individual student member or Full Time Officer in accordance with Article 100 of the National Union, except that the following restrictions shall apply.

206 No person shall be eligible for election to any of the other offices named in Article 98.2-6 of the core constitution if they have been elected to any of those offices on two previous occasions.

Motion 605 | A full time paid NUS Trans Officer and an autonomous NUS Trans Liberation Campaign

Conference believes

1. A motion was submitted to NUS Trans Conference 2015 to create a full time paid NUS Trans Officer and an autonomous Trans Students Campaign and this motion passed unanimously.

Conference further believes

1. Thanks to the great work of many LGBT+ activists the LGB+ community has made vast progress in achieving equality and liberation for LGB+ people in law and society over the last few years. However the same cannot be said for the trans community.
2. In the UK (and the rest of the world) the trans community still faces marginalisation, discrimination and prejudice in regards to legal recognition, equal marriage, health care and equal rights to name but a few examples.
3. The NUS LGBT+ campaign has two elected officers. This is due to the historical gender bias within the LGBT+ movement and NUS championing gender balancing across all leadership roles within NUS. Thus one of the LGBT+ officer places is reserved specifically for those who define as women within the LGBT+ campaign.

Conference resolves

1. To support the decision made by the NUS Trans Students' Conference to create an autonomous NUS Trans Students Campaign (separate and from the NUS LGBT+ campaign) that will be governed by a full time and paid NUS Trans Officer and an additional Trans Campaign NEC place. In accordance with this resolves the rules and articles of NUS UK will be amended to include the following:

    a. To amend the Liberation Rules 1900, to include a full-time officer Trans Officer, by adding clause f to read:

    1916 Officers

    There shall be the following Full Time Officers for the Liberation Campaigns;

    a. Women Students Officer
    b. Black Students Officer
    c. LGBT+ Students Officer Open Place
    d. LGBT+ Students Officer Women's Place

e. Disabled Students Officer
f. Trans Students Officer Place

b. To amend the NUS UK Article 50, to add the Trans Students Campaign, by adding the clause:

52.5 Trans Students Campaign

c. To amend the NUS UK Article 43, to include the Trans Students Campaign in the composition of the NEC, to read:

1. 43.11 An officer from each of the five Liberation Campaigns;

a. To amend the National Executive Council Rules 105, to add an additional NEC place for the Trans Students' Campaign, by adding clause h to read:

105 Each of the principal committees of:

a. The Women's Campaign
b. The LGBT Campaign
c. The Black Students' Campaign
d. The Disabled Students' Campaign
e. NUS Scotland
f. NUS Wales
g. NUS-USI
h. The Trans Students Campaign

shall appoint two members of the National Executive Council, of whom at least one shall be an officer of the campaign or nation, and they shall do so according to a procedure that they shall themselves agree for the purpose of making the appointments, save that said procedure will ensure that at least one of the members of the National Executive Council is a self-defining woman.

1. That the first NUS Trans Officer, NEC place and committee shall be elected at NUS Trans Conference in 2016/17 ready to take office in July 2017.
2. The position shall be paid a full-time wage equal to that of the other full time paid NUS NEC UK officers.
3. That the NUS Conference 2017 Estimates will include financial estimates for a NUS Trans Officer and a NUS Trans Students Campaign equivalent to that of the other NUS NEC UK full time officers and their campaign budgets

4. That a reserved NUS LGBT+ officer place for women within the campaign remains and that the creation of a full time paid NUS Trans officer must not supersede this.

