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Purpose of this document

This document contains all the policy currently in effect for the Mature and Part-Time Students Campaign. This is the policy that the Mature and Part-Time Students Officers and the Mature and Part-Time Students Committee are responsible for implementing and is sometime known as 'Live Policy'.

Policy Lapse

Policy Lapses in 2 circumstances

1. If a subsequent policy over-rides it.
2. After 3 years unless Mature and Part-Time Students Conference votes to renew it.

Policy passed at Mature and Part-Time Students Conference 2014 will lapse at the end of Mature and Part-Time Students Conference 2017.

What you need to do

If you are considering submitting policy to Mature and Part-Time Students 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 contact executiveoffice@nus.org.uk



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Policy passed at Mature and Part Time Students Conference 2014

Motion 1: Breaking down financial barriers to education

Conference Believes:

1. NUS' Pound in your Pocket research found that the financial pressures of studying have an increased impact on students who are mature students or have other responsibilities. In these cases, students' support systems, such as housing benefits, childcare access and the student loan system do not work together, creating financial concerns impacting on students' abilities to complete their course.
2. The most commonly cited reason FE full-time and part-time respondents gave for seriously considering leaving their course was financial difficulties. This was indicated by 48% of part-time FE respondents in NUS' pound in your pocket research.
3. Mature students are less likely to have access to assured, quality financial advice than other types of students, and this should be addressed to ensure that those that need support and guidance can access it, not by chance, but by design.
4. As we look to enhance the student experience, such as with sandwich degrees and placements, it is clear that for groups like parents and mature students, financial concerns and issues are clearly having a direct effect on their ability to perform and excel during their sandwich placements.
5. Part time students are a diverse group, with students requiring different types of funding advice and support. Funding for part time students should be clearly presented and readily available, with financial support based on students' needs.

Conference further believes:

1. No student should be faced with leaving their course because of financial concerns. Financial support should be based on need, not predicted on level of study or type of institution.

Conference resolves:

1. To prioritise ensuring that the mature and part time students are given appropriate financial advice, support and guidance before and during their studies in the work of NUS.
2. To celebrate the diversity of mature and part time students, campaigning for financial support for all students based on students' needs, not their level or mode of study.

Motion 2: Students in communities: supporting studying

Conference believes:

1. Mature and part time students are a diverse group with strong links to the communities they study in, contributing to communities through their work and educational experiences. For these students support from public services can be vital in ensuring they are able to access their education, and contribute to their communities.
2. Students can have a positive impact on local public services, and in an NUS poll of FE and HE students, 69% of students asked felt they should be able to do so. Despite this, only 14% of students surveyed felt they could do so – showing more work needs to be done to support students and students' unions to interact with local authorities.

3. Many mature and part time students, as well as postgraduate students, are eligible to pay council tax they can ill afford. Whilst public services cost money and it is right that local authorities should be able to raise taxes to deliver a public good, a simplistic council tax based on property value can unfairly disadvantage many students, and many working families.
4. Mature and Part-time students may not have access to financial support systems for using public transport, accessing sexual health advice and support and other age or mode-of-study linked local services that are on offer to other groups of students. Often these services are provided based on age, or the manner in which students study.
5. 3. Many mature and part time students, as well as postgraduate students, are eligible to pay council tax they can ill afford. For instance, students studying less than 21 hours per week need to pay council tax. Whilst public services cost money and it is right that local authorities should be able to raise taxes to deliver a public good, a simplistic council tax based on property value can unfairly disadvantage many students and many working families.
6. Part-time students aged between 26 and 59 who are studying under 16 hours per week are ineligible to apply for the 16-25 Railcard or the Senior Railcard (for travellers aged 60 and above).

Conference further believes:

1. Inequality in access to community services, and disparity in support for council tax can be addressed through supporting access based on need and income, not by age or mode of study. This will ensure all members of communities have access to the services they need, and can help to eliminate some of the barriers that mature and part time students face in completing their studies.

Conference Resolves:

1. To prioritise ensuring mature and part time students continue to be at the heart of their communities in the work of NUS, working to ensure all students are able to access public services regardless of their age or the manner in which they study.
2. 2. To conduct a study regarding the impact of paying council tax on the budget of part-time students.
3. 3. To campaign for cheaper council tax for part-time students who cannot afford to pay for full council tax fees.
4. To conduct a study regarding the impact of paying full travel costs on part-time students aged between 26 and 59.
5. To campaign for cheaper travel costs for part-time students who need it by lobbying representatives from the National Rail.

Motion 3: Better Support, Better Representation

Conference Believes:

1. That in 2011 the NUS UK conducted a survey of Mature and Part-Time students studying at UK Higher and Further Education institutions
2. That, since the changes in the student finance funding model were introduced, the number of Mature and Part-Time students entering Higher or Further Education has drastically fallen¹
3. While some institutions offer a fantastic range of support services, more needs to be done to ensure Mature and Part-Time students feel welcome and a part of their respective institutions
4. There is a lack of support for mature and part-time students who are re-entering education.
5. General induction often doesn't cover the issues that mature and part-time students face when starting university.

