

# Minutes

**Meeting of:** Scottish Executive Committee

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

**Date and time:** Friday 4 August at 14:00.

**Members present:** Luke Humberstone (Chair), Shuwanna Aaron, Heather Armstrong (part), Diarmuid Cowan, Titi Farukuoye, Gemma Jones, Manish Khatri, Liam McCabe, Lainey McKinlay, Jenna Mitchell, Zeyad Rashad, Holly Scrimgeour, Elena Semple, Leo Siebert, David Tait, Jeroen Van Herk, Jodie Waite

**Apologies:** Yasmine Adam

**Absent:**

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

## 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** were approved.

**1.4 Actions and matters arising** none.

**1.5 Terms of reference** were noted.

## 2. Accountability

### 2.1 President Report

The report was taken as read. The Committee asked questions on the report. JvH enquired as to how many students' associations LH had met with. During various Lead & Change events throughout July, LH had been in touch with representatives from 27 students' associations and the Plan of Work visits were due to start the following week so that would be an opportunity for engagement.

JvH also asked what areas NUS Scotland would be working with SFC on. LH stated that the primary relationship would be intelligence sharing and NUS Scotland would be consulted on certain things.

LMcC asked for an update on the change of direction for the Student Support Review. LH said it would be covered later in the meeting but the change of direction was a positive one and a lot of NUS Scotland's suggestions had been taken on board. There were several questions and suggestions for the work being undertaken on student mental health. It was suggested that it would be good to get mental health support for full time



sabbatical officers and for staff as well as the wider student population. LH took these suggestions and stated that it was still in the early planning stages.

The report was approved.

## 2.2 Vice President (Education) Report

The Committee watched JW's video report. ES enquired whether the work on student carers would include colleges. JW said it would be for everyone and would be gauging interest for collaborative working on the issue at The Gathering. DT stated that Edinburgh College Students' Association was doing a carers charter and he would be happy to get involved. JVH asked which students' associations JW had been to. JW said none had been visited yet as she had been busy with various induction events but that the Plan of Work visits were starting the following week. LMcC asked whether there had been any progress on the PGDE work. JW said that a motion had been submitted at NUS Scotland Conference and that there was potential to have a representative to sit on the Student Placement Management Group but there would need to be an election and she wasn't exactly sure how that could be figured out. JVH asked what the line would be on the attendance policy and what would be fair. JW said it would be based on feedback from the survey but she hoped the line would be that the policy should be abolished completely. LS suggested also getting feedback from international students on this. JW said she was still waiting on feedback but they may re-run the survey as there had not been a lot of feedback yet.

The report was approved.

**Action: to put link to video report on report form and check whether subtitles can be put on video.**

## 2.3 Vice President (Communities) report

The report was taken as read. JVH asked whether ES had met with any students' association. ES stated that in order to have any formal meetings, it would have to go past LH but she has had a lot of informal meetings but has had good feedback. ES also said that it would be good to get help and input from as many members of the Committee as possible. GJ asked why the priorities section of the report was blank. ES stated that it was because it was the first meeting but that she would be focusing on housing. JVH enquired as to what ES planned to do around student travel issues. ES said she would be doing some work on this and would be keen to work with anyone on the Committee who wanted to be involved but also stated that housing would be the main focus for the year.

The report was approved.

[HA arrived]

## 2.4 Other Reports

SA stated that she had been doing a lot of training since taking up the post in July. She briefly talked through some of her priorities for the year such as feminism 101, hate crimes and zero tolerance policies.

LS stated that they had agreed on their priority campaign for the year which was going to be focusing on equal gender recognition and LGBT+ Committee were having their first formal meeting the following week.



TF stated that her priority campaign would be tackling hate crimes and she was hoping to do a lot of work for Black History Month in October.

LMcK was focusing on building up the campaign and doing a lot of research. She had already had some meetings including one with The National Autistic Society who are creating a new framework and the Disabled Students' Committee would be feeding in to that. She had also planned to meet formally with LEAD and discuss how they can work together.

### **3. Business**

#### **3.1 Plan of Work**

This paper was taken as read. JvH asked how much room there was for this to change. LH stated that the Plan of Work should be approved in this meeting. The Committee had a few questions regarding the work on minimum funding arrangements for colleges. JW clarified that this work was specific to college students associations as they are most in need of support. LS requested a change to include gender neutral wording. This was noted and the Plan of Work was approved.

#### **3.2 Student Support Review**

FB took the Committee through a presentation on NUS Scotland's consultation response to the Student Support Review. FB and LH answered questions from the Committee. There was dissatisfaction from some members of the Committee at the meeting on that universal living grants were not included in this response and suggested a parallel submission for universal living grants.

**Action: It was agreed that the discussion around this would be picked up in the following week due to time constraints.**

#### **3.3 NEC second place election**

The candidates were Shuwanna Aaron and R.O.N. Shuwanna Aaron gave a speech in her favour. The Committee took a vote and Shuwanna Aaron was duly elected.

#### **3.4 Motions**

##### **Motion 1**

##### **Rent Guarantor Scheme for EU and Overseas students**

Speech for: Manish Khatri

Speech against: none

This motion was passed.

##### **Motion 2**

##### **3=3: Drop the 'at start of course rule'**

Speech for: Jeroen van Herk

Speech against: Luke Humberstone

Speech for: Jeroen van Herk

Speech against: Luke Humberstone

Speech for: Manish Khatri

This motion was passed.

##### **Motion 3**

##### **Protect students from Brexit and immigration targets and devolve immigration powers to Scotland**

Speech for: Jeroen van Herk

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Speech against: Diarmuid Cowan  
Speech for: Liam McCabe  
Speech against: none  
This motion was passed.

### **3.5 SEC accountability**

JvH suggested that it would be good for SEC members' work to be more visible and allow for accountability. LH stated that NUS Scotland are looking at publishing more work and how to build transparency so it could be part of that discussion.

### **3.6 The Gathering/Zone**

LS spoke briefly about plans for The Gathering. She noted that there had been some discussion around NUS Scotland events and the current Zone Conference which is held in November may be changing format. The current plan was to split the Conference into two separate days. One day would focus on peer learning and political education. The other day would focus on liberation caucuses.

## **4. AOB**

It was noted that the date for the next meeting had been changed to Monday 2 October.

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