Minutes



Meeting of:	Scottish Executive Committee
Location:	NUS Scotland office, 1 Papermill Wynd, McDonald Road, Edinburgh EH7 4QL
Date and time:	8 May 2018 at 13:30.
Members	Luke Humberstone (Chair) Diarmuid Cowan (part) Jodie Waite, Shuwanna
present:	Aaron, Heather Armstrong, Jeroen van Herk, Liam McCabe, Holly Scrimgeour,
	Elena Semple, Leo Siebert, Heather Armstrong, Manish Khatri (part), Zeyad
	Rashad
Apologies:	Titi Farukuoye,
Absent:	Gemma Jones, Lainey McKinley, Jenna Mitchell
In attendance:	Carly Baxter (Clerk), Anne McDonald

1. Introduction and administration

- **1.1 Welcome and apologies** LH welcomed all to the meeting. TF sent her apologies.
- **1.2** Minutes of previous meeting– approved.

1.3 Actions and matters arising

LH addressed questions that had been raised at the previous meeting as he had not been in attendance to answer them. He noted that all of the questions raised would be answered further on in the agenda - these were regarding progress on the Student Support review, including further details on the meeting with Scottish Government and the Student Mental Health Charter.

2. Accountability

2.1 President Report

LH gave a verbal report and noted that he had not produced a written report before the meeting because he had been on annual leave but would circulate it after the meeting.

JvH wondered whether the work on the Student Mental Health Charter and the Scottish Student Sport 'Scottish Active Students Survey' were linked. LH noted that they had been produced independently and they should both inform the work of students' associations.

JvH asked whether there was any information LH could share regarding the Scottish Funding Council's funding allocations for colleges and universities for the next year. LH shared that there would be an increase in capital funding for both. Regarding the report on minimum funding for colleges, LH stated that this would be an update on a previous letter to Principals as the guidance before didn't address college sizes and will now be much more specific.

The report was approved.

Action: circulate link to ministerial guidance.

2.2 Vice President (Education) Report

The report was taken as read. JW wished to highlight a recent achievement regarding fair attendance. She had raised concerns regarding the 100% attendance policy and the Scottish Funding Council stated that this was never in the guidance but agreed that the guidance would be re-released. NUS Scotland had given suggestions as to what should be included in the new guidance circulated to colleges and this was taken on board. JW said the new guidance was very clear and would be made public soon and they also wanted it to be circulated to students' associations. There would also be a presentation to all colleges on 24 May which she would be attending.

HA requested more information about what the objectives of the new National Articulation Forum would be. JW said that they were looking at subject specific measures as they wanted to improve articulation for particular subjects. At the meeting JW attended, they had talked about the potential of having optional modules in college to help the transition in to university.

JW also thanked the Committee for all of their help and support in making NUS Scotland Conference successful.

The report was approved.

2.3 Vice President (Communities) report

The report was taken as read. It was noted that ES had met with the President at Dundee University Students' Association to discuss the issue of student housing which was a concern for all students' associations in Dundee. Some members of the committee felt that this was an example of non-affiliates using the resources of NUS without being members. JW noted that she thought it would be good to have a regional forum for student housing in Dundee.

LH asked whether the campaign visits should be noted in the report. ES stated that these were included for transparency.

The report was approved.

2.4 Other Reports

SA – the report was taken as read. Equally safe toolkit launched and was working with Universities Scotland and College Development Network to produce materials with support information that can be displayed on campuses.

LS – updated the Committee that the priority campaign was now complete, and LS had spent a lot of time helping to organise LGBT+ and Trans Conferences, and had also attended lots of conferences.

LMcC – had been in the NUS Scotland office the previous week for a sparqs event regarding postgraduate research representation in Scotland - how it could be made better and provide more support. ES enquired whether LMcC had worked with any of the NUS UK Postgraduate Officers. LMcC had not worked directly with them but felt there should be going forward.

Action: LMcC and ES to chat re whether students on accelerated courses are classed as postgraduates.

Action: LH to tell LMcC about SERMWS event.

MK – noted that he found it very difficult to fulfil this role and if he was not President at his students' associations he would not be able to do everything he has done as he would not have the resources. He also felt the role should have a committee.

Action: all to promote sections conference.

Business

3.1 NUS Events

LH had a few points to note:

- Congratulations all who were elected at various NUS Conferences. He requested feedback on NUS Scotland Conference to be emailed across.
- Sections conference is happening on 23 May.
- Lead and change events will be coming up in July.

[DC left]

3.2 Budget for Better

LH explained that NUS had met with Shirley-Anne Somerville to discuss next steps for the Student Support Review. They had expected more from the meeting and were disappointed and as such, LH noted that the Budget for Better Campaign would be stepping up again. The committee agreed that it this was appropriate when considering that the Student Support Review had been submitted in November and nothing had yet been done.

There was going to be a campaigns summit on 16 June at EUSA which would be free to attend. The plan would be that hey would do a handover from outgoing officers to new officers to discuss what had been done and what could be done going forward. It was hoped that one of the actions from it might be to ask Principals to sign up to the campaign.

3.3 Student mental health charter

LH updated that it was hoped that this would be launched the following week. It would be a sheet which would have ten recommendations and there would also be an expanded version with case studies of student experiences.

LH noted that it would be broad recommendations of what should be available to students but they couldn't make it too specific since provisions are different across Scotland.

Action: LH to circulate Student Mental Health Charter.

[MK left]

3.4 For our Future's sake campaign

LH briefed the committee on this campaign. It is a student led campaign for a People's Vote on the Brexit deal. They had drafted a letter and asked students' associations and NUS Scotland to sign. LH asked whether the Committee were happy to sign it as SEC and it was agreed that they would.

3.5 The Gathering

LH noted that the date was confirmed as 23 August and put out the first appeal for Workshop and TED talk ideas.

4 AOB

LH thanked all committee members for their support and involvement throughout the year.