Motion 606 | Giving a voice to 700,000 of our members

Conference believes

1. Currently over 700,000 people in the UK are learning through apprenticeships
2. The vast majority of these are not learning through universities or colleges and are therefore not members of NUS
3. That since its inception the National Society of Apprentices has had significant successes including winning sick pay for apprentices and seeing a 20% rise in the Apprentice Minimum Wage
4. That most education policy is devolved to national representatives
5. That most work related policy is still delivered nationally
6. That localism means that an increased amount of influence is now being given to regional decision makers in England
7. That students in the UK can belong to more than one constituent members if they study in multiple CMs
8. That the definition of an apprentice is different in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the local definition should be the one which NUSUK applies
9. That the National Society of Apprentices has developed with firm values but without formal written rules
10. That shutting apprentices our of NUS democracy for 94 years has been wrong, and is something which we must address

Conference further believes

1. That it is time to bring that National Society of Apprentices in membership, as a full constituent member
2. That every apprentice in the UK should be considered a member with the option to opt out
3. That because of local policy differences a federal model is the correct approach
4. That the number of NUS delegates the National Society is entitled to should be calculated once a year with and divided up proportionally between the regions, each delegate will equal a place on the leadership team with people elected to fulfil both roles.
5. That there should be a rolling national society leadership team elected on an annual basis, with a maximum single term lasting 18 months
6. That 80% of the leadership team should be elected regionally along boundaries already applied to CM regions
    a. (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, London and the South East, the South West, the East Midlands, the West Midlands, the North East and Yorkshire and the North West)
7. That 50% of the places should be reserved for women

8. That the remaining 20% should be directly elected during a national 'apprentice takeover week' on NUS connect
9. That any apprentice should be eligible to both stand and vote in the elections
10. That NUS should be transparent in where the income from the Apprentice Extra card goes
11. That for every apprentice card sold £1 should be transferred to NUS in lieu of the traditional affiliation fee
12. That all other decisions relation to the national society should be made by the leadership team

Conference resolves

1. To mandate DPC, the VP UD, VP FE and the NEC to work together, in consultation with the existing NSoA Leadership team to bring forward proposals which allow for the National Society to be accepted into membership at the start of NUS conference 2018.
2. That these proposals should be in keeping with both the letter and the spirit of the believes above

Motion 607 | We are the National Union of Students Not the National Union of Sabbs

Conference believes

1. NUS is currently consulting on a new strategy which will take it to 2021.
2. There is also a review of NUS's democratic and governance processes underway.
3. The National Union of Students is made up of 7 million students.

Conference further believes

1. Although Students' Unions are technically constituent members of NUS, it is students that vote for SUs to become and remain members of NUS.
2. Students should have the ability to influence the work of NUS directly and get involved in its campaigning and representation structures.

Conference resolves

1. To mandate the National President and Vice President Union Development to ensure that in the new strategy and democratic processes strengthens, not weakens, the voice of ordinary students.
2. Provide guidance to students about how to engage with NUS, including liberation campaigns which are often students only interaction with NUS.
3. For the Vice President Union Development to report back to conference on NUS' progress on this, clearly setting out how students voices will be amplified.

Motion 608 | Representation for students who care

Conference believes

1. NUS has many representative structures for different types of students, but does not have any dedicated for student parents or carers.

2. There is no channel for student parents and carers to express their voices on issues that affect them or to collaboratively develop policy.
3. NUS' core purpose is to "promote, defend and extend the rights of students", and this must include those students who have caring responsibilities.

Conference resolves

1. To add to the core constitution, 43.15: A representative for students Parents and Carers
2. To create a NUS Students parents and carers sections conference for 2016/2017
3. To create a temporary representative structure for Student Parents and Carers.
4. For NUS to create a carers' allowance for student carers wishing to attend NUS events.
5. To add to the core constitution, 43.15: A representative for students' Parents and Carers but with greater flexibility for job-share on these roles.
6. Designate resources within NUS to support a parents and carers campaign group.
7. To create a NUS Students with dependants sections conference for 2016/2017. Run a session at NUS SUs16: 'what can we do to support students with dependants'
8. For NUS to create a carers' allowance for students with dependants wishing to attend NUS events.
9. For NUS to include national discount on childcare within the NUS Extra offer.
10. For NUS to produce a briefing paper on the headline issues for student parents/carers and include various support systems and 'best practise'

