

Minutes

Meeting of:	Scottish Executive Committee
Location:	NUS Scotland office, 1 Papermill Wynd, McDonald Road, Edinburgh EH7 4QL and Skype
Date and time:	Monday 3 December at 13:00
Members present:	Liam McCabe (Chair), Shuwanna Aaron, Matt Crilly, Jamie Grant (skype), Heather Innes, Gemma Jones, Manish Khatri (skype), Sorchu Kirker (skype), Tam Wilson (skype)
Apologies:	Titi Farukuoye, Kai O'Doherty, Zeyad Rashad, Elena Semple, Ethan Wilson
Absent:	Jen Anderson, Nicoline Kure, Matthew Mackenzie
In attendance:	Carly Baxter (minutes)

1. Introduction and administration

1.1 Welcome and apologies

LMCC welcomed everyone to the third meeting of SEC for 2018-19. Apologies were noted.

1.2 Minutes of previous meeting

TW requested a change to the minutes; under item 3.5 it stated that Abertay should be congratulated for its Reclaim the Night event and that should have been for the appointment of their Equally Safe Coordinator. Minutes duly amended and approved.

1.3 Actions and matters arising

LMCC went over actions from last meeting, with any relevant updates:

- LMCC to keep SEC informed about his meeting with Bryan Simpson of Unite – this had happened and he had signed the Unite Hospitality Charter on behalf of NUS Scotland. A letter was to be sent out to all students' associations to encourage them to sign the charter.
- LMCC to liaise with KO and others in advance of UCU meeting regarding recording of lectures – this meeting had not yet happened.
- LMCC to share with SEC the link for student associations and unions to give feedback on TOTUM – actioned again.
- GJ to raise portfolio review by Abertay University at the next meeting of SHEEC – this meeting had not yet happened but discussion arose from this action point. In particular, concerns were raised by the Committee around the issue of the consolidation of institutions, the lack of transparency and students and students' associations not being consulted on those decisions.

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Action: LMCC will raise this issue at his next meeting with the Scottish Funding Council.

2. Accountability

2.1 President Report

The report was taken as read. LMCC gave the following responses to questions raised:

- MC asked whether anything interesting had come out of the two-day strategic meeting of the Scottish Funding Council, and in particular whether there was any discussion about more funding for universities. LMCC noted that there was a lot of interesting discussions. In answer to the question regarding more funding for universities, LMCC stated that NUS Scotland had signed a joint letter with Universities Scotland, to ask for a 2% 'real terms' increase in funding for universities.
- TW commended LMCC for his GuildHE speech.

The report was approved.

2.2 Deputy President Report

The report was taken as read. MC congratulated GJ for the part she played during the Ulster affiliation referendum. There were no questions and the report was approved.

2.3 Vice President (Communities) report

ES had sent apologies so could not be asked questions on her report.

The report was approved.

2.4 Other Reports

- SA: This report was taken as read. She noted that the 16 Days of Action was currently underway and there had been some great campaigns coming out of students' associations. She also noted that she had finalised the GBV toolkit for students' associations and Rape Crisis Scotland and ESHE were checking its content and it would hopefully be out soon.
- MC: Verbal update. MC said that his aim this year had been to do some work around postgraduate taught fees. He had hoped to try and build a network of postgraduate students but was struggling as a lot of postgraduate students are only there for a year. Because of this, he had decided to focus on caps on fees with the aim to create change and establish best practice at his own students' association and then share that more widely.

Business

3.1 NUS Turnaround

LMCC gave the committee an update on the latest with NUS turnaround; explaining that there are two strands to NUS Turnaround which are getting to safety and then reform. He then opened the discussion for committee to share any comments, questions or concerns.

It was felt that it would be a good idea to have more contact as a committee during this time in the form of a group chat to share thoughts and receive updates.

LS updated that at Strategic Conversation, they had four key areas which people had fed back on: the purpose of NUS; what does collective voice look like; what should students' association/membership support look like; what would the future governance and democracy look like.

SA suggested that the committee should take the opportunity to feed in to the consultation on NUS reform and suggested setting up some strands on Facebook with the four key areas to allow everyone to feedback.

As part of this item, the Committee also discussed the viability of NUS Scotland becoming independent from NUS UK.

Action: LMCC to set up threads on SEC Facebook page and establish a group chat to update Committee on Turnaround.

3.2 Interim policy between conferences

Proposal 1

Support PostStudyWorkVisaNow campaign

Speech in favour: Manish Khatri

Speech against: Not taken.

This proposal was passed.

3.3 Proposals to Conference 2019

LMCC opened discussion on possible proposals to put forward to NUS Scotland Conference as a Committee.

Several ideas for proposals were put forward:

- Universal credit: a student perspective on why it is bad.
- Mental health: campaigning to the government to lower the fees for people to do counselling courses or something to get more counsellors trained to meet their demand. More discussion required as to how this would work in terms of making it more of a strategy.
- Equity in education: how NUS Scotland could support students' associations and also do something on a national level.
- Postgraduate fees: they shouldn't be more than the student loans available.
- Accessibility of documents/online resources.

Action: LMCC/GJ/SA to create a thread on SEC Facebook page.

All to share ideas for proposals.

[JG and MK left]

3.4 Zone conference feedback

LMCC invited the Committee to share feedback from Zone Conference.

SK noted that it was not well attended but was very engaging; the workshop and thought bubbles were great; keynote was really interesting. She also noted that it

felt like Zone Conference was very engaging but it did not have much impact or output. HI agreed with this.

LMCC stated that because Zone Conference is not a democratic event, it was instead used to ensure students' associations had an opportunity to feed in to stuff that NUS would be doing soon in terms of lobbying, campaigning and influencing.

It was also suggested that instead of a conference to bring officers together, NUS could hold webinars, regional meetings and workshops which could be promoted via Facebook to make the event more visible to all students.

4 NUS UK

4.1 NUS UK Events

LMCC noted that International Students' Conferences was due to take place in January and the next NEC meeting was the following week.

4.2 NUS UK Policy

Discussion arose around the Graduate Levy report; further information was required on current policy.

4.3 NUS UK officers update

LMCC provided an update on the work currently being undertaken by the NUS UK officers.

5 AOB

LMCC updated the Committee on plans for a Presidents Summit for 29 January 2019 at Scottish Parliament to discuss key issues on student support, mental health and equalities for students.