



# NUS Wales Live Policy

## 2015 – 2017

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<b>Summary</b>	This paper contains all the live policy as agreed by Wales Conference 2015, 2016 and 2017
<b>Publication:</b>	For publication and circulation to students' unions.

### Policy

Policy passed at Wales Conference 2017:	<b>13</b>
Policy passed at Wales Conference 2016:	<b>17</b>
Policy passed at Wales Conference 2015:	<b>18</b>

### Purpose of this document

This document contains all the policy currently in effect for priority work of NUS Wales. This is the policy that the NUS Wales President and Deputy President and the NUS Wales National Executive 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 NUS Wales Conference votes to renew it. Policy passed at NUS Wales Conference 2015 will lapse at the end of NUS Wales Conference 2018.

### What You Need To Do

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


If you require this document in an alternative format contact [office@nus-wales.org.uk](mailto:office@nus-wales.org.uk).





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# Policy passed at Wales Conference 2017

## Brexit: Ensuring the best outcome for Wales

Submitted by: NUS Wales National Executive Committee

### Conference Believes:

1. The EU has provided countless benefits for the post-compulsory education sector in Wales.
2. 25,000 UK students studied or undertook work placements in the EU as part of the Erasmus+ scheme in 2015/16; since 2014 Erasmus+ has included UK school students, volunteers and apprentices and invests nearly £100 million each year into UK mobility in Europe [1]
3. The ability to study abroad has been proven to have long term benefits for those individuals who partake – in their future employment, and in developing an understanding and awareness of other cultures and societies. [2]
4. UK Universities receive an additional 15% in research funding from the European Union (EU), on top of contributions from the UK government [3]
5. Since the referendum was announced we have seen a serious and worrying rise in hate crime in Britain. In the month following the vote to leave the EU, the latest figures show that racist or religious abuse incidents recorded by police in England and Wales increased by 41%. [4]
6. The UK should remain a cooperative partner with EU countries and always seek to promote universal human rights, peace, stability and free movement within the EU and around the world.

### Conference Resolves:

1. To lobby the Welsh Government to ensure that they are calling for the best deal for students when trying to influence the Brexit process, including calling for free movement and to remain in the single market.
2. To work with the Welsh Government to ensure that Welsh students in the post-compulsory sector have access to an outward mobility programme. [5]
3. To proactively engage with the European Students' Union and Obessu to ensure the voices of students in the UK are heard at the European level.
4. To work with STAR (Student Action for Refugees) and relevant organisations and support their campaigns.
5. To work with NUS UK to support Students' Unions to lobby their MPs and the government, calling on them to remove international students from net migration figures.
6. To publically oppose and campaign against any attempt to repeal the Human Rights Act and EU conventions those protect human rights and replace it with the British Bill of Rights.
7. To work with other organisations and our liberation campaigns to tackle discrimination, prejudice and hate crime.

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[1] [erasmusplus.org.uk/key-erasmus-facts-and-figures](https://erasmusplus.org.uk/key-erasmus-facts-and-figures)

[2] [http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/generalCourse/PDF/the\\_benefits\\_of\\_a\\_year\\_abroad.pdf](http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/generalCourse/PDF/the_benefits_of_a_year_abroad.pdf).

[3] [fullfact.org/education/how-much-money-do-british-universities-get-eu/](https://fullfact.org/education/how-much-money-do-british-universities-get-eu/)

[4] [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/559319/hate-crime-1516-hosb1116.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/559319/hate-crime-1516-hosb1116.pdf)

[5] If Westminster creates an Outward Mobility scheme for the UK, NUS Wales will need to work with NUS UK to ensure that it is one that works for students and explore how the Welsh Government can increase the participation of Welsh students in the scheme.





# Tuition Fees should not rise with TEF in Wales

Submitted by: Cardiff University Students' Union


## Conference Believes:

1. Tuition fees, having been tripled in 2012, currently stand at £9000 per year for full-time UK undergraduates.
2. The Higher Education and Research Bill (HE Bill) was first read in the House of Commons in May 2016, it is currently at the committee stage in the House of Lords.
3. Within the HE Bill, lies the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).
4. TEF is a measure which ranks universities as Gold, Silver or Bronze based on metrics relating to teaching quality.
5. Official TEF Guidance confirms TEF will be in-effect for students entering education in autumn 2017.
6. TEF will allow eligible universities to raise fees in line with inflation. Inflation in the UK has risen by an average of 2.3% each year over the past 10 years.
7. Both Welsh and English Universities are participating in TEF however, only (eligible) English Universities are set to raise fees. The Welsh Government has currently pegged tuition at £9000 in Wales.
8. Recent news suggests some Welsh Universities are afraid of appearing as "second class" universities compared to those who raise fees in England.
9. The Welsh Government has only confirmed tuition fees at £9000 for the academic year 2017/18.
10. Some Welsh institutions are publicly advertising that their fees are subject to increase in future in line with government policy.
11. This could lead to an increase in tuition fees in Welsh Universities if the Government sees Welsh institutions favour it. This increase could start taking effect in the academic year 2018/19.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. An increase in tuition fees in Welsh institutions means:
  - a. Students in Wales will graduate with more debt.
  - b. The advantage that Welsh universities currently have over English ones will be withdrawn.
  - c. Fees could keep on increasing with no real 'cap' since inflation has not dropped below 0% in the past 20 years.
  - d. Students from less advantaged backgrounds will be more put off going to university.
2. We must think of the next generations and how inaccessible education could become.
3. In order for our concerns to reach the Welsh Government, NUS Wales must be mandated to lobby them.

## Conference Resolves:

1. Cardiff University Students' Union will submit this motion to NUS Wales National Conference.
  2. This motion mandates NUS Wales to lobby the Welsh government for a commitment to no rise in fees for the next 7 to 10 years.
- 



# Diamond; ensuring a funding system that works for Wales

Submitted by: NUS Wales National Executive Committee

## Conference Believes:

1. That Wales needs an inclusive Higher Education system which everyone can access and excel in.
2. That NUS Wales must challenge the fact that education is still a privilege and not a right.
3. That the cost of living whilst in Higher Education is becoming untenable. The current costs are driving students into private debt, causing mental health issues, forcing students to live in their overdraft and constraining students to squalid housing that leads to health problems.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. That the Diamond Review and the subsequent Welsh Government response has proposed a funding package that is progressive; it targets support at those who need it the most and gets to grips with the issues around the cost of living
2. That the maintenance package will enable widening access.

## Conference Resolves:

1. To always acknowledge that the current system isn't perfect as our end goal is free education for all. We recognise that within the current economic climate the Diamond review is a progressive step forward. However, we will continue to lobby on elements of the review that we feel could be improved.
2. To ensure that the student voice is at the heart of implementing the new system
3. To ensure that NUS Wales remain the experts on student finance in Wales so that we can consistently fight for support for the students who need it the most
4. To work with Students' Unions, the Open University Student Association Welsh representative, the Welsh Government and relevant organisations to ensure that the support package for student parents, students with disabilities, care leavers and students who have caring responsibilities is one that meets the needs of these students and allows them to access HE should they wish to do so.





# Financial Support for Mature Students (FE)

Submitted by: Coleg Cambria Students' Union


## **Conference Believes:**

1. The only financial support for mature FE students is the Welsh Government Learning Grant of £1500 per year.
2. Unlike England, students don't have to pay for tuition in Wales, but still are unable to return to training/study due to financial difficulties.
3. Many students in FE institutions over 19 are unable to afford to live without missing classes to work.
4. This leads to students failing or dropping out before completing their course.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. All FE students over 19 should be able to train/study to improve their education and career prospects without financial restraint.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. To aid SUs in lobbying the Welsh Government to provide financial support for over 19s in Wales.
  2. This could be done through providing maintenance loans similar to the ones provided in HE.
  3. Call for SUs to lobby their institution to provide support for over 19s wherever possible.
- 



# A fairer deal for student carers

Submitted by: Gower College Students' Union

## Conference Believes:

5. Carers Trust Wales estimates that there are 1,600 students with caring responsibilities who start their first year of an undergraduate course every year in Wales. That makes up around 4% of our entire HE population.
6. The most popular form of benefit received by carers "The Carers Allowance is not available to students studying for more than 21 hours a week (60% part-time intensity). Therefore leaving many student carers without adequate support.
7. Wales is the largest dependant on "The Carers Allowance" compared with other regions.

## Conference Further Believes:

2. The Diamond Review looked at how Wales would fund and support their students, it recommended that there should be a shift from student support through the tuition fee grant, to student support through maintenance.
3. The Diamond Review also recommended improving support for targeted groups: students who are parents; students with disabilities and; students with experience of care.
4. The above recommendation does not include students who provide care.
5. Student carers are not currently financially supported to cover the costs of their caring responsibilities. In our view, that is an unacceptable situation for them to be in.

## Conference Resolves:

4. NUS Wales will lobby the Welsh government to either:
  - a. Extend the new, proposed system of student finance from the Diamond Review to include student carers. At an additional cost of some £15 million per year, that would mean £3,250 available per year to student carers, assessed through Student Finance Wales.
  - b. The Welsh Government and the UK Government to extend the existing Carers Allowance to students, achieved by removing the restriction on studying full-time while claiming the Allowance. UK Government to either cover this cost itself (some £15 million per year in Wales) and apply the change across the UK, or Welsh Government to repay the costs directly to the UK Government.