AGM policy passed at National Conference 2017

Motion 601 | Strengthening NUS Democracy

Conference believes

1. National Conference 2016 voted for 12 principles for a more inclusive, transparent democracy that gives NUS' members real power to make informed decisions. (Appendix A)
2. All of the outgoing and incoming elected NUS full-time officers (FTOs) promised to work with the membership to return to National Conference 2017 with ideas for what this democracy could look like in practice. This motion contains those ideas.
3. Overseen by a Task Group of students, NUS officers, trustees and committee members (Appendix B), these ideas have been informed by a vast quantity of research, consultation and analysis, including but not limited to:
    a. An evaluation of NUS' democracy using the Quality Students' Union criteria informed by surveys of NUS UK conference delegates, NEC members, students and interviews with NUS and students' union officers.
    b. Desk-based research into processes used by democratic membership organisations and countries.
    c. A survey of 2839 students asking how they'd like to make democratic decisions.
    d. Two rounds of consultation with students' unions and a survey of 1430 students seeking their views on the ideas in this motion.
    e. A breakdown of motions debated at NUS UK conference in 2015 and 2016 to establish the extent to which they are relevant to members from the different nations of the UK.
    f. Support and advice from the Centre for the Study of Democracy at Westminster, and public participation experts Involve.
4. During the consultation and analysis, the following problems with NUS' democracy were consistently identified:
    a. FE students' unions are underrepresented in NUS' decision-making and face major financial and other barriers to participation.
    b. A hostile culture around NUS' decision-making puts people off from getting involved and speaking at democratic events.
    c. HE delegates and NUS FTOs, NEC and/or committee members deliver a disproportionate number of speeches at conference and men feel more comfortable speaking on stage than women[1].
    d. Turnout in delegate elections is low, as is delegates' accountability to students and students' unions.
    e. NUS has a lot of officers, too much policy and no way for members to prioritise policy effectively or hold officers to account.
    f. There often isn't enough time in the agenda at conferences to properly debate complex issues.

[1] 58% of men feel comfortable compared to 31% of women

g. There's not enough technical information to inform those debates.
h. The democratic processes and language NUS uses are too complex.
i. The vast majority of Education and Welfare policy debated at NUS UK events are specific to England and not applicable to members in devolved Nations (Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).
j. NUS is yet to follow the lead of many students' unions who have moved online their democratic processes, increasing engagement.

5. These type of concerns about NUS' democracy have been consistently echoed by students at the 23 unions which have held NUS affiliation referendums since National Conference 2016.

Conference further believes

1. That any behavioural change consistently called for within NUS' democratic culture cannot be achieved without structural change, because we adapt to fit the 'rules of the game' as they are at the moment.
2. As NUS celebrates its 95th birthday, it's vital that we consider whether practices and procedures that were relevant in 1923 - many of which we still use today – have a place in a modern democracy that needs to be responsive and relevant to our members.
3. The student movement is ahead of the curve on so many things but right now democracy is not one of them. Doing nothing is not an option. We must act to create a more inclusive, robust and transparent democracy. We have to change, and this is our opportunity to do it.
4. The ideas in this motion are arranged into four sections: A, B, C and D. Each section aligns with the four principles for a good democracy:
   (i) Inclusiveness
   (ii) Considered judgement
   (iii) Popular control
   (iv) Transparency

   Graham Smith from the Centre for the Study of Democracy developed these principles which are central to the principles voted for by National Conference in April 2016. (Appendix A)
5. This part of the motion sets out the benefits of making these changes. The resolutions of the motion set out what we need to do to makes them happen. A table aligning each of the resolves to the principles and the problems they are designed to address can be found in Appendix E.