6. That there should be a comprehensive induction week run separately, tailored for mature and part-time students.
7. Students' unions focus too much on alcohol-based events, and those non-alcohol events which do run are often not family-friendly.
8. Welcome Week events largely focus on students fresh out of school, and miss out mature students.
9. Work on mature students' issues lacks continuity and generally depends on the ability of individual officers (and these positions often suffer from low or no nominations).
10. Mature students are under-represented amongst the officers of students' unions, with the majority of sabbatical officers being under-25s.
11. Unions often expect mature students to run activities and events themselves, but owing to their circumstances they often lack the time to effectively do this.
12. Mature students' officers, who are part-time, lack the support that other officers have, which has detrimental effects on the work that they do.
13. The work that students' unions across the country do on mature students can be inconsistent, and would benefit from sharing good practice through the NUS.
14. Nursery facilities provided by institutions require pre-booking, though mature students often find themselves with childcare needs at very short notice.
15. Students unions' facilities are often not open at times that are suitable for part-time students (or those that are, are alcohol venues, which are not accessible to students from some backgrounds).
16. Restricting sabbatical officers to one year in office is undesirable, as it doesn't provide stability, doesn't allow officers adequate time to develop their work and doesn't provide enough time to scrutinise their work.
17. The way NUS represents itself in all media and lobbies central government and universities is not representative of its membership demographics.
18. NUS predominantly talks about 18-21 year old white middle class undergraduates in the media, to government and to universities.
19. There should be the same kind of focus on issues that affect mature and part time students in further and higher education, and these should have equal time and resources devoted to them alongside the standard demographic of 18-21 year olds and the liberation groups.
20. The President, Vice-President and NEC Block should be at Part time and Mature students' conference.
21. Low attendance of FE students at this conference is indicative of non-engagement of mature and part-time students by FE unions.
22. Black students committee is the only liberation committee that has a designated place for a mature/part-time representative position.
23. Due to this, the profile of mature and part-time students has been raised within the campaign, and this is a good thing.
24. There are some institutions that do not have permanent representatives for MPT positions meaning that students who fall into this category are not being represented.
25. That proper representation should be available to help integrate MPT students into the student union ethos
26. That all students deserve to have a point of contact at the SU, that would help resolve problems and improve the quality of there student experience.
27. Low attendance of FE students at this conference is indicative of non-engagement of mature and part-time students by FE unions.

1 <http://www.suttontrust.com/news/news/18000-fewer-mature-students-apply-to-university-since-fees/>

Conference Further Believes:

1. That three key aspects are required to help Mature and Part-Time students feel at home in their respective institutions: a) Academic Support b) Social Support Mechanisms c) Appropriately aimed activities, open to all and which are family friendly
2. That due to the number of Mature and Part-Time Students within the UK, we require better support
3. The issues of Mature and Part-Time students are often overlooked within the NUS and member organisations

Conference Resolves:

1. To take to NUS UK Conference a Motion calling for a full time Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer
2. To produce a handbook for HE institutions and member organisations showing the level of support needed by Mature and Part-Time students, and the types of activities which are sought after within that sector
3. To produce a handbook for FE institutions and member organisations showing the level of support needed by Mature and Part-Time students, and the types of activities which are sought after within that sector
4. To recommend to all HE sector member organisations that they have a Mature and Part-Time students Society, Association or Network with the aim at providing long term support throughout a student's University Life
5. To recommend to all HE sector member organisations, where numbers of Mature and Part-Time students is above 15% of that organisations membership, that they have at least 1 full time officer with responsibilities for Mature and Part-Time students welfare and representation
6. To recommend to all HE sector member organisations, where numbers of Mature and Part-Time students is below 15% of that organisations membership, that they have at least 1 part time officer with responsibilities for Mature and Part-Time students welfare and representation
7. To recommend that the NUS conducts training for Mature and Part-Time student representatives every 6 months, to ensure they are most able to conduct their roles fully
8. To campaign for a better funding model for Mature and Part-Time students re-entering education
9. For NUS Mature and Students Campaign to support separate, tailored induction processes for Mature and Part Time students which would include academic, social and pastoral induction.
10. For NUS to provide guidance to students' unions on how to lobby for separate induction for Mature and Part-Time students.
11. For NUS to support students' unions in running tailored activities themselves.
12. NUS should work with students' unions to promote:
 - a) Welcome Week events that include students from all groups and backgrounds, including in particular mature students.
 - b) the provision of more events (throughout the year) that are family-friendly and non-alcohol based.
 - c) the organisation of mature students events & activities by students' unions themselves (rather than leaving it to Mature Students Associations or Committees, who often don't have enough time).
 - d) the sharing of good practice from different students' unions (including in particular a Facebook group for mature students' officers across the country)
 - e) greater support for part-time and mature students' officers at students' unions, perhaps by explicitly providing support and/or clerical services.
 - f) the ability of all students to run for sabbatical office,
 - g) longer opening hours for Union facilities, in particular non-alcohol based facilities,

- h) providing information about trusted suppliers of child-minding facilities, and in conjunction with institutions, access to nursery facilities in short notice where childcare needs unexpectedly arise.
 - i) where possible and practical, full time, paid Mature and Part-Time Students Officers in students' unions.
13. Produce advice and support on representation and inclusion of mature and part-time students in students' unions.
 14. Research the mature and part-time student experience.
 15. Ensure that NEC are fully briefed on part-time and mature student issues so that they are prepared to show leadership on this issue alongside the Part time and Mature student NEC reps, and such that they represent mature and part-time students on an equal basis with full-time undergraduates.
 16. Ensure that all training includes mature and part-time student issues in proportion to the membership.
 17. Include a specific training session at summer training that deals with mature and part-time student issues developed and delivered in partnership with the mature and part-time committee.
 18. NUS to engage with Mature and Part Time students' campaign in examining the kind of language used about different cohorts of students eg some mature students dislike to be classified as 'non-traditional'.
 19. Mature and Part-time NEC reps to bring a motion to NEC on the issue of improving the representation of mature HE in FE students.
 20. Seek external funding that would support FE students coming to conference eg through subsidised travel costs.

