

# Minutes

**Meeting of:** Scottish Executive Committee

**Location:** NUS Scotland office, 1 Papermill Wynd, McDonald Road, Edinburgh EH7 4QL

**Date and time:** Monday 2 October at 11:00.

**Members present:** Luke Humberstone (Chair), Yasmine Adam (part), Shuwanna Aaron, Diarmuid Cowan (part), Titi Farukuoye, Gemma Jones (part), Manish Khatri (part), Liam McCabe, Zeyad Rashad (part), Holly Scrimgeour, Elena Semple, Jeroen Van Herk (skype), Jodie Waite

**Apologies:** Heather Armstrong, David Tait, Leo Siebert, Lainey McKinlay, Jenna Mitchell

**Absent:**

**In attendance:** Carly Baxter (Clerk), Linda Somerville, Anne McDonald, David Livey (part)

## 1. Introduction and administration

**1.1 Welcome and President's opening remarks** - LH welcomed all to the meeting.

**1.2 Apologies** - were noted.

**1.3 Minutes** - LMCC requested an amendment to the Student Support Review section of the minutes. This was duly amended and the minutes were approved.

**1.4 Actions and matters arising** - none.

*[TF, MK, YA and ZR arrived]*

## 2. Accountability

### 2.1 President Report

The video report was shown. Regarding the work on the development of college students' associations, JvH asked whether they would be able to secure staffing for every college students' association. LH said this was the aim and that an aspect of the College Development project was ensuring that students' associations have staff and it depends on where they are all at in their development but the main aim is to make sure they support each college students' association in taking the next step in their development.

MK asked what campaigns NUS Scotland would be doing around Brexit and what the general plans would be. LH noted that Brexit affects all of the UK so the NUS UK team were working on it; NUS Scotland gave feedback the previous week and the campaign would be live soon.

The report was approved.

### 2.2 Vice President (Education) Report





JW briefly talked through her report. On 100% FE attendance, she had contacted all students' associations and the survey was being re-released this week; she had spent some time producing an NUS Scotland guide; she had delivered a presentation at The Gathering on student carers and took a list of names of people who wanted to help and would be focusing on that after Zone Conference.

HS thanked JW for putting more content in the report. ES asked whether the guide was available online, and whether it could be handed out at freshers' events. JW said that she would like to but she may not be in post for next year's freshers' events. JvH asked whether the matter of 100% FE attendance would be included in the Student Support Review. JW stated that she could not comment because they don't know if it would be but it had been raised.

The report was approved.

### **2.3 Vice President (Communities) report**

ES talked through her report. Her main priority is housing and she had been looking into it more. ES had also been reaching out to organisations such as Shelter Scotland, Living Rent and Rock Trust who deal with student homelessness. She was going to be meeting with them the following week.

DC felt that there should be an agenda item at the next meeting regarding the Vice President Communities role. ES noted that she was finding it difficult. LMCC agreed that it should be discussed in advance of NUS Scotland Conference as there was some unacceptable ambiguity.

The report was approved.

### **2.4 Other Reports**

SA - briefly talked through her report. On Feminism 101 she had completed plans for regional workshops, and was buying feminist activity books; she created a campaign with other liberation officers for Halloween; on Fight for the Night she had developed working groups in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and was aiming to organise working group in Dundee and Aberdeen. HS said this was fantastic work but noted that it felt like nobody ever came north of Perth to do events. SA agreed and said she would make more of an effort to do that. SA also noted that the NUS Scotland Black Students' Committee (2016-17) had been nominated for a Herald Diversity Award for their campaign, #ReclaimBlackStories.

TF - had been developing plans for Black History Month and had been planning on engaging students and doing some work on #BeingBlackMeans. ES stated that TF was doing a great job.

## **3. Business**

### **3.1 Liberation Day**

SA updated the Committee with details of this. It was being held on 2 November in Edinburgh. Each Liberation Officer had been allocated time for delivering workshops and there would be caucuses for each campaign. The day would also include a talk by Sam Rankin from the Scottish Equality Network on Intersectionality. SA noted that if other volunteer officers had something they were doing, it would be good for them to share.

### **3.2 Zone Conference**

JW updated the Committee with details of this. It would be on 23 November in Edinburgh. There was already a draft agenda which would include a keynote speech on mental health; there would be a reflection exercise for Officers to reflect on their year so far; there would be a workshop for each Zone - Access, Inclusion and Student Support, Education, and Communities; there would also be a thought bubble session.



### 3.3 Student Support Review

LH referred to the paper sent round which was a timeline of the Student Support Review and noted that this was for information on where the review was at. There was also plans to hold a Student Support Review Summit, attended by one member of each students' association. LH said he would update the Committee when they had a date for the Summit.

JvH stated that he felt NUS Scotland should ensure there was a continuation of the Student Support Review process every year. He also felt that before recommendations were put forward there should be a focus on the redistribution process as some students have no idea how much they will have going forward. He also expected that the Committee would have an idea by now about what would be included in the Student Support Review. LH noted that the meetings are confidential but there would be things in it that they had asked for.

LMcC also enquired as to whether the request for universal living grants had been taken up. LH said it had not but it had been discussed in the group.

*[DC left]*

It was noted that it would be better to have this discussion once the report came out.

### 3.4 Plan of Work progress

LH noted that Officers and staff had been assigned to each area of work. LH went through it with brief updates on progress, however most areas had already been covered in officers' reports and any areas that had not been covered would be starting later in the year.

GJ enquired as to whether there were leaflets that were specifically for apprentices. JW was going to look into it.

**Action: to check with NUS UK re flyers specifically for apprentices.**

### 3.5 University students' association funding

LH noted that at the last meeting the Committee had agreed that work on minimum funding arrangements should be focused on College students' associations. He asked the Committee whether this was still the case.

GJ stated that the focus should be on colleges to get them on an even playing field. JW agreed and noted that this was already a major piece of research and would be diluted if looking at University students' associations too and the research that comes out of it may also apply to them anyway. LMcC felt there was a lack of parity across the sector but said that he appreciated the decision should be to focus on colleges for several reasons.

MK agreed with this but felt that it would be good to look at it next year. He said for the moment he would look into taking this forward in collaboration with some other University students' associations.

HS felt that much more that needed to be done for College students' associations, and accepted that some University students' associations also needed help but it was imperative that College students' associations were brought up to the same level first.

The Committee agreed that work on minimum funding arrangements should be focussed on College student's associations.

## 4. AOB



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SA updated the Committee on the NEC meeting which had been the previous week. The main point to note was that they had only had time to discuss two of seven motions. The first motion proposed adding several new places to the ARAF Committee and this passed. The second motion was regarding SWP rape apologism and mandated NUS UK not to share a platform with the SWP and educate students about the history of the SWP.

JvH reiterated that he felt the issue of the Vice President Communities being a voluntary role should be addressed and he felt that the only solution was to make this a full time position. It was noted by LH that this had been discussed earlier in the meeting and would be a discussion item at the next meeting. LMcC also noted that it may be worthwhile discussing the status of sections officers at the same time.