Section A. <u>Ensuring members have access to and power over decisions affecting them</u>

6. Holding meetings on a more regional basis would reduce the time and cost of taking part - making it more inclusive to less well-off FE and small HE students' unions. It would also help to build a sense of community and foster a culture of local collaboration between students' unions.
7. We will be a more powerful movement if there are clear roles specified for NUS, students' unions and students in achieving a policy demand and a network for coordinating this activity across the UK.
8. To ensure NUS UK policy proposals are always relevant to those debating them, NUS needs a means of debating and agreeing policy demands specific to England.

9. It is necessary to be clear which officers are responsible for leading on these polices in England. This would also help clarify which officers are accountable to all members, UK wide.
10. A more decentralised and federated structure that gives members the power to make decisions at the lowest level possible would help futureproof our democracy in the context of increasing devolution. NUS UK would be reframed as a joint endeavour between Nations and Regions which support (rather than undermine) each other in more stable, harmonious union.

Section B. Using inclusive, high quality debate to inform considered decisions

11. A lot of the policy proposals at conferences are generally agreed with by everyone. If these sort of policy proposals were agreed in advance, more time at conferences would be available for debating more complex and/or controversial issues.
12. If the style and language of the debate were more straightforward and simple to understand then it would be easier for those with less experience to engage fully in the process.
13. Giving more people the opportunity to have the time and opportunity to speak at conferences would broaden the range of views that inform the debate.
14. Requiring the policy proposers to include technical information in motions would expand the information used to inform the debate beyond the political arguments.
15. Good facilitation is crucial to ensuring a high quality debate and that a range of views are heard. If the person choosing who speaks has perceived factional allegiances, then it will lessen trust in the process.

Section C. Modernising our democracy to increase engagement

16. The 'plan of work' in the Nations has helped to democratically align the priorities of NUS Scotland, Wales and NUS-USI with their membership. A ballot of NUS' membership would help steer which NUS UK policies should be prioritised.
17. Enabling more members to vote online in NUS elections would increase the legitimacy of the elected NUS officers. Placing election speeches and manifestos online to enable members to vote after the event better reflects the financial and time demands placed on NUS' modern membership who may be at work (particularly in the case of apprentices) and/or in compulsory lessons (particularly in the case of FE students) during conferences.

Section D. Increasing the transparency and accountability of elected representatives

18. The only time members can directly hold FTOs to account is at conferences, which limits accountability those events, and those who have the resources to attend conferences. Greater accountability to members needs to be provided throughout the year.
19. The voting record of students' unions' delegates must be made public to increase transparency and the ability of students to hold them to account for decisions made in their name.

Conference resolves

Section A. Ensuring members have access to and power over decisions affecting them

1. Bring students' unions in England together on a regional basis instead of Zones to debate ideas and agree local actions. See Appendix C for a list of these regions. Similar gatherings would continue to be held by the Nations through NUS Scotland, NUS Wales and NUS-USI.
2. To establish an organising network for each Region and Nation. The purpose of this network is to co-ordinate action on regional and national policy decisions. The network will be democratically controlled, through students' unions, and include both HE and FE members in order to maximise activity across as many institutions as possible.
3. To introduce a conference for students' unions in these Regions to come together and agree policy that is specific to England. This conference will elect a Welfare Officer, FE and HE Officer to be accountable for leading on and delivering policy demands.
4. To establish a clear criteria based on the devolved powers of governments in the UK (for DPC to interpret) about which policy proposals are decided at which level; *i.e.* Region, Nation or UK-wide.

5. To bring the National Society of Apprentices into the membership of NUS so Apprentices can access the democracy and representation of NUS. For the purposes of delegate entitlement, each apprentice would be counted as 0.4 of a FT student as some apprentices are already counted as 0.6 of a FT student at an FE college already in NUS membership.

Section B. Using inclusive, high quality debate to inform considered decisions

6. Introduce a pre-conference ballot to agree more consensual policy proposals in advance.. This ballot would be designed to identify proposals that have a broad consensus, and so would require a significant majority (calculated including abstentions) to be passed without debate. Because not everyone will necessarily understand specific issues that students from liberation groups might face, the Liberation campaigns can force a debate on any proposals agreed using this ballot.