Motion 4: SLC Finance Fails MPTs

Conference Believes:

1. The current funding structures for student parents and carers are failing them.
2. There is a significant amount of student parents and carers who drop out to these issues because they do not want to take on additional debt.
3. Student parents and carers are more likely to commute longer distances to and from their institutions of study and therefore incur much larger travel costs.
4. Mature students are classed into the same category by SLC as younger students who live with their parents.
5. The thresholds for having your student finance re-evaluated are failing student parents and carers disproportionately.
6. Student Finance England do not seem to have a concept that students might not be 18-21 years old, full time and living in halls. But we know these students exist!
7. Students living in their own homes fall into the same bracket as students "living with parents" so they do not receive any additional support.
8. Students under the age of 25 have eligibility for loans and grants based on their parents' income: at age 25 students could have been living away from home for 7 years. This is potentially hugely unfair.
9. The basic threshold before repayments are required is a £21k gross income, which for many part time and mature students who are working full time is, largely, easily met.
10. According to the Office of National Statistics the average UK salary is £26k.

11. SFE previous study can be a barrier to HE , impossible to receive funding without medical evidence can be a demoralising and exhausting process.
12. SFE to take into account that mature students don't fit the general student 'mould'.
13. Students are considered to be 'mature' at university at 21 years or older. For SFE, students can only apply as an independent when they have contributed a certain amount of national insurance, or if they turn 25 before their course starts, whether they live out of their parents home or not. SFE should change the cut off to the year of the beginning of the course (not just 'before the course starts'), or should consider any person that has lived outside of a parent or guardian's home for 3 or more years to be independent, and not require a means-tested application for finance (supported by testing parents' income).

Conference further believes:

1. The impact of the repayment threshold of £21k a year has a greatly negative impact on mature and part time students
2. Mature and part time student may have to work less hours and live on or below the poverty line in order to avoid unaffordable repayments due to the threshold.
3. Students may also have to work inhuman hours in order to afford the repayments with the threshold at £21k, in order to live and support themselves and any possible dependants.
4. All of the positives of being able to have student loans are out-weighed by the rigid repayment rules that negatively influence one's life.
5. There is not enough disseminated information for students unions on the student finance arrangements and policies for MPT students

Conference Resolves:

1. The NUS Vice Presidents must speak to both SLC and the government about these difficulties.
2. The NUS Vice Presidents must speak to both SLC and the government that the criteria need changed for MPT students.
3. NUS should lobby for transparency and consistency in guidance and communication from Student Finance England.
4. NUS should campaign for a fairer, more realistic student funding and support framework which is more reflective of students' actual needs.
5. To should create and disseminate training materials, such as a booklet to all elected representative officers for MPT students, and relevant staff members which compiles all information and research on MPT student finance.
6. To lobby for the repayment threshold to be raised form £21k to £26k, in line with the current average salary*

*according to statistics form ONS

Motion 5: Support mature students to retain

Conference Believes:

1. If you start a second undergraduate degree you are not eligible for funding or student support.
2. Students looking to undertake a second degree are often looking to retrain or reskill to improve their employment chances.

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS to campaign for a funding system that supports mature students to retain and reskill when they need to.

Motion 6: Childcare provision**Conference believes:**

1. Not all institutions provide childcare facilities for students.
2. Many institutions that have childcare facilities are closing them down or outsourcing them.
3. Childcare facilities are an essential service for mature and Part-Time students to participate in education.
4. That regulations around childcare providers narrow the choices that students face around who their childcare provider is.

Conference further believes:

1. That childcare issues are linked to student retention and lack of childcare can affect student attainment.
2. Where institutions provide childcare facilities for staff, there should be provision for students as well.

Conference resolves:

1. Provide students' unions with the support to lobby institutions to provide childcare services for students and staff.
2. To conduct research around the retention of mature and part-time students, especially around the issue of childcare.
3. To provide students' unions with a campaigns toolkit for saving childcare facilities when faced with closure.

Motion 7: Discrimination**Conference believes:**

1. That two forms of discrimination exists – implicit and explicit.
2. That implicit discrimination might include the timing of events or the type of events that are programmed by institutions and students' unions.
3. That explicit discrimination might include abusive comments from other students.

Conference resolves:

1. To raise awareness around the forms of discrimination that mature and part-time students face during education.

2. To support students' unions to programme events that are accessible to mature and part-time students.
3. To encourage all students to report incidences of discrimination.

Motion 8: Support students studying HE in colleges

Conference Believes

1. For students in HE living in halls, bills are often included in their rent, helping with the cost of living.
2. For HE students studying in further education colleges, this isn't available, which means they have to rent privately, pay bills and have a higher cost of living, which student finance does not take into account.
3. This is unfair. FE students should be entitled to funding that meets their real needs and helps them have a decent standard of living.