# Tackling Anti-Semitism

Submitted by: University of Wales Trinity Saint David Students' Union


## Conference Believes:

1. In 2016, the Community Security Trust, a charity dedicated to protecting the Jewish community, recorded 1,309 anti-Semitic incidents compared to 1,182 recorded in 2014.
1. Anti-Semitism is prevalent across the whole political spectrum.
2. Many Jewish students were at the forefront of NUS UK disaffiliation campaigns due to concerns of anti-Semitism in our movement.
3. In October, the Home Affairs Select Committee published a report into 'Anti-Semitism in the UK' that included a chapter on 'campus anti-Semitism'.
4. The Universities UK, Chakrabarti Inquiry, Home Affairs Select Committee report and recent high profile incidents highlight a need to do more to tackle anti-Semitism on campus.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. Universities have a legal obligation to ensure that students do not face discrimination or harassment as per the Equalities Act 2010.
2. NUS has a role in ensuring that safeguarding, anti-discrimination and harassment policies are present on university campuses.
3. Under current legislation, Jews are identified as members of a race as well as a religion and police record crimes against them as either racially or religiously motivated.
4. Jewish students have the right to define what they constitute as anti-Semitism, as per the Macpherson principal, which NUS upholds.
5. NUS is guided by the EU Monitoring Centre working definition of Anti-Semitism, while recent work in the UK has identified the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance as a more useful definition.
6. The recent Home Affairs Select Committee recommended that the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition be formally adopted by the UK government, law enforcement agencies and all political parties.
7. NUS Wales should be at the forefront of making the case for NUS UK to take the issue of anti-Semitism seriously, and to offer solidarity with Jewish students.

## Conference Resolves:

1. To commit to tackling anti-Semitism in all of its forms.
  2. To adopt the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, and to encourage SU's to do the same.
  3. To work with UJS and CST to produce a new and updated version of 'A Student's Guide to Anti-Semitism' for the academic year 2017/18.
  4. To lobby institutions to provide additional support to students during times of higher tension to ensure that campus remains a fair, open and safe space to all students irrespective of their religious, national, ethnic or racial identity.
  5. To provide educational training on anti-Semitism as part of Sabbatical Officer summer training.
- 



# Don't leave FE students stranded

Submitted by: Coleg Sir Gâr Students' Union

## Conference Believes:

1. The Welsh Government has decided to scrap the discounted travel scheme My Travel Pass which gives young people aged 16-18 a third off the price off their bus travel.
2. The Welsh Government has said that it's dropping the scheme because not many people have used it. It says that only around 7% of those eligible have signed up. But others have suggested that the problem lay in how the scheme has been advertised—and we agree.
3. We believe that everyone should be able to access education, regardless of their capacity to pay for the transport to get there.
4. NUS Wales research Pound In Your Pocket 2014 found that six in ten further education students faced costs associated with travel, and one in five faced costs of £20 or more a week.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. Transport for learners in further education is currently the responsibility of local authorities. That often means that transport policies are different depending on where you live, including the cost and level of subsidy, the eligibility criteria, and the type of transport provided.
2. Cuts to local government budgets have meant that transport for further education students is increasingly at risk.
3. Every year, college Students' Unions tell us that their students are most concerned about the cost of getting to their college campus or placement.
4. In April 2017, the minimum hourly wage for apprentices will still be just £3.50. But research by the National Society of Apprentices Wales indicates that apprentices are paying some £25 a week for travel—roughly 20% of their total income.

## Conference Resolves:

1. NUS Wales and its member Students Unions should lobby Welsh government to keep the My Travel Pass.
2. NUS Wales should offer advice on how to advertise the My Travel Pass through FE institutions.





# Putting students at the heart of the post-compulsory sector

Submitted by: NUS Wales National Executive Committee


## **Conference Believes:**

1. That the post-compulsory education sector must have the needs of Wales and of Welsh students at its heart, not that of the institutions.
2. That Further Education colleges have seen enormous cuts in the past few years, that too many apprentices aren't being paid enough to live on and that the Higher Education budget has seen significant in year cuts.
3. That talking about parity of esteem is no longer enough; all vocational and academic pathways must be funded and supported equitably.
4. That students should truly be at the heart of shaping their education. This does not only mean representation on all boards and during key decision making process, but also that all students are given the opportunity to shape their education.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. That the Welsh Government's aim of creating one body to be responsible for managing and funding higher education, further education and work based learning will enable a holistic approach to the post-compulsory sector
2. That the competition between the further and higher education sectors for funding and support must end and that this new, overarching vision for the sector could go some way to making this a reality.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. To ensure that NUS Wales has a place as an observer on the board of any new body
  2. To work with Students' Unions and the Welsh Government to ensure that the new body is one that places the needs of students at its core
  3. To use the consultation process as a way to campaign for increased resources and support to be given to student voice structures and students' Union, particularly in FE
  4. Widening Access is a core mission for HEFCW, we must lobby to ensure that this remains a priority for the new body.
- 



# Let's Address the Elephant in the Room

Submitted by: Aberystwyth University Students' Union


## Conference Believes:


1. That all students deserve to be receiving a high level of support for their mental health during their time in education.
2. That Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is not easily accessible in Wales, as training courses are of low availability. The high prices of the courses also mean that organisations/institutions cannot MFHA train their staff without a significant financial impact.
3. That more MHFA training should be provided as standard to all significant education staff; such as personal tutors, support staff, accommodation services, site security etc. It should be imperative for all staff that has regular and one-to-one contact with students to have training in how to correctly approach a student with poor mental health.
4. That MHFA should be considered as important as physical first aid – in the work place, it is a legal requirement for a number of team members to be physical first aid trained, but there is no such requirement for MHFA.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. In a 2011 study on the 'Grand Challenges' in student mental health, Student Minds identified the top 10 barriers that stopped students from accessing mental health support and these included: poor general understanding about mental health problems, fear of being judged, stress and finding the confidence to ask for help.
2. Student Minds also states 'Research has estimated that around 29% of students experience mental distress, however there is considerable variable in prevalence statistics.'
3. In a recent survey ran by Aberystwyth Students' Union, 72% of the students surveyed expressed that they had experienced issues with their mental health during their time at Aberystwyth University. Of that 72%, 70% said that they were not satisfied with the level of mental health support available.

## Conference Resolves:

1. For NUS Wales to lobby to make MHFA training more accessible, particularly for educational institutes and Students' Unions.
  2. To lobby with both the government and educational institutions to encourage mental health support to be higher the work place agenda. Ideally, MHFA training should be a legal requirement alongside physical first aid.
  3. To raise awareness about the importance of mental health support for students and to campaign to end the stigma surrounding mental health.
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# Motion to get NUS Wales to put pressure on HEFCW to get rid of the 5 credit measure as a way of measuring Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's performance

Submitted by: Aberystwyth University Students' Union


## Conference believes:

1. NUS Wales believes in universal education which means that all students get an opportunity to succeed in education, whatever their background.
2. We need to be optimistic with regard to Welsh medium education, and Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is essential in the development of Welsh education as a means of developing universal education.
3. According to the Government's strategy of getting a million Welsh speakers by 2050, the role of Welsh medium higher education is essential as a way of getting people to use the language and of reaching the target of a million.

## Conference further believes:

1. Measuring Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's performance with 5 credits is not a fair assessment of Welsh medium education, because there isn't a record of how institutions interpret and report on the 5 credits. Consequently, it creates higher figures than other indicators, thus creating meaningless results.
2. The 5 credit measure doesn't analyse Welsh medium education in a realistic way, as 5 credits correspond to 4.1% of what the student studies.
3. It doesn't correspond to Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's activities, with the Coleg awarding scholarships on the basis of students studying 40 credits of their studies through the medium of Welsh each year (Incentive Scholarships) and 80 credits of their studies in Welsh each year (Main Scholarships).

