

Minutes

Meeting of: Scottish Executive Committee

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

Date and time: Wednesday 17 January at 13:00.

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

Apologies: Heather Armstrong, Diarmuid Cowan, Gemma Jones, Lainey McKinlay, Jenna Mitchell, Zeyad Rashad, Leo Siebert, David Tait

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. LH noted that if anyone wanted to record all or part of the meeting then they should ask permission from all in the room before doing so.

1.2 Apologies - were noted.

1.3 Minutes – JvH asked whether the minutes could be accessed online. LH noted that they could not be put online until they had been ratified and as there were still amendments in question they could not be ratified but if ratified at this meeting then they would be able to go online.

The minutes were approved.

1.4 Actions and matters arising LH – LH noted an action from the previous minutes included finding out whether the SNP had policy on the issue of taking students out of immigration targets. He enquired whether this was something he should be held to account on. JvH felt it was as NUS Scotland should be making sure they support NUS UK on trying to get students excluded from the immigration targets.

Action: LH to send round information on SNP policy on immigration targets.

2. Accountability

2.1 President Report

The report was taken as read.

JvH asked what NUS Scotland would be looking to push for in the development of the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) strategic plan. LH stated that this was the first time NUS had been involved in the strategic conversation and NUS are observers so it was up to



them to decide who they listen to but took comments from the Committee on board and would feed these back to SFC.

ES asked how the mental health work, and specifically the Mental Health Charter, was going. LH noted that it is in the process of being written up and would be released on 1 March.

ES also asked how the #BudgetforBetter campaign was going and what the overall feel from SA's had been. LH said it had been really good, every institution visited got 150-200 students signed up to the campaign and students were reacting very positively.

LH noted that since the report had been written, a meeting with the Scottish Government had been arranged for 30 January to discuss the Student Support Review and related issues.

The report was approved.

2.2 Vice President (Education) Report

The report was taken as read.

JvH asked whether the work on FE attendance was still being done nationally or if it was now just being done at a local level. JW stated that it had started as a top down approach and was now bottom up for several reasons. It was included in the Student Support Review and if accepted there would be a report on it and as she didn't know how long it would take to implement, in the meantime she still wanted to be doing something. JW reiterated that although the training she was doing was local, there was still work being done nationally on the issue.

Regarding the work on student carers, ES asked whether JW would be looking to put together a charter for SA's to copy. JW said she wanted to put together a report which included tips but was waiting for Carers Trust Scotland to get back to her to see if they already have resources but that would be something that could definitely be included.

The report was approved.

2.3 Vice President (Communities) report

The report was taken as read.

Regarding her work with Shelter Scotland, ES noted that she was working with them to develop a student hub on their landing page and also wanted to create toolkits which explain the recent changes to private residential tenancies.

The report was approved.

Other Reports

SA - gave a verbal report to the Committee. She had been very busy working on Feminism 101 workshops; 16 days of action campaign; Women of Colour Brunch; she was working with ECU and sparqs on student engagement in gender action plans; and was also working on an ESHE toolkit.

LMcC - had met with Ben Kinross to discuss NSoAS structures, to take ideas as to how to involve groups of students who are difficult to engage with. He had also been working with Luke to get meeting with UCU to discuss working more closely with them to represent students who teach.

Action: LH - to put something in the diary to chat about this.

MK - had been looking at the rent guarantor scheme with Edinburgh University and Stirling University; specifically looking at who would benefit from that scheme and also how it would benefit college students. MK had been working with ES to build policy around student homelessness. HS asked how he was engaging with SA's around

international issues. MK stated that he had been in touch with all international reps in SA's and that with anything he does he tries to invite everyone.

[YA left]

Business

3.1 NUS Scotland Conference – motions and amendments to the rules

LH noted that the SEC can put 3 motions and 3 amendments to rules to NUS Scotland Conference. The Committee made several suggestions for motions and amendments, including:

Motions

Homelessness and sex for rent
Student support, including PG support and universal living grants
VP Communities becoming a full time paid role
Unpaid placements and internships
International students' fees and post study work visas
Quality code consultation

Amendment to the rules

Democracy review
Changing title of VP Education
Number of motions each CM can take to Conference

It was agreed that everyone should write a short paragraph with motions or amendments to the rules that they would like to see by Friday 19 January and this would allow members not present to put forward their ideas also and it could be voted on the following week.

3.2 Budget for Better Campaign

LH gave an update on this. Campaign packs had been sent out in November; various SA's had been visited, various Education spokespeople from several parties and trade unions had signed up; Christmas cards had been sent out to MSPs; and there were 1,200 signed up so far. They had hoped to have a parliamentary reception but they are fully booked, so they were encouraging SA's to contact their MSPs. LH asked that all members of SEC commit to doing something to encourage sign ups in their own SA and one other SA.

HS would go to one of her campuses and Dundee & Angus College.

LMcC would talk to Glasgow University and Glasgow School of Art at the next Glasgow Student Forum meeting.

MK would do something at Napier and Edinburgh College.

JvH expressed deep concerns as to whether the commitment of £5 million investment would cover the costs to implement the recommendations of the Student Support Review. JvH was also concerned whether the Budget for Better Campaign reflected on the demands of summer support and FE entitlement which the wider student movement have expressed over the years and at Zones Conference. JvH asked in particular if the Budget for Better Campaign would include summer support and FE entitlement, and asked why new student support is focused on just six months of 'living wage' rather than a whole year

LH stated that Summer Support was going to be in place and that the new proposals (A New Social Contract for Students) also covered FE entitlement.

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LH also stated that more specific demands cannot be raised in the Budget for Better campaign until the Scottish Government comes back with a formal response to the A New Social Contract For Students report.

3.3 Student homelessness

ES wanted to start a conversation on student homelessness. She had been in touch with JW regarding this issue and helping homeless people into education. She wanted to look at what policies were in place, especially in terms of accommodation and was hoping to put out freedom of information requests to SA's. ES welcomed any other ideas from the Committee.

Action: All SEC to have a think and send ideas to ES.

3.4 Motions

The motion brought to SEC could not be voted on as the meeting was not quorate at that point. MK noted that he wanted to do a #1daywithoutus event on 15 February which would be to discuss international student issues.

3.5 Observer places

LH stated that he stood by his decision and noted that he had made the assumption that the three people who had no other way of going to NUS UK Conference should go and that everyone on SEC would be happy with that. He accepted that SEC had wanted a discussion about this and said that a vote would be taken via email to challenge the decision he made which if passed would lead to a vote on the choice of observers going to NUS UK Conference.

JW wanted to note that she realised that technically she could have tried to go through Bournemouth SA and she did try but they had voted already. She also noted that she felt this shouldn't have to be a discussion which takes place as everyone on SEC should be able to go.

3.6 Zone feedback

Action: All members of SEC who attended, to give feedback via email on how they thought it went.

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