Conference Resolves:

1. NUS should campaign for additional funding to support the real living costs of those studying higher education courses in further education colleges.

Motion 9: Welfare information access

Conference Believes:

1. There is not a national standard that guides how welfare information and services are made accessible to students

Conference Further Believes:

1. That mature and part time students are less likely to be aware of welfare services but more likely to need to access them

Conference Resolves:

1. To request that the new MPT NEC reps take this issue to the NUS NEC to see how welfare information access can be standardised across institutions

Motion 10: Connecting networks of mature students

Conference believes:

1. Mature students have different needs and benefit from mutual support.
2. It is difficult for mature students to socialise when they have family and other commitments.
3. Universities need to provide ways for mature students to network.

Conference resolves:

1. For NUS to provide guidance to students' unions to enable better networking opportunities for mature students.
2. For provide guidance to students' unions to ensure better integration and understanding between mature students and the general student population.
3. To raise awareness about mature students' issues amongst the general student population.
4. Greater integration and interaction of PT and Mature students throughout academic schools eg networking events - creating a PT and Mature students community.

5. Guidance on how life experiences and skills learnt from degree that create a stronger application or CV.
6. Involve Mature, Part Time students within SU nights or events- dependent on occasion type
7. Create events or work places eg cafe / study spaces where mature/pt/ young students can integrate, which in the long term can potentially have a positive impact on the economy as the varied ages experiences can grow and learn from each other, thus potentially motivational

Motion 11: Cuts

Conference believes:

1. That financial cuts are still a huge problem for unions
2. The specific needs of mature and part time students should still be considered as highly important despite the potential lack of funding

Conference further believes:

1. The NEC should be well advised and supported in order to be knowledgeable on current issues and financial matters effecting unions and their mature and part time students.

Conference resolves:

1. To show solidarity and support with democratically supported policies and actions within Students' Unions on campus against cuts
2. To encourage and provide information on working with trade unions on campus to create united campaigns

Motion 12: Make me feel important!

Conference believes:

1. Mature students have a lot of life experience that could benefit employers and the economy.
2. Mature students need to be empowered to improve themselves and encouraged to develop their skills.
3. Employers who do not have a long experience of taking on a diversity of people (eg age, disability) may not have the incentives or understanding to give people the opportunities they need.
4. Equality between employers and students whether they be mature or not.
5. There is too much emphasis on the aging population in a negative way.
6. Mature students have huge potential to contribute to their universities and colleges and to the economy when they enter employment.
7. Society as a whole should be creating opportunities for older people to make the contributions they want to make in paid and unpaid work and empowering older people to continue to play an active role up to and after retirement.

Conference resolves:

1. NUS should explore the possibility of companies setting up formal pathways to develop mature students and give them work experience alongside their study.
2. This could be students already in work buying into a development scheme internal to their company that includes part-time education.
3. Or mature students in education using their existing skills and knowledge and developing their experience through local businesses and the charitable sector.

4. The government should incentivise and recognise scheme(s) like these, with added incentives and training for employers who take on students who are underrepresented in employment or who have a disability.
5. A national policy or legislation to be passed so employers do not discriminate against students that are working within their organisation.
6. NUS should campaign for the recognition of prior experience across the board but particularly by university in their admissions policies and general policies.
7. There needs to be less rigidity and more flexibility among universities to take account of the diversity of mature students participating in education.

Policy passed at Mature and Part Time Students Conference 2016

Motion 1: Reasonable Adjustments for Student Parents

NUS Believes

1. Many mature and part –time students study alongside full time employment and/or additional caring responsibilities.
2. Many institutions do not have policy on student parents and do not have provisions for reasonable adjustments to be made for students with children regarding assessments and placements.

NUS Further Believes

1. Students who have parenting responsibilities should be supported by their Universities and Students' Unions the same way as they would be if they were an employee.
2. That childcare can be costly, particularly if University hours or placements have been rearranged or cancelled.
3. That student parents who are breastfeeding should give provision and support so they can maintain breastfeeding whilst returning to studies such as time to express milk.
4. That student parents should have allowances for when their children are sick.

NUS Resolves

1. To campaign and lobby to ensure Universities and Students' Unions support and implement reasonable adjustments for student parents.
2. To campaign for provisions on campuses for breastfeeding mums.
3. To maximise the flexibility for student parents.
5. To provide resources and materials to support students' unions to work with universities to develop student parent and care giver policies.

Motion 2: Great Expectations

Conference believes

1. That very often an institution's expectations of students and the work they submit can be unclear.
2. Notes one example as the use of Harvard referencing, which whilst a component of some public examinations, is not a component of all and is unlikely to have been a component of examinations sat by students who have been out of education for a number of years.

Conference further believes

1. It should be considered best practice for institutions to signpost and clearly explain what is expected of students, whether covering in lectures, tutorials, handouts or virtual learning environments.

Conference resolves

2. To instruct the mature and part-time students' campaign to further such best practice.

Motion 3: Part-time students and their health

NUS Believes

1. That for students who have health problems, institutions can advise or offer to transfer them from full-time to part-time study.