## Conference Resolves:

1. To express our dissatisfaction with the use of 5 credits as an indicator for Welsh medium studies within the TEF.
  2. That the 5 credit measure used by HEFCW to evaluate the work of Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is unsuitable, as it doesn't correctly measure the Coleg's performance. NUS Wales should put pressure on HEFCW to stop using the 5 credit system to evaluate the Coleg.
  3. NUS Wales should consult with HEFCW with regard to measuring Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's performance, and look at the possibility of using 40 and 80 credits, which would be more closely aligned with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol's study structure.
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# GCSE Motion

Submitted by: Coleg Cambria Students' Union

## **Conference Believes:**

1. GCSE English and Maths resits in Wales is a positive development enabling core qualifications to be gained by students
2. The overall 30% pass rate (Grade C or above) needs to be increased to enable more students to gain these qualifications
3. Specific "resit" teaching methodologies should be developed on a National basis.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. Increasing the GCSE English and Maths makes more students more employable

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. to work in partnership with colleges and the Welsh Government and develop "exemplar" teaching materials and methodologies for GCSE Maths and English on a National basis





# Access to Welsh Medium Education

Submitted by: NUS Wales National Executive Committee

## Conference Believes:

1. NUS Wales believes that education should be inclusive; that is to say that all students can access and succeed in education no matter what their background or characteristics. Therefore, in Wales, an inclusive education must be one in which students who wish to do so can study their chosen subject through the medium of Welsh.
2. In 2015 the Welsh Language Campaign conducted a survey which aimed to discover if Higher Education students thought Welsh language education was important, and if so why. The survey highlighted that a significant proportion of Welsh speaking students feel more confident when studying through the medium of Welsh. Consequently, not having access to Welsh medium education could impair their ability to engage with, and succeed within, Higher Education.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (CCC) has been instrumental in developing Welsh medium provision within Higher Education institutions.
2. The CCC has invested over £18 Million in Welsh Universities since 2011 [1]
3. The number of students studying at least 40 credits a year (a third of their course through the medium of Welsh) in higher education institutions in Wales has increased by 10% over two years and represents a record number of students studying at least 40 credits through the medium of Welsh. In addition, there has been an increase of nearly 1,000 in the number of fulltime undergraduate students studying part of their course through the medium of Welsh in Welsh universities since the establishment of the Coleg in 2011 (from 2,614 to 3,590 students). [2]
4. That the CCC also has a crucial role to play when it comes to increasing the numbers of students who are studying through the medium of Welsh.

## Conference Resolves:

1. To call for the Coleg Cymraeg's remit to be expanded to include FE as well as HE and that the CCC receive adequate resources and support to do so
2. Should the CCC have jurisdiction over HE and FE, NUS Wales must campaign to ensure that there is a parity of esteem between HE and FE within the organisation. This includes ensuring that the CCC are enabling students to shape their education and providing the same training for FE reps as they do for those in HE.
3. Continue campaigning for improvement in the provision of Welsh medium education available to students in the post-compulsory sector.

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[1] <http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/media/main/2015colegcymraeg/dogfennau/Annual-report-FINAL-2014-15.pdf>

[2] <http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/media/main/2015colegcymraeg/dogfennau/Annual-report-FINAL-2014-15.pdf>





# Getting the best deal for apprentices!

Submitted by: NUS Wales National Executive Committee


## **Conference Believes:**

1. The leadership team of the National Society of Apprentices met in February 2017 to decide on its policy and campaigns for the year.
2. The membership of NSoA told the leadership team what they should prioritise and the leadership team turned these priorities into policy.
3. The policy that was set was split into the following areas of work; Cost of Living; Apprentice Pay; Positive interactions between apprentices, training providers and employers; and sexism and discrimination
4. The NSoA believe that apprentices should be entitled to the same benefits that students' receive and will campaign on council tax exemption; Travel Card; Healthcare costs; Childcare; Equipment costs; TU membership; and Bank Accounts
5. The NSoA believes that the apprentice national minimum wage should be abolished and will also campaign to reduce the time allowed on apprentice national minimum wage while it still exists.
6. The NSoA will restate the NSoA Charter on excellent apprenticeships and will work with partners to develop a kite mark for excellent apprenticeships.
7. The NSoA will set up NSoA Women in Apprenticeships working group to look at women in STEM apprenticeships and the gender pay gap

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. Although the NUS does not structurally need to adopt the NSoA platform the NSoA leadership team would like to continue its strong working relationship with NUS.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. That NUS will continue to support the NSoA in its work and policy goals
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# Policy passed by Wales Conference 2016

## Motion to support the campaign for Britain to remain a member of the European Union

Submitted by: NUS Wales National Executive Committee


### Conference Believes:

1. The UK should remain a member of the EU to promote universal human rights, peace, stability and free movement within the European Union (EU) and around the world.
2. EU membership allows students freedom to study, live and work abroad without the need or cost of obtaining a visa, while protecting their rights within the countries they travel to.
3. EU investment in UK universities is substantial, and accounts for around £1bn in investment in higher education and research funding alone.
4. Over 200,000 students have studied abroad through the Erasmus program, which enhances the educational and cultural diversity of our institutions, and the educational experiences of the students who travel.
5. 15% of academic staff in Welsh universities come from other EU nations.
6. More than three million UK jobs are linked to trade with the EU, with EU students in the UK supporting 19,000 jobs.
7. Students from other EU nations studying in Wales contribute £18m in value-added to Wales' economy
8. EU provides funding for Jobs Growth Wales to incentivise employers take on unemployed graduates for training.

### Conference Further Believes:

1. Leaving the EU would impact UK universities, with direct funding, investment, revenue, and student and staff diversity all put in jeopardy.
2. Staff from other EU nations bring with them specialist knowledge and expertise.
3. EU support and involvement in universities makes them stronger by encouraging innovation, research, and the development of knowledge, factors that will inevitably decide the UK's future economic growth.
4. The EU's frameworks support academic collaboration and reduce barriers to working across borders; Universities UK notes that research with international collaborators has nearly 50% more impact than research done at the national level.
5. Leaving the EU would decrease inward and outward student mobility, decreasing opportunities for Welsh students, and the diversity of our campuses.
6. Leaving the EU would weaken the UK's standing on the world stage and therefore the government's ability to negotiate the best outcomes for its citizens in international trade and security negotiations.

### Conference Resolves:

1. To endorse the position that the UK should remain in the EU
  2. To work with the Wales Stronger in Europe Campaign and other groups to inform students of the benefits of EU membership.
  3. For NUS Wales to take an active part in campaigning for the UK to remain in the EU ahead of the referendum on membership.
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# Rules of Engagement

Submitted by: Coleg Sir Gâr Students' Union

## **Conference Believes:**

1. According to polling analysis from Cardiff University's Wales Governance Centre which was subsequently reported by the BBC, UKIP could win as many as nine seats in the 2016 Welsh Assembly election.
2. Following the acceptance of 'Amendment 101C - Opposition to UKIP' in 2014 - NUS UK voted to officially oppose UKIP "in the run up to the General Election."
3. NUS Wales will have to work with both the next Welsh Government and opposition parties in order to further the goals of the student movement.
4. NUS Wales works best when it is able to negotiate constructively with politicians and policy-makers.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. Equality is one of the core values of NUS – we believe there should be equality of opportunity for everyone to participate fully in a society that celebrates diversity.
2. In order to achieve this aim, liberation should be at the heart of the student movement.
3. Many high-profile members of UKIP (a number of whom stepped down or were sacked in the wake of their comments) have espoused bigoted and offensive views towards minority and underrepresented groups which contravene the values of our movement.
4. Despite these views, there may be situations where we can work constructively with UKIP for the benefit of students in Wales.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. Where possible, NUS Wales will work constructively with UKIP on issues that will affect their membership.
2. NUS Wales will not give UKIP a platform unchallenged e.g. an opportunity to make a speech without rebuttal from other parties.
3. NUS Wales will hold UKIP under high levels of scrutiny.
4. NUS Wales will ensure that their membership is aware of their previous stances on liberation issues e.g. same-sex marriage.
5. NUS Wales NEC may review this relationship in the wake of any future policies or stances taken by the party.





# Votes @ 16

Submitted by: University of South Wales Students' Union

## Conference Believes:

1. There are over 1.5 million 16 and 17 year olds are currently denied the right to vote in the UK.
2. At 16, people become adults and take on a number of responsibilities.
3. That the UK government voted to adopt Votes for 16 year olds with a clear mandate in January 2013.
4. The House of Lords were pushing for teenagers to have a say in the EU Referendum, and it had been promised by the end of 2017, until financial pressures swayed their opinion.
5. Labour, the SNP and the Lib Dems and Plaid Cymru all favour allowing 16 and 17-year-olds - who were allowed to take part in last year's referendum on Scottish independence - to vote on whether to remain in the EU.
6. That the failure of the government to adopt this policy would be undemocratic. Institutions in Wales.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. At a time when people feel that politics isn't relevant to them, young people need to be encouraged to take part in democracy, not kept out from it.
2. If 16 year olds can leave school, work full time, pay taxes, get married and join the armed forces then they should be able to take decisions on their future.
3. Engaging young people in democracy creates politically engaged citizens who are more likely to develop a lifetime habit of voting.
4. Continuing cuts to education have a detrimental effect on this age group.
5. According to ICM's survey, during the Scottish Referendum 75% of 16 and 17 year olds voted.

## Conference Resolves:

1. NUS Wales will launch a campaign to lobby political parties to get Votes at 16 on the agenda in the run up to the EU Referendum.
2. Gain support from MPs on the campaign and propose a Private Members Bill or a debate on the subject.
3. To encourage other influential organisations to join the Votes at 16 coalition.
4. Call for changes to the way in which politics and democracy is taught within the Welsh curriculum and encouraging schools to have good democratic student voice structures.
5. Develop bilingual campaign materials in conjunction with other organisations to support students' unions campaigns.
6. To work with the Further Education Unions to highlight the importance of registering to vote at 16 and helping them drive the campaign forward.





# Representing our Membership

Submitted by: NUS Wales Democratic Procedures Committee

## **Conference Believes:**

1. Our organisation has grown and thus must change requirement for elections to provide a more representative body.
2. FE is bigger than HE in Wales and must ensure positions are not just elected from HE only.


## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. In order to ensure a better representative body we must try and provide tools to ensure we can be as representative as possible but not place barriers for those wishing to stand.
2. DPC are elected annually and don't get to obtain experience from one conference to another.
3. Other conferences/campaigns see their steering elected on a 2 year basis with one of the 3 positions being elected annually, thus providing space for an experienced each year to assist the other members.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. For President and Deputy Nominations the number of nominations should be changed to 10 proposers from 5CMs in order to be nominated.
2. For the position of NUS UK 2nd Place the number of proposers required should include one FE CM as part of the 5 proposers from 3CMs already in place.
3. For the position of Welsh NEC block of 7, the number of proposers required should be changed to 5 proposers from 3CMS.
4. For Democratic Procedures Committee the number of nominations should be changed to 5 nominations from 3CMs.
5. One WDPC space shall be reserved for a woman
6. The reserved and one open space of WDPC shall be elected for a 2 year term (elected on alternative years from each other, the other open space shall be elected annually).
7. All above positions (President, Deputy President, NUS UK 2nd Place, WNEC block of 7 and WDPC) require at least one FE CM proposer in order to be nominated.

Notes - At this time the following positions require:

- President and Deputy President – 10 proposers from 3 CMs
  - NUS UK 2nd place - 5 proposers from 3CMS
  - WNEC block of 7 – 3 proposers from 2 CMs
  - Welsh Democratic Procedures Committee – 3 proposers from 2CMs
  - NOTE - There is a possibility that candidates can be nominated and win without the backing of FE, the biggest section of our membership.
- 



# NHS Surcharge

Submitted by: Bangor University Students' Union


## Conference Believes

1. There is a false assumption that immigrants use the NHS without contributing to society
2. International students contribute culturally and financially to Wales and the U.K.
3. Under visa law, international students cannot resort to public funds, making the NHS the only welfare service available to them.
4. International students pay 2 to 4 times the tuition of EU and domestic students.
5. There are various barriers to education in Wales for international students including but not limited to culture shock, language, and costs
6. International students pay additional fees to access education in Wales including but not limited to English language courses and tests, foundation courses, transportation, shipping, and visas
7. In 2009, 12,000 international students enrolled in universities in Wales, contributing £150m to the Welsh economy
8. Britain is second only to the USA as a destination for education
9. A tier 4 visa is a requirement for most students coming to Wales from outside the EEA/EU
10. Westminster introduced a health surcharge on 6 April 2015 on visa applications, with few exceptions
11. On a tier 4 visa, the charge is £150 per year
12. The surcharge is payable at the time of visa application
13. While immigration is a Westminster power, education and health are devolved powers.

## Conference Further Believes

1. Healthcare is a right and should be accessible
2. Education is a right and should be accessible
3. Concerns of international students, irrelevant of their voting status, should be represented at the Welsh Assembly
4. The burden of supporting the NHS should not fall on the international students
5. Immigrants, including international students, should not be scapegoated or treated as cash cows by the governments of Wales and the U.K.
6. Continued restrictions and barriers placed on the international students will lead to a decrease in enrolment, which will be detrimental to Wales

## Conference Resolves

1. Campaign for FE and HE institutions to subsidise the NHS surcharge for visas issued on a CAS code from Welsh institutions
  2. Campaign for the Welsh Assembly to subsidise the NHS surcharge for visas issued on a CAS code from Welsh institutions
  3. Oppose further imposition of charges on international students
  4. Mandate the NUS international student representative to create a campaign based on the opinions and experiences of international students in Wales on the NHS and the visa surcharge
- 



# NUSW Constitution

Submitted by: NUS Wales Democratic Procedures Committee

## Conference Believes

1. The rules should indicate who we are as well as how we work
2. The rules should assist and ensure legitimacy in all things NUSW may do
3. To have text written within the rules strengthens our ability to practise what we preach, and have the tools to do so.

## Conference Further Believes


1. That NUSW holds sustainability close to its core, sustainability and work towards should have some place within the rules.
2. That accessibility for all is vital to ensure every student may have the right to access and have their voice heard by this national body.
3. The above issues can be deemed political and needs to be confirmed by the membership before WDPC can add them to the rules.
4. Our organisation has grown and needs to reflect this growth by reviewing the election section and if it truly reflects the membership.

## Conference Resolves

1. Accept the changes made to the Wales Rules 2013/14 and note the document as "Wales Rules 2015/16"
2. Mandate WDPC to liaise with WNEC to add a Sustainability section noting commitment and providing tools within the Rules document to recommend to the next Welsh National Conference
3. Mandate WDPC to liaise with WNEC to add an Accessibility section noting commitment and providing tools within the Rules document to recommend to the next Welsh National Conference.
4. Mandate the Welsh Democratic Procedures Committee to review the NUSW Election Rules section of the rules. Any changes will see WDPC be mandated to recommend such at the next Welsh National Conference.

Jargon – CM = Constituent member

The proposed constitution is included as an appendix






# A fair and equitably funded education system

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC

## Conference Believes

1. NUS Wales has long argued for a more integrated post-16 education sector in Wales, equitably funded across all forms of learning, ensuring accessible study for all.
2. After the UK Government trebled tuition fees to £9,000 in 2010, the Welsh Government introduced a tuition fee grant policy ensuring no Welsh student paid more than £3,800 wherever they study in the UK.
3. This system invests directly in students, ensuring they make choices based on the course that's right for them, not the cost.
4. This direct investment in students is an important principle that should be retained, but extended to all forms of education.
5. Welsh Government have reduced investment in the post-16 budget in recent years, with adult learning, part-time education and further education taking the brunt of cuts.
6. As a result, funding priorities have disproportionately targeted full-time undergraduate students through the tuition fee support system, with an imbalance of funding compared to other forms of learning; pitching sectors against each other, increasing arbitrary divides between further and higher education, and limiting opportunities for lifelong learning.
7. NUS Wales is represented on the review into higher education funding and student support through the President; final recommendations due September 2016
8. Through the review, funding within the post-16 budget could be redirected to other priority areas, even outside of the education budget; this money must remain in the post-16 sector, clearly and directly invested in students.
9. NUS Wales has joined University and College Union and Unison to launch Don't Cut Us Out – campaigning for increased investment in post-16 education and access to education for all.
10. The higher education review is reporting after the 2016 National Assembly elections, which risks stifling political discussions around the future of education funding in the run up to the Assembly elections, and little guarantee of implementation of recommendations.
11. Where funding for education is limited, campaigning should focus on arguing for increased investment, removing competition and in-equity in funding between all forms of learning.

## Conference Resolves

1. NUS Wales to lobby for increased investment in Post-16 education and equitable funding across all sectors
  2. NUS Wales to work within the review and lobby the Welsh Government to ensure the review examines and makes recommendations on all forms of learning.
  3. NUS Wales to lobby the newly elected government to ensure students get the best deal out of the review's recommendations.
- 



# Student Volunteering Week

Submitted by: Aberystwyth University Students' Union


## Conference Believes

1. 2016 will be the 15th year of Student Volunteering Week in the UK.
2. SVN (Student Volunteering Network) is a peer support network for anyone employed by a UK higher or further education institution to support student volunteering activity.

## Conference Further Believes

1. We believe that all students should have access to volunteering and social action opportunities while they're at college or university.
2. SVW is an invaluable opportunity for student volunteers, colleges and universities, charities, social enterprises, businesses and government.
3. SVW provides an opportunity to collaborate, discuss challenges and opportunities in student volunteering, and showcase innovative ideas.
4. SVW provides an opportunity for students to be recognised for their achievements in volunteering across the country.

## Conference Resolves

1. For NUS Wales to promote Student Volunteering Week and to support students unions' in providing opportunities for their students and within their communities.
  2. For NUS Wales to support students' unions to create opportunities for youth voice and youth social actions within their communities.
  3. For NUS Wales to formally celebrate the work students unions' do within their communities and wider society.
- 





# NUS Digital recognising the need for bilingualism

Submitted by: University of South Wales Students' Union

## Conference Believes

1. The Welsh Language Use Survey for 2013/14 shows that 310,600 people aged three and over living in Wales speaks Welsh fluently.
2. Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol has active branches in seven Universities in Wales.
3. Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is also increasing the number of projects running in FE Institutions in Wales.

## Conference Further Believes

1. NUS Digital should recognise that Wales is a nation with two languages.
2. NUS Digital should ensure that Welsh students can access digital information in the language of their choice.
3. With the appointment of the Welsh language commissioner Welsh language provision within Unions is becoming more and more pressing.

## Conference Resolves

1. That NUS Wales will lobby NUS Digital to provide a platform for bilingualism (Welsh).
2. That the bilingual platform will not have any extra cost to Welsh Unions.