7. Add a optional section to motions for the policy proposer to include any financial, legal or other relevant technical information.

8. Add a section to motions for the policy proposer to specify what action NUS will take and what action students' unions could take in achieving the goal.

9. To replace the use of acronyms and jargon in our democracy with more accessible language wherever possible e.g. calling 'motions' 'proposals'.

10. Introduce a debating style for the controversial proposals that allows more time for small group discussion, for people to seek clarification and ask questions as well as comment on the proposal.

11. Replace the conference chair with a neutral student who is recruited by DPC and trained to facilitate the debate in an inclusive and impartial manner. Decisions regarding the democratic process (e.g. a

count) will be made by DPC and will remain subject to democratic challenge.

Section C. Modernising our democracy to increase engagement

12. Introduce a post-conference ballot for members to prioritise the policy passed at conferences.

13. Increase the number of students' unions who can vote in NUS officer elections by streaming election speeches online and making candidates' manifestos available digitally for those who are unable or can't afford to attend conferences. These speeches will also be recorded so that those who are unable to watch them live can do so after the event. The ballot will be open in order to accommodate this.

14. Maintain the widely used STV method in NUS elections.

Section D. Increasing the transparency and accountability of elected representatives

15. Introduce online accountability surgeries for NUS FTOs. Appointments can be booked in advance by members so that questions and concerns can be raised with officers using a videoconferencing platform (for example Skype).

16. Introduce an online process for students' unions to register dissatisfaction with a NUS FTO. A member can request a petition to be placed on NUS' website with an explanation of their concern. If a substantial number of students' unions sign the petition (e.g. more than 10%) it will force a vote of no confidence, if less than this number sign (more than 5%[2]), the officer has to prepare a formal report on their work.

17. Alongside sessions at events, as the accountability of officers will be conducted through the mechanisms above, it will no longer be necessary for the membership to elect a 'block of 15' onto NEC to do it on their behalf. However, vital engagement will be maintained by establishing an FE Network, HE Network and separate sections networks such as a postgraduate section network with members from different regions feeding into the relevant NUS FTOs.

18. NEC will function primarily as a body made up of the elected leadership of NUS to make timely decisions outside of conferences.

19. Make students' unions' delegates' voting records public in order to increase the accountability of these representatives. This will be done after the event so that the relevant constituencies can hold their representatives to account for decisions made on their behalf.

Further resolves

1. National Conference is the sovereign decision making body of NUS UK and is required to approve any changes to the Articles and Rules within its constitution including those that relate to NUS Wales, Scotland, NUS-USI and Liberation Campaigns.

[2] At the time of writing NUS has 543 members

2. Therefore if National Conference votes to approve the ideas in this motion then Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) will work to write the specific changes that would need to be made to the Articles and Rules in the NUS UK constitution. These detailed changes will then be brought to an extraordinary National Conference to be scrutinised, amended and voted on.
3. To inform the decision of the extraordinary National Conference, these Rules and Articles changes will be subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.
4. If these Rules and Articles changes are approved by the extraordinary conference, then DPC will lead a formal review of the new system after a period of three years. This evaluation will be based on the principles outlined in appendix A and informed by feedback from students and students' unions.

Appendices

A – Principles voted for at NUS UK National Conference 2016

Vision: Democracy within NUS should take active steps to put the power in the hands of the members to make transparent decisions through informed and inclusive debate that ensures that diverse voices are heard.

1. Students' unions are the constituent members of NUS.

2. Students are members of their students' union and therefore their association with NUS is dependent upon their students' unions' membership of NUS.

3. Democratic decisions within NUS should be made by its constituent members

4. These democratic decisions are about reflecting what is in the best interests of students.

5. The membership should feel that decision-making processes are representative and inclusive. However once a decision is made representatives of NUS should remain conscious that not everyone will agree with the decision.