NUS Further Believes

1. That while the flexibility of study is important, simply offering this option is not the end of an institutions responsibility.
2. That institutions should be ensuring that if students choose to switch to part-time study they should be following up with those students to ensure that the appropriate support is being given

NUS Resolves

1. To give guidance to Students' Unions on what support their institutions should offer
2. To help Students' Unions work with their institutions to ensure flexibility is available, particularly for those with health concerns

Motion 4: Better Childcare

Conference believes

1. That the level of government childcare funding available has decreased in recent years.

Conference further believes

1. That childcare provided by institutions is often unsuitable to the needs of student parents.
2. That other teaching environments, such as schools, have far more suitable childcare provision.
3. That often university reading weeks and half terms do not align, so childcare should also be available during half terms for students who have to attend university.

Conference resolves:

1. For NUS to support students' unions in lobbying universities for more adequate childcare provision.
2. For NUS to lobby the government for increased childcare funding available for student parents.

Motion 5: RESPECT Motion (Resources, Equity, Sensitivity, Pastoral care, Engagement, Child care, Time flexible)

Conference believes

1. That Colleges and Universities should take measures to raise awareness and increase sensitivity and understanding of the concerns of mature students.
2. We intend to accomplish this goal through education to
3. Raising awareness and increase sensitivity for the concerns and needs of Mature and Part-time students
4. Challenge stereotypes and taboos concerning Mature and Part-time students
5. Provide friendly, open, and supportive spaces for Mature and Part-time students interact and have their concerns addressed.

Conference further believes

1. Each College and University in the UK should provide a budget for the execution of Mature and Part-^o©-Time pastoral needs and/or activities
2. Each College and University in the UK should engage in a minimum of one Mature and Part-^o©-Time student awareness campaign per year.
3. Universities should encourage flexible academic time schedules to accommodate the needs of Mature and Part-^o©-Time students as much as is feasibly and reasonably possible.
4. Each College and University in the UK should make subsidized child care available for Mature and Part-^o©-Time Students who are in need of these services. Child care provisions should also be available to Mature and Part-^o©-Time Students during school holidays.
5. Each College and University in the UK should conduct a survey of Mature and Part-^o©-Time students
6. Each College and University in the UK should provide ample opportunities for meeting and addressing issues of intersectionality among students who are Mature and Part-^o©-Time, women, ethnic minorities, international, and LGBTQIA+
7. Each College and University in the UK should ensure that student welfare services are equipped to accommodate the concerns of Mature and Part-^o©-Time students

Conference resolves

1. NUS will provide a tool kit for student unions to lobby for increased funding for Mature and Part-^o©-Time student activities. The tool kit should have information on how to provide child care services, make academic time schedules more flexible, conduct a Mature and Part-^o©-Time student survey and staff student welfare services
2. NUS will encourage consideration of Mature and Part-^o©-Time student concerns in future mental health welfare provisions
3. NUS will encourage student unions to have adequate support resources for Mature and Part-^o©-Time student activities

Motion 6: Working 9 to 5, then I can't get to the Library

NUS Believes

1. Many mature and part -time students study alongside full time employment and/or additional caring responsibilities.
2. Universities are still geared to 18-24 year old undergraduates with no additional caring responsibilities.
3. The opening hours of computer rooms and libraries and lack of online resources are demonstrative of the fact that Universities aren't designed for students who aren't the 'traditional' student.
4. The price of core textbooks is a prohibitive barrier to some MPT student's achievement in higher and further education.
5. The core textbooks are often not available in our institution libraries.
6. That student achievement increases when students are granted unlimited access to digital or physical versions of all core texts.
7. Mature and part-time students need year round access to both facilities and services.
8. Limited access is detrimental to student productivity and achievement.

NUS Further Believes

1. That more online resources would allow mature and part-time students to access education
2. More flexible and longer opening hours of academic services would ensure that students could access resources around their needs and timetables.
3. Core textbooks are a hidden course cost that many students are unprepared for.

4. These additional costs are unacceptable.
5. Access facilitates the inclusion of Mature and Part-time Students within the University community.
6. Mature and Part-time students are more likely to need to access services around other people's schedules (spouses, children, bosses, etc.)
7. If services are open year round it will provide more employability options for students.

NUS Resolves

1. To provide resources for Students' Unions to make the case for extended and more flexible provision of educational resources.
2. For NUS to campaign for access to core texts be an inclusive or at least transparent element of student fees.
3. NUS should campaign for 24 hour physical & digital library access year round.
4. NUS should campaign for year round access to all support services, which should be provided around the clock.

Motion 7: Adult Learning budgets – cutting FE harms HE

NUS Believes

1. That since 2010 there has been a 40% cut to adult learning budgets in further education.
2. That since 2010 there has been a steep decline in mature students attending higher education.

NUS Further Believes

1. That FE adult learning should be protected regardless of the effects on HE as a commitment to the value of lifelong and adult learning.
2. That cutting adult learning budgets in FE will only further damage mature students participation in Higher education.

NUS Resolves

1. To ensure that the case for adult learning is made.
2. For the FE and HE zone to work with the MPT committee to tell the stories of what lifelong learning means.
3. That NUS creates a consistent narrative through Further and Higher education zones to protect adult learning throughout tertiary education.

Motion 8: Mature & Part Time Inductions

Conference believes

1. That many mature & part-time students report that they are facing difficulty integrating into student communities.

Conference further believes

1. That induction weeks are not accessible for mature & part time students.

Conference resolves

1. For NUS to produce a toolkit for students' union to create induction weeks which are inclusive for mature & part-time students.
2. For NUS to facilitate student unions sharing best practice on mature & part time inductions.