# Equal access for asylum seekers

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC

## Conference Believes

1. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to education... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit".
2. An asylum seeker is a person who has lodged an application for protection on the basis of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.
3. Universities charge asylum seekers higher tuition fees in line with charges to international student- often more than £13,000
4. Asylum seekers aren't eligible for student loans, or grants, and do not have the right to work in the UK - usually living on just £36.95 a week, meaning covering £13,000 tuition would be extremely difficult, if not impossible, with conventional income streams.
5. In Scotland there are no fees for young asylum seekers, or children of asylum seekers
6. Universities set fees at their discretion and therefore have the power to decide to charge home fees or waive fees altogether.
7. 26 UK universities have amended their policies to allow asylum seekers to pay 'home' tuition fees, or have waived fees entirely, including Cardiff University

## Conference Further Believes

1. Asylum seekers did not come to the UK by choice - they are fleeing persecution.
2. Many asylum seekers came to the UK as children and grew up in the British education system, legally obliged to attend school until the age of 18.
3. Each year, those who gain the necessary qualifications to progress to university find the system which classed them as "legally obliged to attend school" now classes them as "international" with financial barriers in place to prevent further study.
4. Asylum seekers often have to wait years before a decision on their asylum application. Unable to work, attending university gives them an opportunity to gain skills that helps them build their life in the UK, or when they return to their country of origin.
5. NUS Wales has begun working with STAR and other groups on a Wales-wide equal access campaign.

## Conference Resolves

1. To support SUs to lobby Welsh universities to sign up to the Equal Access Charter, which calls for:
  - a. Every institution offers fee waivers and full scholarships and bursaries to a number of Asylum seekers.
  - b. For universities to change the status of asylum seekers to that of 'home student', making them eligible for a student loan.
  - c. Institutions to publicise their equal access status, to encourage students to apply.





# Recognising Non-formal education

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC


## Conference Believes

1. Professor Graham Donaldson was commissioned by the Welsh Government to conduct a review to consider new assessment and curriculum arrangements. His report champions six “areas of learning and experience” as the basis for Wales’ new curriculum, which would transcend all learning from the age of three through to 16.
2. The Donaldson review incorporates all learners aged three to 16, from Foundation Phase to Key Stage 4 (GCSE)
3. The recommendations bids to develop: ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives; enterprising creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work; ethical informed citizens of Wales and the world; and healthy, confident individuals ready to live fulfilling lives as valued members of society
4. The new curriculum will be organized into six “areas of learning and experience”: expressive arts; health and wellbeing; humanities; languages, literacy and communication; math and numeracy; and science and technology
5. NUS Wales holds a space on the Steering Group within the Donaldson implementation.

## Conference Further Believes

1. That student’s learn outside of their formal educational environments.
2. Students are encouraged to get involved in clubs and societies as we recognize that there are other ways of learning and developing outside of the classroom.
3. Many young people choose to undertake personal and social developmental learning through their participation in voluntary youth provision.
4. That the areas of learning that take place in extracurricular activities marry up with the aims of the Donaldson recommendations.

## Conference Resolves

1. NUS Wales should champion better recognition of continuing professional development, no accredited learning and vocational courses within Donaldson.
  2. For NUS Wales to begin the conversations of recognizing non-formal education within the curriculum using the findings from the Barriers to Student Opportunities report.
  3. For NUS Wales to carry out research into how problem based learning can enable young people to tackle social issues and become active citizens in their communities whilst furthering their education.
- 



# The Game Changer

Submitted by: Coleg Cambria

## Conference Believes

1. Figures show that there are currently 54,385 apprenticeships in Wales.
2. NUS Wales has a responsibility to represent all learners over the age of 16.
3. That the National Society of Apprentices Wales exists to represent apprentices throughout Wales and is supported by NUS Wales.
4. A member of NSOA Wales leadership team is co-opted onto the Welsh National Executive Council annually to ensure that the apprentice voice is represented in NUS Wales' decision making processes.

## Conference Further Believes

1. That apprentices are students.
2. That apprentices are experts in their areas of education and work.
3. That NSoAW seeks to campaign on issues that affect apprentices.

## Conference Resolves

1. To give the National Society of Apprentices Wales the equivalent powers to a constituent member, being the following:
  - a. To be able to send full delegations to NUS Wales conferences
  - b. To have full voting rights throughout NUS Wales processes
  - c. To have full speaking rights at NUS Wales conferences
  - d. To have the ability to table motions
  - e. To have the ability to stand in NUS Wales elections





# A Super Funky Dragon

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC


## Conference Believes

1. Last year conference passed a policy mandating NUS Wales to lobby the Assembly to recreate a national youth assembly
2. Wales is still the only country in Europe without a coordinated national youth voice
3. Cuts to local youth services have limited opportunities for young people
4. A paper has been developed for the Education Minister that outlines a funded model for students unions and NUS Wales can add practical and meaningful value to the youth sector.

## Conference Further Believes

1. NUS Wales is now a member of Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS)
2. NUS Wales has submitted a pledge to Step up to Serve: "NUS Wales will build partnerships and alliances to create social opportunities for young people in Wales, and provide them with a platform to help articulate the voice of learners in pre 16 education."
3. NUS Wales understands and recognises the importance of empowering and engaging young people with democracy and issues that affect them in society.
4. NUS Wales is developing a model that can support and enhance youth engagement, social action and national voice opportunities through students' unions.

## Conference Resolves

1. For NUS Wales to continue their work in collaboration with Cymru Ifanc, Llais Ifanc, British Youth Council, Assembly outreach team and the children's commissioners' office to create a National Youth Assembly/Council.
  2. For NUS Wales to support students unions to coordinate opportunities for local youth councils and youth organizations in their communities.
  3. For NUS Wales to support students unions to create opportunities for youth voice and youth social actions within their communities.
  4. For NUS Wales to work in partnership with NUS extra to create a sustainable funding model to support this project.
- 



# NSOA Takeover

Submitted by: Coleg Cambria


## **Conference Believes**

1. That on the 5th of May 2016 there will be an Assembly Election.

## **Conference further Believes**

1. The National Society of Apprentices Wales has written a manifesto outlining policy asks.
2. The six policy asks are as follows; gender equality, routes into higher education, introducing a travel card, Welsh language access, public procurement, parity of esteem.
3. NSoAW has been lobbying ahead of the assembly elections on the six policy areas that apprentices have identified.

## **Conference Resolves**

1. We call upon NUS Wales to take note of the NSoAW manifesto.
  2. For NUS Wales to recognise the 6 policy areas that NSoAW has outlined lobby appropriately.
  3. For NUS Wales to adopt the manifesto points as policy.
- 



## Getting Stuff Done

Submitted by: Coleg Cambria


### **Conference Believes**

1. NUS Wales has a responsibility to represent all learners over the age of 16.
2. The National Society of Apprentices Wales exists to represent apprentices throughout Wales and is supported by NUS Wales.
3. That NUS Wales works with the National Society of Apprentices Wales to support them in their work.
4. A member of NSoAW leadership team is formally represented within NUS Wales's decision making structures.

### **Conference further Believes**

1. NUS Wales has a duty of care to consult with NSoAW and always consider the views of apprentices within their work.

### **Conference Resolves**

1. To mandate the NUS Wales Full Time Officer team to continually support the National Society of Apprentices.
  2. To mandate the NUS Wales Full Time Officer Team to develop a scheme of work with NSoAW leadership team.
  3. For NUS Wales to ensure that NSoAW receives adequate resources to undertake their work
- 



# Save Wales from Student Bursary Cuts

Submitted by: Cardiff University Students' Union

## **Wales NEC Notes:**

1. George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, released his Spending review and autumn statement in November. The statement announced turning nursing, midwifery and allied health professional students' bursaries into loans in England. These changes may also affect paramedic courses.
2. The proposed changes only apply to students who study in England, but this change may prompt debates in devolved bodies. This has been the case with many other UK government decisions and therefore this brings great anxiety for healthcare students studying in Wales.
3. When 50% of their course is dedicated to unpaid clinical practice, and the academic year is longer, these students already have fewer opportunities to work part time to find extra funding.
4. Nursing and midwifery students are more likely to be mature, working class and women. Many have student loans from a first degree and so will be accruing even more debt.
5. The Royal College of Midwives has warned of debts of up to £65,000 could be accrued and that many are likely to be deterred from the profession. This is likely to lead to increased dropout rates on allied health professional courses.

## **Wales NEC Believes:**

1. NHS students are students as well as workers, and should be paid fairly for the work they carried out; not put in debt.

## **Wales NEC Resolves:**

1. To condemn this move as it shows disdain to the contribution of NHS workers and access to the profession.
2. For NUS Wales to lobby ministers to ensure that these changes are not proposed in Wales
3. To support Cardiff University's Students' Unions open letter to Welsh government which states a position against similar proposals in Wales.
4. To work with all Welsh Students' Unions, RCN, RCM, BMA, Unison and other stakeholders to fight against similar proposals in Wales.
5. To share the Royal College of Nursing's call for evidence, and the Royal College of Midwives' links to lobby MPs and AM's with relevant member unions.
6. Support NUS and Students' Union campaigns against the proposed changes in England.







