

NUS Scotland President

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Committees:	NUS SEC
Action:	For approval and discussion.

Priorities

Main priorities	Progress (what have you achieved since the last Committee meeting)
Activist Development and Grassroots Organising.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working on how to implement this within the Plan of Work. Looks likely that workshops will be based on the themes of Mental Health and Student Funding/Cost of Living, to provide both issue specific knowledge and general campaign organising skills. Open to providing general activist training if requested and we have the capacity to deliver it. - Session on campaign training and development at NUS Scotland Gathering. - Have created a social media-based NUS Scotland Student Activities Network, for all officers working in student activities to develop ideas, seek opinions and raise concerns with others who understand their work.
Student Funding and Cost of Living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yet to speak to the government about next steps after the Student Support Review due to the lack of a minister in the FE, HE and Science position. - Attended the Student Funding Summit in June, where student officers, both those exiting and entering the movement, gave their views on the Review and the government's subsequent announcement of £21mil of investment in student support. - Will present our progress as an organisation on Student Funding at NUS Scotland Gathering. This will update continuing officers and provide a valuable introduction to those who are new to our movement.
College/SSI SA Funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awaiting the appointment of the new FE, HE and Science Minister in order that we can begin to have these discussions.
Building a Movement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently working to establish meetings with UCU and EIS to discuss how we can work more closely nationally and encourage similar relationships locally. - Will develop and deliver a workshop at NUS Scotland Gathering about staff trade unions, what they are, our historic relationship and how we can continue to build and develop it.

Trump Demonstrations (13/7/2018 and 14/7/2018).	Attended both the Glasgow and Edinburgh Anti-Trump demonstrations, leading the march at the latter with officers from Heriot-Watt SU, the Rector of Glasgow University Amar Anwar and others.
Anti-SDL Demonstration (21/7/2018)	Participated in the anti-Scottish Defence League demonstration in Glasgow, organised to oppose their bigotry, racism and xenophobia. Attended with the Vice President Communities, International Students' Officer, Black Students' Officer, an officer from the



	Students' Association of the University of the West of Scotland, alongside activists from both affiliated and non-affiliated institutions.
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Other achievements

Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agree

Event/meeting	Outcomes and/or actions taken or agreed on
Student Funding Summit (18/6/2018)	Attended as President-Elect. Spent the day with both incoming and outgoing student officers from across the country, presenting them with a history of campaigning on student support, the work of the review and its outcomes, and the government's response since. The feeling of the group was that the announced £21 million was welcome, but didn't go far enough, and that we should push the government to help address a number of smaller but very specific issues through increased funding.
Student Funding Council Board (21/6/2018)	Attended as President-Elect, to shadow Luke and get an understanding of how the group.
STUC Youth Conference (1/7/2018)	Was attending the whole event in my capacity as a young trade unionist, but was invited separately by the STUC Youth Committee to attend and speak as President of NUS Scotland. Spoke to the need for us to work together to ensure that students are represented both as students and as workers, as neither of us can do both in isolation. Afterwards, the STUC expressed an interest in working more closely with us on shared priorities, which I indicated we would be happy to explore.
NUS Students' Unions (2/7/2018 – 5/7/2018)	Travelled to Birmingham to attend NUS SU's. Engaged with members from across the UK and used the opportunity to spend time with officers from Scotland who were attending. Helped support the Commercial stream of workshops at the event, which proved to be incredibly insightful.
College Lead & Change (10/7/2018 – 11/7/2018)	Spent two days in Livingston with new and continuing college officers from across Scotland, where we helped them to develop new skills and provided insight on the sector that would help to be more successful officers.
Parliamentary Visit (19/7/2018)	Visited parliament for the day to meet with party researchers from Scottish Labour, the Scottish Greens, The Scottish Conservatives and the SNP to discuss our priorities and identify areas of mutual interest. Mental health proved to be universally popular. Additionally, we met with the clerk of the Education and Skills Committee to learn more about the committee, and finished the day with Alasdair Sims, Director of Universities Scotland, to discuss our priorities with them and identify common goals.
NUS Lead & Change – Hertfordshire (23/7/2018 – 26/7/2018)	Attended one of NUS UK's two main training events of the year, where student officers from all over the UK come together to be equipped with knowledge and skills and develop the networks required to be more effective officers. Spent a great deal of time with officers from NUS Scotland member associations over the course of the event.
NUS Lead & Change - Leeds (30/7/2018 – 33/7/2018)	Attending the second of two NUS UK officer training events, identical in its aims as the event in Hertfordshire, but covering other remit areas. I am en route to the event at the time of this report's writing, but I am sure to spend a great deal of time with officers from NUS Scotland member associations and from SU's across the UK, providing insight and support where possible.