3. For NUS to initiate an evidence gathering exercise on what mature & part-time students expect from academic and non-academic inductions.

Motion 9: SFE shouldn't place Mums (& Dads) in Poverty

Conference Believes

1. That Student Finance should exercise a duty of care when processing mature student finance applications.
2. Mature students often have greater financial responsibilities, such as dependents and households to fund.
3. Currently finance applications are processed in the same way as the usual demographic of students, 18 – 21 year olds, this is with a 6 week turnaround for evidence to support their claim to be processed. This delay can be extended for each piece of evidence. This is unacceptable for mature students with different financial responsibilities to the usual student cohort.
4. This can create unacceptable barriers to learning for Mature Students. This can create household bill problems for mature students and difficulties with paying rent or mortgages.
5. Children would not be allowed to be put in this financial situation by any other government body and should not be put in this situation because their parent or parents are mature students.

Further Believes

1. Student Finance to process mature student finance applications with a duty of care.
2. Duty of care should change the way these applications are processed.
3. Duty of care should speed up the turnaround for the processing of evidence.
4. Duty of care should allow new avenues of communication between applicants and Student Finance assessors, to speed up this process.
5. Duty of care to students with dependents should mean a 3 week turn around on all applications.
6. Duty of care to students with mortgages should mean a 3 week turn around on all applications.

Conference Resolves

1. NUS should lobby for SFE to show duty of care to students with dependents.
2. NUS should lobby for SFE to show duty of care to students with mortgages.
3. NUS MPT NEC places must work with the VP Welfare to ensure that these points are raised during the 2016 – 2017 policy cycle.

Motion 10: Practice makes perfect

Believes

1. Competent teachers who are flexible and supportive to the needs of mature and part time students has a positive impact on the learning experiences of these groups.
2. Timely feedback is essential to the learning and development of all students.

3. Mature and part time students can't always be available to access tutor office hours if hours are set and not flexible.
4. There is often an expectation on mature and part time students to be able to deliver more and be more knowledgeable, which often puts these students at a disadvantage.

Resolves

1. Produce resources for students' unions to lobby for PhD students who teach to be trained and supported adequately to teach by the institution, specifically concentrating on assessment and feedback.
2. Produce guidance for institutions on what timely, good and descriptive feedback should be.
3. To support students' unions to lobby for accessible office hours policies for mature and part time students to access their tutors.
4. Support students' unions to lobby for anonymous marking on exams and course work where possible.
5. Produce a best practice guide on lecture and seminar capture so lecture notes are accessible to mature and part time students when they can't access class.

Motion 11: MPT Students are people too!

NUS Believes

1. Students' Union activities are mainly aimed at 18-21 undergraduate students.
2. Having an active social student community is essential to a successful student experience.

NUS Further Believes

1. Students' Union should actively include all students in its activities, events and opportunities.
2. Students' Unions should view activities as 'suitable for' and 'not suitable for' families.
3. Students' Unions should 'flip the question' and ask why events aren't suitable for families.

Resolves

1. Lobby Students' Union to consider MPT students in all of their activities, events and opportunities.
2. Lobby Students' Union to provide more inclusive events.
3. Lobby Students' Unions to provide specific funding for these student activities, events and opportunities.

Motion 12: Best Practice for MPT Students

Conference believes

1. Representation of MPT students is currently patchy or non-existent at many students unions.
2. Many students unions are unclear as to how to relate to their MPT student community, and may not have had sufficient guidance from the NUS.
3. Some unions are strongly oriented towards younger full time students in terms of their budgets and activities, despite representing large MPT student communities.

Conference resolves

1. All students unions should elect a mature and part time students officer with a seat on the student council. This role should only be open to mature and part time students.
2. The NUS should create a briefing for students unions laying out best practice in relation to mature students. This should include:
 - a. Mature and part time students should be given additional flexibility on timetabling to help them work around work, caring and childcare commitments
 - b. At least one academic advisor / personal tutor in each department should be designated to mature and part-time students, and given specific training on supporting their needs
 - c. Standard training given to sabbatical officers in students unions should incorporate material on the issues facing mature and part time students

Motion 13: PLACING MPT STUDENTS AT THE HEART OF NUS

Conference Notes

1. NUS is undertaking a governance review at present
2. This is code named Project 100

Conference believes

1. That the MPT campaign is seriously under resourced.
2. That a committee of volunteers may not be the best way to organise MPT students.
3. That any governance review should acknowledge and implement previous policy passed by the MPT conference in relation to governance, including a full time MPT Officer.

Conference resolves

1. That the question of a full time section officer for the MPT campaign be included in the NUS governance review.
2. That alternative models may be considered to make MPT campaign more effective
3. That MPT student's campaign be placed at the core of the governance review, reflecting the diversity and intersectionality of the campaign.
4. That the consultation on changes introduced by the governance review be consulted far and wide, including at least 100 MPT students in direct consultation.
5. That the governance review incorporates.

Motion 14: Where do you want to go?

Believes

1. Mature and Part time students have more complex transport needs.
2. Mature and Part Time students need better transport facilities.
3. Rail cards and bus passes are often time prohibited.
4. Park and ride and parking services are insufficient for the demand.