# We call upon the UK Government to re-instate S4C funding

Submitted by: Cardiff University Students' Union

## NUS Wales NEC Notes

1. George Osborne's Autumn Statement announced further funding cuts from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport from the present level of £6.7m to £5m by 2019-20.
2. Huw Jones, Chairman of the S4C Authority, said: "The decision to reduce the funding S4C receives from central government is disappointing, particularly as the reduction is substantially greater than the overall reduction which the department has received.
3. At the moment, S4C receives approximately 90% of its funding through the licence fee and the Secretary of State has suggested that S4C should implement savings in proportion to those which the BBC is expected to implement.
4. Huw Jones, Chairman of the S4C Authority, said: "It is inevitable that cuts of this nature will have implications for the range and diversity of the service that we provide and for our ability to take advantage of new opportunities."
5. Jamie Bevan, Chair of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg, said the Conservatives had broken a manifesto pledge to "safeguard the funding and editorial independence of S4C"
6. In 2010, the Government announced a cut to its grant to S4C of 94% over four years from £101 million in 2010-11 down to £7 million in 2014/15.
7. The above cuts are in relation to direct grants given by UK Government and not in relation to BBC licence fee or commercial income.
8. The BBC and S4C financial relationship will be discussed during the BBC Charter renewal next year.
9. Some University students currently work part-time with S4C and contracted companies.
10. The Conservatives committed the following statement in the manifesto;  
"We would protect and promote the Welsh language – Welsh Conservatives believe in protecting and promoting the Welsh language. We would safeguard the funding and editorial independence of S4C. We would promote the National Eisteddfod on the global stage."

## NUS Wales NEC Believes

1. Broken manifesto commitments are unacceptable
2. S4C provides an invaluable service for Welsh speakers, learners and Non-Welsh speakers here in Wales, the UK and Internationally.
3. 562,000 of the whole population of Wales are able to speak Welsh.
4. There are large numbers who speak Welsh but are not fluent
5. More must be done to prevent cuts to the S4C budget
6. Further cuts could damage scholarships, training, internship and work experience opportunities given to students
7. Further cuts could damage employment opportunities for those wishing to work through the medium of Welsh and the Media Industry in Wales. Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 states that "those wishing to live their lives through the medium of Welsh should be able to do so."
8. Welsh Universities value Journalism, Media and Culture and their Schools of Welsh and the important relationships they have with S4C and other media platforms.

## NUS Wales NEC Resolves:

1. For NUS Wales to send a letter to the Welsh Government to call on UK Government to re-instate full financial commitment to S4C.
2. For NUS Wales to send a letter to the UK Government to call on them to re-instate full financial commitment to S4C.
3. For NUS Wales to lend its support to campaigns to secure the future of S4C





# Policy passed at Wales Conference 2015

## Giving the Funk back to the Dragon

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC


### Conference Believes:

1. Funky Dragon was an organisation designed to enable children and young people in Wales to get their voices heard by Government and others who make decisions about policies and services that affect their lives.
2. On 01.10.2014 Funky Dragon closed meaning that Wales has become the only country in Europe without a National Youth Assembly.
3. Funky Dragon was said to be replaced by an as yet unknown mechanism. This decision was taken by government without any consultation with children and young people.
4. Funky Dragon has still not yet been replaced in any form.
5. With the vast cuts to local council budgets young people are being stripped of vital youth services.
6. The reduced council budgets are not only directly affecting statutory and non-statutory youth services but are shutting young people out from the opportunity of engaging in democracy.

### Conference Further Believes:

1. The British Youth Council, is the national youth council of the UK.
2. Currently NUSW does not work very closely with the British Youth Council.
3. The BYC work with networks of local youth councils, to empower young people aged 25 and under, wherever they are from, to have a say and be heard.
4. They aim to help young people to participate in decisions that affect them; have a voice and campaign on issues they believe in, inspire them to have a positive impact, and gain recognition for their positive contribution to communities, society and the world.
5. That with the current season of elections, every effort should be made to engage young people with politics and politicians with young people.
6. Young people should be presented with the opportunity to engage in democracy.

### Conference Resolves:

1. NUSW should work with the British Youth Council especially in the run up to the general and assembly elections to engage young people in democracy.
  2. NUSW should lobby the Welsh Assembly, calling on them to re-create Funky Dragon or a similar yet improved independent organisation lead by young people for young people.
  3. NUSW should lobby local authorities to ring-fence funding to fund local youth councils.
- 



# No GCSEs for You

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC


## **Conference Believes:**

1. As of September 2015, it is compulsory to be in some form of formal education until the age of 18.
2. If you are in part time education you have to pay to take or re-sit your GCSE's regardless of your age.
3. If you are in full-time education these GCSE re-sits are free or are included in the new Welsh Bacc.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. Further education is a second chance that many students require to continue in their career or start anew.
2. Everyone should have access to education and should not be barred due to financial implications.
3. Students have other pressures and external factors that affect their exam results.
4. All students should have the opportunity to study flexibly and should not have to undertake a full-time course just to achieve basic qualifications.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. NUSW should lobby the Welsh Government and relevant sector bodies to ensure that students are not being penalized for learning on a part-time basis.
  2. NUSW should lobby the Welsh Government to ensure that as it is compulsory to be in education until the age of 18, that further education is accessible, flexible and fully funded.
- 



# Time for a Housing Campaign

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC

## Conference Believes:

1. Wales is currently undergoing a policy shift compared to England with housing, with the Renting homes bill currently going through the Senedd, the impact of which is not likely to be felt until late 2016/17.
2. That for the majority of students across Wales, living in low quality standards of housing is seen as an expected rite of passage for their time at University.
3. The student private rented market is a lucrative one, with rent prices increasing in recent years, not in line with increased quality of housing.
4. The majority of letting agencies will charge extortionate fees to rent a property, of an average of at least £100 per tenant, whilst also charging the landlord simultaneously. These fees are often not transparent in the renting process.
5. That NUS UK has just launched Ready to Rent. This was assisted by the Tenancy Deposit Service (TDS).

## Conference Further Believes:

1. That through influencing legislation and manifesto policies in the run up to the assembly elections, NUS Wales has an opportunity to direct Welsh housing policy in coming years.
2. That Wales will soon possess different enough housing legislation from England to warrant its own version of Ready to Rent.
3. The housing bill enacted last year has so far failed in its efforts to regulate the quality of housing, as local councils are under-resourced and unable to carry out the necessary quality checks in order to enforce regulation.
4. Students are classed as being in relative poverty if they spend more than a third of their support on rent, and this impacts a significant number of students. This number will rise as rent levels increase.
5. That a cap on the amount of rent charged for student properties can be achieved when linked to council tax exemption.
6. Expensive, upfront letting agency fees can often put students in financial difficulty and make their finances hard to manage.
7. NUS Wales hasn't in recent years had a clear policy direction on housing, resulting in a lack of a national campaign on the issue.

## Conference Resolves:

1. To utilise Ready to Rent, affiliated unions and Shelter Cymru to create Ready to Rent Cymru, to be published late 2016, and to apply to TDS for partnership and funding for this.
2. For NUS Wales to begin formulating a policy on rent control.
3. For NUS Wales to lobby for legislation removing letting agency fees, with an interim requirement for admin, deposit and referencing fee amounts to be legally required on advertising for rental properties (much like Energy Performance Certificates are).
4. To mandate NUS Wales to investigate the use of the Unipol Code and other supplementary codes by Welsh Students' Unions.
5. For NUSW to campaign in the run up to the Assembly Elections for the Welsh Government to place conditions on Local Authority (LA) funding to provide adequate funding for LA housing investigation/prosecution teams.
6. To support Student unions to run yearly housing advice fayres, to educate student tenants on their rights.





# Devolution that works for Wales

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC


## Conference Believes:

1. The National Assembly for Wales currently has power over twenty devolved areas, including housing, health and education.
2. Many of those devolved powers directly impact upon students' lives, however a large number of decisions taken in Westminster that aren't devolved to the National Assembly still directly affect students in Wales.
3. Many Welsh citizens, and students domiciled in Wales, don't fully understand devolution and what powers the Assembly has; with a recent survey demonstrating 40% of Welsh citizens didn't know how the NHS is devolved.
4. The Assembly is currently reliant on block grant funding from Westminster to fund its activities.
5. The Barnett formula \*the formula used to decide Wales' level of block grant funding from Westminster) is not fit for purpose, and Wales is arguably underfunded each year.
6. Wales doesn't have devolved power over its electoral processes, unlike Scotland.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. The Welsh Government estimates that in 2014/15, the Welsh Government budget was £1.5billion lower in real terms, compared to 2010/11.
2. Cuts from Westminster to the Welsh block grant impact directly on students' lives- for example a reduction of the post 16 education budget by £65m in 2014 saw a cut of £20m from HE, and £45m from FE.
3. Wales is set to receive revenue-raising powers, with full devolution of business rates from this year, and stamp duty and landfill tax coming in 2018.
4. These revenue-raising powers will go some way to providing the Welsh Government with flexibility in directing raised funds to areas of need, but Wales will still not have powers to raise income to a sufficient level.
5. Not having devolved power over its electoral processes results in the National Assembly being unable to improve citizens' engagement with elections and provides no say over the logistics and running of elections.
6. Wales has recently been devolved power to call a referendum on income tax-varying powers, in which the Assembly could choose to extend the vote to 16/17 year olds, but this is limited to this referendum and not extended to other Welsh elections.
7. A lack of understanding from Welsh citizens as to where the power is held for decisions and devolution leads to a feeling of powerlessness and lack of understanding as to how to influence change in politics.