Plans before the next meeting

Action/work area	What I hope to achieve
Plan of Work Visits	I will be travelling across Scotland to discuss the Plan of Work with our membership and receive their feedback and views on our priorities and intentions for the year. I will be visiting Forth Valley College Students' Association (10/8/2018), Edinburgh College Students' Association (13/8/2018), City of Glasgow College Students' Association and New College Lanarkshire Students' Association (14/8/2018), Queen Margaret University Students' Union (15/8/2018), Abertay Students' Association (16/8/2018) and Fife College Students' Association and Edinburgh University Students' Association (17/8/2018).
Meeting with the EHRC on Freedom of Speech	Will meet with the EHRC to discuss Freedom of Speech related issues where, depending on the content of the meeting, I will be asserting the student movement's continuing commitment to facilitating the political expression of our members and our openness to fair and accessible dialogue.
Meeting with Colleges Scotland	Intend to discuss our priorities for the year with one of our main sector stakeholders, identifying common priorities and issues for the year ahead.
Scottish Funding Council Board	Will be attending the Scottish Funding Council Board meeting on 6/9/2018 and will continue to raise questions around College and SSI SA funding, as well as other issues pertinent to the wellbeing of students and our students' associations.
NUS NEC	As president I am a member of the National Executive Council, alongside one other representative elected from amongst SEC, and will be attending this meeting to ensure that Scotland's voice is heard at the UK level, that our autonomy isn't jeopardised by any decisions made and to hold NUS UK officers accountable with a focus on their involvement with members in the Scotland.
Universities Scotland and UCU joint meeting.	Will meet with two of our key stakeholders, Universities Scotland the University and College Union, to discuss policy, our priorities and the sector.

Membership Engagement

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
Members at Student Funding Summit and all iterations of lead & Change.	Participated in networking and social activities, as well as providing insight and support where required.

Media engagement and external relations

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
Herald Comment on Mental Health (1/7/2018)	Provided comment on new mental health figures that featured prominently in the Sunday Herald.
Kingdom Radio Interview on Student Counselling Services (2/7/2018)	Participated in a short interview with Kingdom Radio to outline the need for more dedicated counselling services in colleges, universities and SSIs in Scotland.

TES (11/7/2018)	Participated in a written interview with TES focused on my priorities around colleges.
Clyde1 (11/7/2018)	Gave a short comment on increasing graduate incomes in Scotland, outlining that we're pleased that graduates in Scotland are going into more gainful employment straight out of their institutions. I emphasised more work still needs to be done through the Widening Access agenda to ensure students from a greater variety of socioeconomic backgrounds are getting into and through the education system in order to benefit from these increased graduate incomes.

Declaration of gifts, hospitality and interests

Declaration	Further comment
BETA Scotland	Trustee of charity BETA Scotland, part of the Europe wide chairt BETA e.V. Standing for "Bringing European Together Association," it organises Model European Unions, simulations of the political processes of the EU designed to provide a hands on educational experience, develop an understanding of EU institutions and get to know Europeans form all over the continent. I also act as an organiser for the simulations as well as my role as a Trustee.