Further Believes

1. Mature and part time students are likely to have busier schedules and require more flexible transport facilities.
2. Current facilities are insufficient and often overpriced.

Resolves

1. NUS to lobby universities to provide more plentiful and affordable parking spaces.
2. NUS to lobby universities to work with local authority public transport for better services.
3. NUS to encourage universities to develop and fund care sharing schemes.
4. NUS to lobby universities to provide connected campuses to ensure safe viable routes around campus.

Motion 15: Fossil fuels

Conference Believes

1. That university divestment from fossil fuel companies is crucial in the fight for climate justice. To grossly underestimate the power of symbolism in positive rhetoric regarding divestment from fossil fuel companies by an organisation of the size and stature of the NUS would be a tragedy.

Conference Resolves

1. The NUS should actively encourage individual student unions to use their powers to lobby their Universities to divest from fossil fuel companies.
2. Motion 16: It's Time for a Full time Mature & Part-time Students' Officer
3. Submitted by: NUS Mature & Part-Time Students' Committee
4. It's Time for Full Time Mature & Part-Time Students' Officer
5. Submitted by: NUS Mature & Part-time Students' Officer

Motion 16: It's Time for a Full time Mature & Part-time Students' Officer

Conference Believes

1. There is a disparity, both nationally and locally between how different groups of students are represented.
2. Mature and Part-time Students collectively make up one of the largest student demographics in the UK.
3. Many Unions in HE focus purely on the 18-21 year old demographic, targeting their marketing efforts solely at this group.
4. NUS needs to consider its Mature and Part-time Students as it develops policy, just as it considers the liberation campaigns.

Conference further believes

1. This image should be challenged.
2. The issues faced by mature and Part-Time students' need proper handling at a national level.
3. Mature and Part-Time Students', being such a large demographic, need full time representation.
4. This image should be challenged.
5. The issues faced by mature and Part-Time students' need proper handling at a national level.
6. Mature and Part-Time Students', being such a large demographic, need full time representation.

Conference Resolves

1. To submit the following text to NUS National Conference 2016:

Conference Believes

1. *There is a disparity, both nationally and locally between how different groups of students are represented.*
2. *Mature and Part-time Students collectively make up one of the largest student demographics in the UK.*
3. *Many Unions in HE focus purely on the 18-21 year old demographic, targeting their marketing efforts solely at this group.*
4. *NUS needs to consider its Mature and Part-time Students as it develops policy, just as it considers the liberation campaigns.*

Conference Resolves

1. *Amend 924 to read "In the case of the Mature and Part Time Students committee, the Mature and Part-time Students' Officer."*
2. *Insert 928 "The Mature & Part-time Students' Officer shall be a Full Time Officer."*
3. *Amend 934 "The Mature and Part Time Students Conference shall annually elect a Mature and Part-time Students' Officer whose terms of office shall be approved by National Conference and the committee shall then select from its own number an additional member of the National Executive Council. In the event that the Officer is a Mature Student the additional National Executive Council member must be Part-time and vice-versa.*
4. *These positions shall be elected at the first available opportunity which shall be the 2016 Sections Conference.*

Motion 17: Better Representation for Sections at NUS National Conference

Conference Believes

1. That at the 2014 National Conference policy was passed mandating constituent members to have 50% of their delegations comprised as women.
2. Mature and Part-Time Students make up a vast number of the membership.
3. Mature and Part-Time Students are often underrepresented in constituent member's delegations at national conference.
4. Postgraduate Students make up a large portion of the membership.
5. Postgraduate Students are often underrepresented in constituent member's delegations at national conference.

Conference Further Believes

Mature and Part-Time Students should be properly represented and present at the National Conference.

Postgraduate Students should be properly represented and present at the National Conference. Recommendations on delegation composition is fair and valid.

Conference Resolves

1. To submit the below text to NUS National Conference 2016:

Better Representation for Sections in this Room Submitted By: NUS Mature and Part-Time Students' Committee

Conference Believes

1. *That at the 2014 National Conference policy was passed mandating constituent members to have 50% of their delegations comprised as women.*
2. *Mature and Part-Time Students make up a vast number of the membership.*
3. *Mature and Part-Time Students are often underrepresented in constituent member's delegations at national conference.*
4. *Postgraduate Students make up a large portion of the membership.*
5. *Postgraduate Students are often underrepresented in constituent member's delegations at national conference.*

Conference Further Believes

1. *Mature and Part-Time Students should be properly represented and present at the National Conference.*
2. *Postgraduate Students should be properly represented and present at the National Conference.*
3. *Recommendations on delegation composition is fair and valid.*

Conference Resolves

1. *The equality monitoring forms at all NUS Conferences shall include an option for indicating a student's status as being either: Mature, Part-Time or Postgraduate.*
2. *Insert 334 "All delegations to National Conference must include at least one student who is either a mature student, a part-time student, or a postgraduate student. This does not apply if a union only has one delegate."*

Policy Lapse

MPT2 Housing for mature students with dependents

Conference believes

1. When mature students move to study they may need to bring dependents and maintain a family home.
2. Education institutions and local authorities do not take sufficient account of this matter and offer no support to mature students maintaining a family home.
3. Situations like these may have implications for bedroom tax liability.

