

Minutes

Meeting of:	Scottish Executive Committee
Location:	NUS Scotland office, 1 Papermill Wynd, McDonald Road, Edinburgh EH7 4QL
Date and time:	Thursday 16 November at 13:00.
Members present:	Luke Humberstone (Chair), Shuwanna Aaron (skype), Heather Armstrong, Diarmuid Cowan, Gemma Jones, Manish Khatri, Liam McCabe, Lainey McKinlay, Jenna Mitchell, Holly Scrimgeour, Elena Semple, Leo Siebert, Jeroen Van Herk, Jodie Waite
Apologies:	Yasmine Adam, Titi Farukuoye, Zeyad Rashad, David Tait
Absent:	
In attendance:	Carly Baxter (Clerk), Linda Somerville, Anne McDonald (part), Mike Williamson (part)

1. Introduction and administration

1.1 Welcome and President's opening remarks - LH welcomed all to the meeting. It was noted that DT was not very well, and the Committee wished him well.

1.2 Apologies - were noted.

1.3 Minutes – LMcC requested that the minutes from meeting on 2 October 2017 be changed to accurately reflect a change he had requested for the previous set of minutes on 4 August 2017. He requested a change to the 'minutes' section to note that there had been dissatisfaction from some members of the Committee at the meeting on 4 August 2017 that universal living grants were not included in the Student Support Review consultation response and had suggested a parallel submission for universal living grants.

It was also noted that Leo Siebert (Committee member) and Linda Somerville (NUS Scotland Director) had the same initials in previous minutes and it was suggested that they should be different.

Minutes duly amended and approved.

1.4 Actions and matters arising JW noted that NUS UK had designed apprenticeship leaflets and an electronic copy would be sent to all SEC.

Action: LH to send to all SEC.



2. Accountability

2.1 President Report

The video report was taken as viewed.

DC asked for further elaboration on the Student Support Review but it was to be covered later in the meeting. LMcC enquired whether the Mental Health Charter was a Government initiative and asked who NUS were working with. LH said it was not a government initiative and that NUS were working with all students' associations. LH noted that there would be a long list of rights presented at Zone Conference and a shorter list would be prioritised from there.

JvH asked whether the issue of taking students out of immigration targets was SNP policy. LH said he was not sure but would find out.

HA asked whether it would be possible to have a written report and also requested that if it was going to be a video report that it follow the same structure as a written report. LH agreed to this. HA also enquired which organisations LH had been working with for the Mental Health Charter. LH had met with SAMH and had meetings scheduled with See Me and Scottish Youth Parliament as they have similar things that they want to work on.

The report was approved.

2.2 Vice President (Education) Report

The report was taken as read.

HA asked what information had been given out regarding TEF. JW noted that she had informally met with the VPHE at HISA to talk about TEF in general. She also noted that TEF briefings were UK wide and there was not a lot of Scotland specific information. HA asked if there was anything they could do as students' associations. JW said that it depended whether their association was opting in or not.

JvH asked what the focus of the student placement group was. JW said it was a national group specifically for teaching students and she had contacted all universities that have student teachers. They had been asked if they wanted an election and the outcome was that they informally agreed amongst themselves that Donna Connolly from AUSA would sit on it but maintain contact with all.

HA asked why the proposed name change from VP Education to Deputy President had been brought up. JW said that this was part of a wider democracy review discussion and it was in the report as it was most relevant to her role.

The report was approved.

2.3 Vice President (Communities) report

The report was taken as read. DC asked how ES was getting on in her role and mixing it with studying. She said she felt that she was getting on okay.

The report was approved.

Other Reports

SA - report taken as read. HA asked how planning was going for fight for the night. SA said the Edinburgh one was going well, everything was planned. It was the same for Glasgow but they didn't have confirmation from police that the route had been accepted. ES asked who had been involved in the initial meeting to plan Black Women's Brunch. SA said the meeting happened to be on the same day as the SEC meeting so she had invited self-defining SEC members to join but ES had left at that time.

LS – Had met with the policy team to work on response to the consultation on reforming the Gender Recognition Act. LS had compiled a list of different societies and had spoken at several events. LS noted that the big student elections clashes with LGBT+ conference. It was noted that the Conference could not be moved. DC suggested that a discussion was needed about this.

LMcC – Had been working with NSoAS and met with Ben Kinross to discuss their structures to see if that can work for postgraduate students and may compile a report to propose how that could work. He was also working with LH to set up a meeting with UCU. LMcC had hoped to run one successful postgraduate event this year but there was not enough engagement yet, but was hopeful that this would improve. LMcC also noted that SFC, QAA and sparqs wanted to know about postgraduate issues and see if they could support.

MK – had been looking at recommendations for international students, and working with a few students' associations talking about how to support each other. MK was trying to get a campaign started about cutting down rent. He was also looking at his universities policy on international hardship funds and also looking at other universities.

Business

3.1 Zone Conference

LH did a run through of the agenda for Zone Conference. The Student Support Review was being released a few days before the Conference so this would form a large part of the agenda. The plan was to talk about the history of the Student Support Review, what came out of it, split into groups and talk about next steps. The day would also include workshops and the NUS National President, Shakira Martin, would be speaking at the event.

The Committee also discussed what the next steps would be after the Student Support Review was published. JL discussed plans for the #BudgetforBetter campaign. LH noted that it would be good to get some ideas on what the Committee felt their role should be and how much time they were able to commit. The Committee had mixed thoughts about the name of the campaign, some felt it was confusing. It was suggested that online resources would be good to have as well as leaflets and any other physical materials.

Student Support Review

The report had not yet been released but was due at the beginning of the following week. JvH asked what needed to be in the report before it was accepted. LMcC stated that it should be in line with current policy and was concerned that NUS was already starting in a compromised position. He reiterated that it did not sit right with him that there was not a parallel submission for universal living grants but agreed it was important to think about how to move forward once the review was published. JvH felt that NUS should have a minimum number of asks once the report was published. JW restated that it was important to wait until the review was published and then talk about next steps.

2.3 Motion

Boycott Prevent and support UK wide Student Not Suspects Campaign

Speech for: Elena Semple

Speech in favour of amendment: Elena Semple

To make it 'universities and colleges', and change the name of the seconder

Speech against: none

A vote was taken and the amendment was passed.

Speech against motion: Diarmuid Cowan

Speech for removal of parts: Heather Armstrong

To remove resolves 1 and 4

Speech against removal of parts: Elena Semple

Speech for removal of parts: Heather Armstrong

Speech against removal of parts: Manish Khatri

A vote was taken and the parts were removed.

Summation: Heather Armstrong

This motion was passed.

2.4 Democracy review

The Committee discussed the items passed at NUS UK Conference that would need to change at NUS Scotland Conference to reflect the review conducted of NUS UK's democracy. The Committee gave some feedback and this was taken on board and an amendment to the rules would be drawn up to take to NUS Scotland Conference following approval from the Committee.

2.5 College Development Project update

MW updated the Committee with the progress of the College Development project.