## Conference Resolves:

1. For NUS Wales to publicly campaign in the run up to the general election for UK political parties to commit to further devolution for Wales, and for a devolution settlement / funding formula that meets the needs of Wales and its people.
  2. For NUS Wales to provide resources on devolution for students' unions, and to lobby the National Assembly to create an easily-understood guide to educate students and young people.
  3. That NUS Wales should continue to campaign for devolution of electoral responsibility, so that 16 and 17 year olds can be given the vote for all Welsh elections.
  4. For NUS Wales to hold a cross-party conference after the election to raise awareness among Welsh MPs of our devolved vision.
- 



# Qualifications Wales and the Welsh Bacc

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC


## **Conference Believes:**

1. The Welsh Government's consultation on proposed legislation to establish a new qualifications body for Wales has closed.
2. The result of this was the forming of Qualifications Wales.
3. As recommended in the Review of Qualifications in Wales, Qualifications Wales will initially undertake quality assurance functions which are comparable with the regulatory functions currently carried out by Welsh Ministers.
4. In the longer term it is proposed the new body will also take responsibility for awarding qualifications such as GCSEs, A-Levels and the Welsh Baccalaureate.
5. The current FE qualification will change from its current form to contain a half of the award consisting of the Welsh Bacc, a quarter GCSE's, with the remaining quarter being either further GSEs, A levels or Vocational Qualifications.
6. By 2019, Qualifications Wales expects to have all further education providers offering the new qualification.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. Until 2015 the current qualifications will continue largely unchanged and will continue to be regulated by the Welsh Government.
2. The Welsh Bacc is currently viewed in a negative light by the majority of FE Students and is a very unpopular subject.
3. Although the new Welsh Bacc qualification is different from the old one that is currently in place, there is already a very negative stigma in place regarding the Welsh Bacc.
4. There is some concerns as to how the marking of the Welsh Bacc is to be carried out due to it being studied in a personal-choice modular and project format. The concern is around lecturers marking subject areas that they have little or no knowledge in.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. NUS Wales should lobby Qualifications Wales to secure a place for a student on the governing board.
  2. NUSW should monitor the development of Qualifications Wales and the roll out of the new FE qualification involving the Welsh Bacc by ensuring that they are on any steering or stakeholders group formed.
  3. NUSW should work closely with FE Unions and learner reps to monitor any complains made about the new qualifications system and act on any given feedback accordingly.
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# Financial Contingency Fund in Wales

Submitted by: University of Wales Trinity Saint David Students' Union


## **Conference Believes:**

1. That if the Welsh Assembly cuts the funding it currently provides it will negatively impact up to 14,000 students.
2. That more rural areas and small student towns do not offer the same job opportunities that cities do for students looking for work to supplement their low maintenance grant.
3. That there is no formal guidance for which groups should be prioritized for additional support, the financial contingency fund provides such guidance for emergency loans as well as grants and more long term requests.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. The Financial contingency fund supports and enables hundreds of students to carry out/continue their studies within Higher Education.
2. Access to the financial contingency fund directly impacts on retention of widening access students, without the fund we risk losing a while demographic of students.
3. That the financial pressures of institutions having to provide financial support now and the probability that the Disabled Students Allowance will be something that falls to the university to provide in the future means that this area of FCF will suffer a huge cut.
4. There is already evidence that FCF funds are misused to pay for DS assessments.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. To lobby's the Welsh Assembly to not scrap of even decrease the Higher Education Financial Contingency Fund pot.
  2. To mandate NUS Wales to support Students' Unions with campaigning on their campuses.
  3. To address this issue with vice chancellors in order to ensure that suitable financial plans are in place should the need to implement arise.
  4. Support students unions with lobbying their university to ensure suitable financial plans are in place.
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# Mark my Words, Not my Name

Submitted by: Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai Students' Union


## **Conference Believes:**

1. NUS has successfully campaigned for many Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to introduce anonymous marking in the `Mark My Words, Not My Name` campaign.
2. Anonymous marking is now a common feature in many HEIs.
3. No Further Education colleges in Wales offer an anonymous marking system.
4. Teachers in FE colleges mark their students' work fully knowing who has written each assignment.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. Assignments completed by FE students are often assessed internally by their teachers.
2. Teachers may hold bias views on each student and these views may influence the mark given.
3. The bias views may lead to a student receiving a mark that they have not deserved, either too high a grade or too low a grade.
4. External verification, when carried out, is often a role given to a teacher within the college who will likely know the student who has written the work that they are marking, such as teaching the student in a different subject.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. NUS Wales to lobby the Welsh Government to introduce anonymous marking into FE institutions.
  2. NUS Wales to call for a review on the fairness of assessments in FE colleges.
  3. NUS Wales to re-introduce and amend the `Mark My Words, Not My Name` campaign for FE colleges.
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# Apprentices know what's best!

Submitted by: Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai Students' Union

## **Conference Believes:**

1. The National Society of Apprentices is an established and fully functioning society being the means through which the voices of apprentices in Wales are being heard.
2. NSoA has a leadership network across the UK and Wales that works collaboratively on behalf of apprentices throughout the country.
3. The Welsh National Executive Committee should not make decisions on behalf of apprentices without the input from apprentices.
4. With the formation of the NSoA, apprentices have a legitimate voice and platform on which to stand to ensure that their views are being heard. This being so WNEC does not need to make decisions on behalf of this students group.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. WNEC should continue to work with NSoA to ensure that apprentices are being included in the work of NUSW.
2. Training providers that provide apprenticeships should apply for and become members of NUSW so that they can fully engage in our democratic procedures.
3. The representation of an apprentice on WNEC is a short term fixture to ensure that apprentices are embed in the structures and work of NUSW with the view of exploring further involvement for apprentices within our democratic structures.
4. The incorporation of a representative from the NSoA onto WNEC would.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. To introduce into the constitution of NUS Wales "NUS Wales Rules/NUS Wales National Executive Committee 2013-2014" Provision 6 under "Membership of NUS Wales National Executive Committee" stating: 'WNEC shall have the power to, by unanimous vote co-opt a "special member" to sit on WNEC. The "special member" shall be co-opted from a constituent member of affiliated organization, and shall have rights on WNEC equal to "individual members". The "special member" shall serve on WNEC until the election of the "individual members" at NUS Wales National Conference.'
2. WNEC should co-opt a member of the NSoA leadership team, being elected by the national society, to sit as the "special member" on WNEC.
3. Long term solutions to the representation of apprentices within WNEC will be explored in the coming year.





# Wales needs a postgraduate loan system

Submitted by: NUS Wales NEC


## Conference Believes:

1. The recent announcement in the Autumn statement by the UK Government proposed the introduction of loans of up to £10,000 for students domiciled in England studying post graduate courses anywhere in the UK.
2. Post graduate education has historically been expensive and inaccessible to those who cannot afford the high fees, and there have been socio-economic differences in who studies at post graduate level.
3. This announcement was welcomed as a move towards making post graduate study more accessible, however it is limited to only English domiciled students.
4. Through the Barnett consequential funding formula, any increase in spending in Education student finance should result in Wales being offered a match level (equivalent level) of funding to be spent in the same area.
5. The current government review into education funding and student support (Diamond review) is currently examining post graduate education funding as part of its terms of reference.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. NUS Wales believes the Welsh Government could delay a decision on Welsh postgraduate loans until after the conclusion of the 'Diamond' review in 2016; and therefore any system proposed would not be enacted until 2018/19.
2. There is a danger that a pseudo market may appear, whereby Universities will raise the cost of all postgraduate courses to at least £10,000, in order to benefit from the full loan from the students studying that course.
3. If Welsh students are not offered a similar loan to study postgraduate courses, they could be 'priced out of the system', and unable to afford the increased cost of postgraduate study.
4. Any time delay in formulating a Welsh PG loan system will result in a generation of Welsh students potentially unable to afford postgraduate study and being disadvantaged compared to their English counterparts.
5. The English PG loan system recommends limiting the accessibility of loans to those under 30, discriminating against those returning to education later in life.
6. The NUS Wales president has presented a paper to the Education minister outlining the need for a PG loan system for Wales that doesn't limit availability by age or subject choice.

## Conference Resolves:

1. To mandate the NUS Wales president to publically lobby the Welsh Government to introduce a Welsh PG loan system, with a commitment for a system to be made by the end of the academic year.
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# Cash in the Attic

Submitted by: Bangor University Students' Union

## Conference Believes:

1. That a significant number of students studying in a HE institution will live in Private Rented Sector (PRS) accommodation, often classed as Houses in Multiple Occupation.
2. That NUS' Homes fit for Study Report found that the average rent for all respondents was £366 per calendar month, with only 53% of respondents feeling that this was good value for money.
3. That student housing is often badly maintained and negatively impacts upon tenants' quality of living, academic attainment, and the visual amenities of local communities.
4. That NUS' Homes fit for Study Report found that those living in the broader private rented sector were the least likely of all groups to agree that their accommodation was in good condition (64 per cent).
5. That there has been a cut of 3.4% in the budgets of Local Authorities for the current financial year, totally £146m, which will continue to impact on Local Authorities ability to monitor and enforce standards in the PRS.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. That many often see poor-quality accommodation as a rite of passage for students during their time at University.
2. That ongoing problems and negative perceptions of students living in the community has in Article 4 Directions which limit the growth of shared housing in particular areas in England.
3. That, collectively, tenants' contribute large sums of income for landlords' back pockets and that this money is often not invested in maintaining the properties that they rent to students.
4. That a good quality home is vital in ensuring that students can succeed in higher education.