Conference resolves

1. To continue the work to make available accommodation for students with dependents.
2. To take a more aggressive approach to lobbying institutions and local authorities to make appropriate accommodation provision for students with dependents who need to maintain a family home.

MPT3 Financial support for mature students

Conference believes

1. That bursaries and grants are being offered to students in the form of tuition fee waivers or accommodation waivers.
2. Often bursaries and grants are not given at the start of the year.
3. For students who live off-campus and/or have caring responsibilities, this is problematic.
4. Use of POLAR2 as an indicator of deprivation does not always capture individual circumstances of economic need.
5. Applying for Access to Learning funds is bureaucratic and complicated.

Conference resolves

1. Gather examples of best practice in the distribution of discretionary financial support to support unions to make the arguments for fairer distribution of financial support at institutional level.
2. Lobby HEFCE, OFFA and like bodies in the Nations to reform guidance and regulation around disbursement of discretionary financial support.

MPT4 Induction

Conference believes

1. HE and FE institutions usually hold inductions during the traditional work week when mature and part-time students are less likely and available to attend.
2. Institutions often fail to fully communicate the available support service to mature and part-time students.
3. NUS is coordinating research into induction including on the experience of mature and part-time students of induction.

Conference resolves

1. To lobby institutions to make hard copy an e-copy accessible information about support services especially having to do with liberation and caring responsibilities available well prior to the start of the course.
2. To use the NUS research to develop and lobby on best practice for the induction of mature and part-time students and students with caring responsibilities.

MPT6 Fairness in Council Tax

Conference believes

1. It is democratically unfair that part-time students (including postgraduates) are still liable for council tax.
2. That all students should be treated equally regardless of level of study or length of study. That council tax implications are not communicated effectively to postgraduate and part-time students.
3. This causes greater financial outlay for these students.
4. There are several definitions of part time students this should be clarified in relation to council tax.

Conference resolves

1. NUS to lobby for part-time (inc postgraduate) council tax exemption.
2. NUS to look into sourcing of funding regarding the payment of council tax.
3. NUS to produce a report on the impact paying council tax has on part time (inc postgrad) students and their ability to succeed in study.
4. For Part Time & Mature sections committee to collaborate with Postgraduate sections committee to ensure both groups of students are supported on the issue around council tax.

MPT9 Access to institutional services for PT and Mature Students

Conference believes

1. Universities do not provide sufficient support services for PT and mature students
2. Current support services at most universities are geared towards FT students
3. Access to most students' union services are geared to FT students
4. Most inductions are inappropriate for PT and mature study
5. It is difficult for many students' unions to access data on their mature and PT members

Conference resolves

1. Produce guidance for officer training on the issues for MPT students, to be made available to students' unions.
2. To lobby for NUS to include information on issues for MPT students in its officer training programme.
3. Support students' unions to gain access to data on their MPT students and to provide greater information about the services available to MPT students.
4. Work with NEC to encourage students' unions to identify opportunities for extended access outside of 9-5 hours and to otherwise realign services to be more appropriate for MPT students.

5. To produce a communications model to help students' unions identify different student groups and the communication styles that are most appropriate for them.

MPT12 'Building an MPT officers' knowledge network'

Conference believes

1. The NUS Section Conferences are an extraordinary enabling opportunity for officers to share information with one another.
2. That officers are at their best when operating as part of a connected, dynamic network.
3. That officers do not currently utilize fully the opportunity to connect, communicate and share existing institutional information and practice.
4. That the MPT Conference would benefit from a source of wider information and practice sharing all year round.
5. MPT students are underrepresented within student unions and universities
6. Student union rep training is mainly undergraduate focused and therefore is useless for MPTs who deal with very different issues
7. MPT students often are considered as being an extension of Undergraduates and are not recognised for having a unique student experiences.
8. The majority of sabbatical officers are undergraduates and this means that it is a challenging for effective representation of MPT due to a gap in knowledge
9. Due this, and the fact that students' unions are mainly focused on UGs, they can often fail to prioritise MPT issues fairly
10. Many students' unions don't feel equipped to deal with MPT issues effectively.
11. One consequence of this is that volunteer MPT officers are either not effectively supported or not in existence.

Conference resolves

1. For the NUS MPT Executive Committee to create an MPT officers' Virtual Information Sharing Space (VISS) facilitating the sharing of information and best (and worst) practice from within institutions.
2. To encourage and support MPT officers and students' unions to use the VISS proactively.
3. To provide key information generated from the delegates in advance of future MPT.
4. To facilitate one-to-one delegate-NEC sessions in conference and other workshops to raise, and seek advice on, specific issues from within delegates' individual institutions.
5. That NUS develop a toolkit for MPT students' representation within institutions.
6. That NUS works with rep trainers to develop a training tool unique for MPT students.
7. That SUs should develop policy MPT representation.
8. That Student Unions should develop policy for MPT representation.
9. That students' unions should have MPT officers where possible.
10. To support students' unions to develop ways to be more relevant activities to MPT students.
11. That NUS develop and promote practical tools for students' unions to gather information that will better help students' unions to serve their MPT community.
12. To develop training tools for students' unions to train their MPT representatives.
13. To facilitate MPT students and their representatives to share practice and the impact of that practice on engaging postgraduates and effective campaigning.
14. To support and encourage students' unions to develop different ways of continuing activities beyond the undergraduate academic calendar