6. NUS and their elected leaders should act in the interests of students. The membership should then hold the elected leaders to account for their actions using a clear process that enables them to first question officers, and then take further action, within the democratic structures of NUS, if they are not satisfied with the answer.

7. The primary role of elected officers within NUS is to lead the movement and harness its collective power to achieve its goals. Their work should therefore focus on how to secure these demands.

8. Democratic decisions should be conducted using processes that maximise the principles of inclusiveness, popular control, transparency, considered judgement and efficiency as defined above and in Quality Students' Unions.

9. The complex and diverse decisions made during the policy cycle would be best made by a complex and diverse group of our members. NUS should therefore give guidance and assistance to students' unions to be more democratic and ensure that their representatives are diverse.

10. The autonomy of the Liberation campaigns should be supported so that those who define as such can determine the means via which they challenge their oppression across national borders whilst operating more centrally to make the wider movement more progressive.

11. The NUS Nations lead on and achieve the movement's goals within a specific national context. The scope of their autonomous policy setting focuses on how to respond to devolved policy.

12. There should be total clarity over what decisions are made where, why and who is accountable for the decision being implemented. The language used within our decision-making should be accessible and free from jargon and this language should be able to be replicated across Nations and different students' unions.

B – Stakeholder composition of the Task Group

- NUS UK National President*
- NUS UK Vice President Union Development*
- 2 members of NEC*
- 2 members of the Charity board
- 2 members of the Services board
- 2 members of the NUS UK board
- 2 Liberation officers*
- A Nations President*
- A member of Democratic Procedures Committee*
- A member of Elections Committee
- 2 Students' Union officers*
- 2 Students' Union staff
- Two officers from Scotland (to ensure coordination with the NUS Scotland Governance review)*

*Elected students or student officers

C – Regions

These regions are informed by a range of considerations including but not limited to major transports links, the Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill, Local Enterprise Partnerships and other third sector membership organisations. The proposal would be to start with these regions but leave sufficient flexibility in the Rules for us to try different configurations based on membership feedback:

- North West
- North East

- Yorkshire and The Humber
- West Midlands
- East Midlands
- East of England
- South East
- London
- South West

D – Table of problems and solutions and principles

The table below seeks to clarify which problems (outlined in the Believes of this motion) the solutions (outlined in Resolves) aims to solve. Where relevant, it also outlines how each of these solutions satisfy the principles voted for by National Conference in 2016.

Problem (See Believes 4)	**Solutions** (See Resolves)	**Relevant principles** (See Appendix A)	**Explanation**
4A	1	8 (inclusiveness)	It reduces the cost and time of travelling to events, both of which are major barriers to FE engagement.
4A	12, 13 and 15	8 (inclusiveness and popular control) 3 and 6	If FE members continue to struggle to attend centralised events such as NUS UK conference, voting online ensures they still have a voice in elections and policy prioritisation. Online surgeries ensure they can question FTOs and hold them to account.
4B and 4C	10 and 11	8 (inclusiveness)	People are more likely to feel comfortable sharing their views and asking questions in small groups. Better facilitation will also help a more diverse range voices be heard.
4D	19	8 (transparency)	If delegates' voting records are made public then it will be easier for students to hold them to account for their actions.

4E	12, 13, 15	8 (popular control) and 6	These ideas will enable members to directly prioritise policy and hold officers to account.
4F	6	8 (considered judgement)	Agreeing some motions in advance will leave more time to debate more complex or confusing proposals.
4G	7	8 (considered judgement)	This will require those make policy proposals to provide technical information to inform the debate.
4H	9	8 (considered judgement and transparency) and 12	This will ensure that the language used within NUS' democracy isn't a barrier to engagement.
4I	3 and 4	7, 11 and 12	This will ensure that the debate is always relevant to everyone in the room. It will also make it clear which officers have the final say on devolved issues and make it clear who is responsible for which policies and accountable to which parts of the membership.
4J	6, 12, 13, 15, and 16	8	All these processes will be conducted online.