## Conference Resolves:

1. That NUSW should call on political parties in Wales to commit to providing local authorities with adequate funding and resources in order to ensure that Housing Officers can enforce and monitor standards in the private rented sector.





# EMA and WGLG not good enough!

Submitted by: Coleg Sir Gâr Students' Union & Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai Students' Union

## Conference Believes:

1. If you are entitled to Welsh Government Learning Grant (WGLG), the maximum amount you can receive over the year is £1,500
2. WGLG is paid in three instalments throughout the year and you are only entitled to the full amount if you attendance is above 92% but this percentage is variable from college to college.
3. If you are entitled to Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA), the maximum you are entitled to is £30 a week but only if you have 100% attendance.
4. EMA is paid in fortnightly instalments
5. If you are studying full-time in further education you are not entitled to Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and housing benefits.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. Unemployed mature students re-entering education often have family to support.
2. WGLG does not cover the cost of supporting a family or run a household.
3. WGLG is paid in three instalments and the first one isn't paid until October.
4. Students often chase up individual teachers who do not enter register marks consistently, in order to receive EMA payments that they are entitled to.
5. Many courses especially vocational require upfront fee for essential equipment, hidden course costs and mandatory trips.
6. Everyone should be entitled to education and should not be unable to access it due to financial barrier.

## Conference Resolves:

1. NUS Wales should lobby the Welsh Assembly to improve the current student funding system in Further Education.
2. Deputy President should lobby the Welsh Government to increase the number of payments of WGLG.
3. NUS Wales should support FE Student Unions' in challenging senior management to ensure that registers are completed consistently.
4. NUS Wales should lobby the Welsh Government to examine funding support system and review them to address the contradicting and conflicting funding regarding JSL and Housing support for students.
5. NUS Wales should ensure that no loan systems are introduced in FE.





# Students are service users too

Submitted by: Bangor University Students' Union


## **Conference Believes:**

1. In the public value of the NHS, and that health services should remain public, accountable and fit for purpose for the future.
2. That the NHS and local health services are changing across Wales in order to meet the growing challenges that the NHS faces in order to meet demand.
3. That the NHS is facing cuts of 8.6% in Wales, deeper than any other part of the UK, which has seen service reorganization and the loss of some local services in order to reduce costs.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. That there is over a quarter of a million students in Wales who will all access NHS services at some point during their studies.
2. That Aberystwyth Students' Union passed a motion of no confidence in Hywel Dda University Health Board over a lack of consultation and engagement with the public over mass service reorganization throughout mid Wales.
3. That there has been a loss of sexual health and mental health services in local communities which can create barriers for students and other service users accessing vital support.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. To mandate NUSW to develop guidance on engaging with and navigating public bodies in Wales, such as Community Health Councils and Local Health Boards.
  2. That NUSW should work to ensure that Local Health Boards engage with institutions and students Unions over change to NHS service.
  3. That NUSW should support SUs to work with Local Health Boards, either through individual projects, campaigns or initiatives, or where appropriate through formal representation on boards.
  4. To support calls from Royal College of Nursing in Wales' President Tina Donnelly to establish an NHS Commission to ensure the long term sustainability of the NHS in Wales.
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# Let's talk about sex, baby!

Submitted by: Bangor University Students' Union


## **Conference Believes:**

1. The National Curriculum covers anatomy, puberty, biological aspects of sexual reproduction and use of hormones to control and promote fertility as well as information about sexually transmitted infections.
2. Content of PSHE and Sexual Education is based on guidance produced by the Welsh Assembly Government.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. Sexual Education should include information on healthy sexual and romantic relationships, non-heterosexual sexualities and trans\* identities to ensure that students fully understand the feelings of others and themselves.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. To mandate NUSW to adopt the SRE Charter much the same as NUS UK has done.
  2. To mandate NUSW to lobby the Welsh Assembly Government to toughen its stance on prescribing the curriculum around sexual education taught in primary, secondary schools through the upcoming curriculum review.
  3. To mandate NUSW to run a campaign to bridge the gaps in knowledge of HE and FE students who have not received a comprehensive sexual education and dispel myths and non-truths to better their knowledge and understanding.
  4. To mandate NUS Wales to lobby the Sex Education Forum to extend its work to Wales.
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# Location of NUS Wales Events

Submitted by: Aberystwyth University Students' Union

## **Conference Believes:**

1. NUS Wales hosts a number of events throughout the year.
2. These events are Zone conferences, y Talwrn, National Conference and WNEC meetings.
3. NUS Wales also hosts and facilitates training, boot camps and receptions.
4. Wales' HE and FE institutions are spread across Wales.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. That the burden of cost (transport, accommodation) and time spent travelling should not repeatedly fall on the same group of unions.
2. The South Wales corridor has been a popular choice to hold events.
3. Liberation Committee Training should take into consideration the distance that members would have to travel.
4. NUS Wales and its members would benefit if more events were held at Students' Unions across Wales.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. That the location of NUS Wales NEC should take place at a constituent members' venue such as SU or College and rotate between North, Mid and South Wales.
2. That the location of NUS Wales y Talwrn should take place at a constituent members' venue and rotate between North, Mid and South Wales.
3. That the location of NUS Wales National Conference should rotate between North, Mid and South Wales.
4. That the location for all trainings and boot camps consider travel arrangements for delegates and representatives and for the WNEC to agree on locations. Strong consideration should be given to the need to duplicate training in order to allow members to attend.
5. That all dates and locations for the events above are approved by the WNEC following recommendations from NUS Wales staff.





# Stamping out Hate Crimes in Wales

Submitted by: Aberystwyth University Students' Union


## **Conference Believes:**

1. A hate crime is defined as any incident that is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate.
2. That hate crimes are under reported.
3. That many student do not feel able to report hate crime to the police.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. That students' unions can become hate crime reporting centres.
2. That the Welsh Government does not prioritise the reduction of hate crime, especially outside of the South Wales belt.
3. That Victim Support is currently gathering hate crime statistics to present to the Welsh Government.
4. That students' unions can help collect these statistics by using Victim Support's website.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. To mandate NUSW officers or their designated deputies to meet with Victim Support.
  2. To work with Victim Support to help students' union advice centres become hate crime reporting centres.
  3. To continue to lobby the Welsh Government to prioritise hate crime reduction.
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# The 1994 Act is Problematic

Submitted by: Aberystwyth University Students' Union


## Conference Believes:

1. That the 1994 Education Act states "a person should not hold sabbatical union office, or paid elected union office, for more than two years in total at the establishment;"
2. This means that elected part time student's union officers cannot be paid by their Students' Union without this counting as one of their years of office under the 1994 Education Act.

## Conference Further Believes:

1. That while it supports the idea of limiting full time students' union officers to two years in post, not being able to pay part time officers limits the number of people who would consider running for these posts.
2. That NUS Wales 'Pound in your Pocket' research states over half of students regularly worry about meeting basic living expenses.

## Conference Resolves:

1. For NUS Wales to lobby the Welsh Government to amend the 1994 Education Act to make it clear that part-time students' union officers should be able to be paid without it counting towards the two year term limit.
  2. To define part-time officers as those who would be expected to less than 16 hours a week.
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# Mandate to take action on cuts to DSA

Submitted by: University of Wales Trinity Saint David Students' Union


## **Conference Believes:**

1. That the cuts to the disabled students allowance (DSA) proposed by Westminster with the further proposal that universities provide that extra support themselves.
2. That cuts to DSA and the Financial Contingency Fund (FCF) will mean that universities are expected to fill that gap with their own finances.
3. This will put a strain on what we are already told are stretched resources.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. That there will not be suitable enough funds to adequately support both DSA and the FCF.
2. That cuts will negatively affect any widening access initiatives universities already have.
3. That there is a direct correlation between students remaining in study due to the support they receive from DSA and those who need support and are not/unable to access it dropping out.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. Support students' unions to get their students lobbying their home and university MPs.
  2. To address this issue with vice chancellors in order to ensure that suitable financial plans are in place.
  3. Support students unions with lobbying their university to ensure suitable financial plans are in place.
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# Specialised and researched support for merging institutions

Submitted by: University of Wales Trinity Saint David Students' Union

## **Conference Believes:**

1. That several institutions have merged in the last few years, and that further mergers are close on the horizon.
2. That unions are often left to struggle to merge and adapt.
3. Unions face many difficulties with mergers such as geographical, becoming dual sector, and institutional barriers.

## **Conference Further Believes:**

1. That there is no `handbook` on how to work through mergers and staff issues that arise.
2. That research into the geographical and historic challenges faced by unions needs to be carried out.

## **Conference Resolves:**

1. Create tools and tailored support for student unions before and during post-merger activity.
2. Look at tailoring support for different sizes (both in regards of staff and block grant) of unions
3. Specific support for colleges merging with HE institutions.
4. Create a role that specialises in support for unions in the ever changing landscape of future mergers.

