

NUS Scotland President

Author:	Luke Humberstone
Date produced:	15/02/18
Committees:	Scottish Executive Committee
Action:	Approve

Priorities

Main priorities	Progress (what have you achieved since the last Committee meeting)
Student Mental Health	The Charter for Rights on Student Mental Health is being written up. An appeal for quotes has gone out with 8 volunteers having come forward to share their experiences to help with the charter. Discussions with civil servants and Scottish Funding Council about including mental health in the letter of guidance from the minister to the SFC.
Student Support Review	The Budget for Better campaign has continued with visits to members to get further sign ups and members plan to meet MSPs. A letter signed by all members was sent to all party leaders to ask for their support in the campaign. A joint letter from members of the Student Support Review was also sent directly to the minister asking for a progress update and/or a timetable for implementation.
Union Development	I met with seven members and discussed how they could be supported by NUS Scotland (details below).
Brexit: All Students welcome	Gave evidence to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee on the benefits of Erasmus+.

Other achievements

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Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed

Event/meeting	Outcomes and/or actions taken or agreed on
Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee	11/01/18 Gave evidence on the benefits of Erasmus+.
Race Equity Training Pt Two	18/01/18 I attended the mandatory Race Equity Training being rolled out across NUS in response to the Institutional Racism Review. I learned how to be more aware of racist incidents and how to challenge them. (This was repeated from December as I missed part of the training due to circumstance beyond my control).
Think Positive: Learning, Sharing,	24/01/18 I addressed this event and made a call for folk to share their experiences of mental health.



and Networking event	
#KeepErasmusPlus	29/01/18 Met with Colleges Scotland, Universities Scotland and Youth Link Scotland about their campaign to keep Erasmus+. Agreed to ask SEC if NUS Scotland can be added to the list of organisations supporting the campaign.
Meeting with SFC Chair Mike Cantlay	29/01/18 Introductory meeting with Mike. We discussed how NUS Scotland and SFC work together as a key stakeholder. We agreed to discuss how College SAs are funded in light of the various demands made of them especially with changes to quality in Further Education and also how we can influence the letter of guidance with regards to mental health with John Kemp.
Meeting with Scottish Government	30/01/18 We met with five civil servants for an update on the progress of the response to the Student Support Review. A project group has been set up to develop policy with the intention that a position will be arrived at by the end of March. SFC or SAAS may be given a project to begin implementation. A team will be formed to guide the implementation which NUS Scotland will have a place on. No indication of which recommendations will be progressed nor any idea of what the £5 million set aside in the draft budget will be used for. A separate 'Plan 4' needs to be developed to adjust the threshold for loans by SLC. Negotiations continue with HMRC around the changes to benefits. We shared our research around 100% attendance with the group. We expressed our disappointment about the progress so far.
Scottish Funding Council Board	01/02/18 I attended the start of this meeting where the minister addressed the SFC to suggest better ways for Scottish Government and SFC to work together.
Universities Scotland Parliamentary Reception	06/02/18 We attended this event and spoke with MSPs and University Principals about Widening Access.
Phone call with John Kemp Interim Chief Executive of SFC	07/02/18 Follow up from discussion with Mike Cantlay above. John will delegate the requests to his team (awaiting update).
Meeting with Universities Scotland, Unison, EIS and UCU.	12/02/18 We discussed how we can work together on shared priorities such as widening access, mental health, student support, tackling gender based violence, preserving teaching grant, and outcome agreements. The pensions dispute was briefly discussed but cannot be resolved in this forum.
Phone call with Vanessa Martin of College Development Network	13/02/18 I was interviewed about Professional Standards of Lecturing staff and gave my opinion on what they could look like in the future.

Plans before the next meeting

Action/work area	What I hope to achieve
Student Mental Health	Continue to write up charter including experiences of students.
Student Support Review	Budget for Better campaign will continue until the final budget in February and beyond if necessary.
Union Development	A number of member visits are planned to see how they can be better supported.
Brexit: All Students welcome	Meeting planned for 9 th of March with Scottish Government.

Membership Engagement

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
Stirling University Students' Union	12/01/18 Discussed NUS Scotland conference and NUS's work on Brexit and International Students.
Queen Margaret University Students' Union	19/01/18 Discussed the Budget for Better campaign and their plans for LGBT History Month. Passed on contact details for Leo Siebert and Jess Bradley.
Dumfries and Galloway Students' Association	23/01/18 & 26/01/18 Budget for Better campaign visit where we hosted a stall then a return visit to meet the officers where we discussed how to better engage LGBT students and NUS Scotland conference. Put them in touch with Leo.
West Lothian College Students' Association	05/02/18 Budget for Better campaign visit where we got around 80 students signed up to our campaign. Discussed NUS Scotland conference and support for WLCSA.
Glasgow Clyde College Students' Association	06/02/18 Budget for Better stall at their Refreshers Fair at the Anniesland campus.
Fife College Students' Association	13/02/18 Attended their student council and spoke about the Budget for Better campaign. Gave advice on their staffing structure and discussed NUS Scotland conference.
West College Scotland Students' Association	14/02/18 Discussed Budget for Better campaign and NUS Scotland conference, offered some advice on getting a staff member.
Students' Association of the University of the West of Scotland	14/02/18 I received a tour of SAUWS' building and of the University. We discussed NUS Scotland conference and support for SAUWS from NUS.

Media engagement and external relations

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
Study International	07/01/18 Attacking charging of fees for HE students dropping out of College https://www.studyinternational.com/news/penalty-change-leave-course-scotland-college/
TES	11/01/18 Commenting on the use by students of food banks https://www.tes.com/news/tes-magazine/tes-magazine/more-colleges-link-food-banks-students-go-hungry
TES	12/01/18 Coverage of Evidence session on Erasmus+ https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-news/brexit-risks-major-disaster-biggest-exchange-programme-world
The Herald	17/01/18 Calling on recognition of prior learning to widen access http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15857683.Call_for_universities_to_fast_track_bright_pupils_into_the_second_year_of_degree_courses/
Holyrood	24/01/18 In response to the discussion paper on widening access https://www.holyrood.com/articles/news/disadvantaged-students-need-more-improved-access-warns-commissioner
The Times	01/02/18 Criticising inflated Principal pay https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/university-heads-feathering-nests-with-salary-top-ups-claims-union-xp2d7pd7m



Declaration of gifts, hospitality and interests

Declaration	Further comment

