

Minutes

Meeting of: Scottish Executive Committee

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

Date and time: Tuesday 7 August at 13:00

Members present: Liam McCabe (Chair), Shuwanna Aaron, Jen Anderson, Donna Connelly, Matt Crilly, Titi Farukuoye, Jamie Grant, Heather Innes, Gemma Jones, Manish Khatri, SORCHA Kirker (Skype), , Kai O'Doherty, Zeyad Rashad, Elena Semple, Tam Wilson

Apologies: Ethan Wilson

Absent: Nicoline Kure, Matthew Mackenzie

In attendance: Karen Brown (Clerk), Anne McDonald, Linda Somerville

1. Introduction and administration

1.1 Welcome and apologies – LMCC welcomed all to the first meeting of SEC for 2018-19. EW sent their apologies.

1.2 Minutes of previous meeting

Approved subject to the following amendments:

- Date of the meeting corrected to 8 April 2018.
- Recording of Gemma Jones as absent from the meeting.

1.3 Actions and matters arising

- Item 2.4; Other reports:
 - LMCC and ES confirmed that accelerated students are classed as undergraduate students.
 - LMCC will find out about SERMWS and relay the information back to SEC

Action:

LMcM to find out about SERMWS and relay the information to SEC

2. Accountability

2.1 President Report

The report was taken as read. There were no questions and the report was approved.

2.2 Deputy President Report

The report was taken as read. There were no questions and the report was approved.

2.3 Vice President (Communities) report

The report was taken as read. TW asked for an update on Living Rent. ES confirmed that Living Rent will be attending the Gathering, looking to bring awareness of its winter break campaign.

The report was approved.

2.4 Other Reports

- LMCC provided an update on behalf of EW, NUS Scotland Trans Officer, highlighting the focus of the Trans Committee on improving trans healthcare and the success of its first committee meeting. The Trans Committee priority campaign will be presented at the Gathering with a poster version of the presentation to be distributed during Freshers' events. EW also attended their first steering group meeting of National Gender Identity Clinic Network for Scotland (NGICNS) and has reached out to some third sector organisations to meet with and discuss the committee's campaign to help push it forward.
- SA, (NUS Scotland Women's Officer) provided an oral report highlighting her participation in the NUS Scotland Lead & Change event in Livingston, and the Black Women's Brunch which will be focussing on training. –
- MC (NUS Scotland Postgraduate Students' Officer) provided an update: he is working with the NUS UK Postgraduate zone to facilitate discussions and workshops on the issues of working conditions for postgraduate students in Scottish universities.
- MK (NUS Scotland International Students' Officer) reported that he is going to demos against the Scottish Defence League. The issue of deportation will be looked at as well as rising fees for international students and rent scams. MK confirmed he would be happy to write a blog about rent scams taking in the new legislation for Scotland.
- KO (NUS Scotland LGBT+ Officer) reported that the UK Lead and Change event provided an opportunity to talk with new NUS UK officers. They will be collaborating with the NUS UK Women's Officer on research into sex work. In this area, KO will also be meeting with local LGBT groups in Edinburgh. ES advised KO that if the priority campaign on sex work includes sexual health then she has information from her meeting with Stuart McMillan MSP last year that she will pass on. TW confirmed that he will pass on the TUC Sex for Rent policy.
- TF (NUS Scotland Black Students' Officer) provided an update. The committee's priority campaign is focussing on representation of black students. One event taking place on campuses is Black History Month. She asked for LMCC and NUS Scotland to promote this on social media.

Action:

LMCC and NUS Scotland to promote Black History month on social media

Business

3.1 SEC Terms of Reference

LMCC introduced the item. The Terms of Reference has been updated to align with NUS NEC as well as fill in a gap in procedures such as a timeframe for

submission of amendments to motions. It has also just been confirmed that GJ's job title is Deputy President and this will be amended in the Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference were approved.

3.2 Cycle of Business

The paper was approved.

3.3 Plan of Work

The paper was taken as read. Members provided comment on the document which they were advised was at the proofing and design stage.

The Plan of Work was noted.

3.4 The Gathering

It was confirmed that Amatey Doku would be deputising for Shakira Martin at the Gathering due to a clash of appointments. LMCC confirmed that he would be leading the session *Working with Trade Unions on Campus*. He is intending to try and improve trade union membership among students this year and will do this with ongoing conversations throughout the year, not just at workshops. He is going to reach out to UCU as the Gathering is taking place in Glasgow.

GJ pointed out that the aim is for SEC to be actively involved throughout the day and to raise their visibility among members. SEC should indicate to LMCC and Jenny Lees what workshops etc they are interested in being involved in and should register before Thursday 9 August.

3.5 Zone Conference

The date for Zone Conference has been confirmed as 22 November 2018. GJ advised that the three full time FTOs had taken the lead in planning for the Gathering and that this might also be the same for the Zone. She will clarify to SEC in due course.

Also taking place in November will be Liberation Training Day, with the exact date still to be confirmed. It was clarified that the Training Day will be for students' association/students' union liberation committees – a separate training event will be held for procedures committees.

3.6 2nd NEC place election

Each candidate spoke in favour of their candidacy, following which a vote took place. AMcD, Deputy Returning Officer, advised that the Committee would be advised of the result by email.

3.7 Living Wage Accreditation on Campuses

3.8 Unite Hospitality Charter

TW spoke to the items, clarifying that although he was on Unite's Youth Committee, he was not speaking from that platform. With regards to Living Wage Accreditation, he advised that there is no political pressure for universities to be accredited even though the Student Funding Council (SFC) has a recommendation for them to be. SFC is less strict with colleges. TW advised that if an institution is paying the living wage to its staff, the process for accreditation is relatively easy and that most universities already do so. The argument those institutions against accreditation give is that that it gives them less control over their pay and grading structure. TW had brought the issue to the meeting as he felt that this is an issue that NUS Scotland should be campaigning for. One way of doing this would be having a joint partnership with Unite and its Hospitality Charter

Discussion arose with the following points highlighted:

- ES/GJ – From a college perspective, how would the Hospitality Charter work for students on City and Guild hospitality courses and apprenticeships? LMcC agreed to have a conversation with Bryan Simpson of Unite about this.
- LMcC: The issue also appears in the Plan of Work – it would be an easy step to make from the Plan of Work into a campaign. LMcC is in the process of setting up meetings with the unions and can have extended conversations to address the general issue of living wage accreditation and the Hospitality Charter with respect to City & Guild hospitality students and apprentices. SA asked to be part of these conversations as it tied in with GBV issues.

Action:

LMcC to have conversation with Bryan Simpson of Unite and other unions about its Hospitality Charter in relation to City & Guild hospitality course students and apprenticeships and to include SA in these conversations.

4 NUS UK

4.1 NUS UK Events

LMcC reported that the NUS UK conference will take place in Glasgow again in April 2019. The UK Zones conferences will take place in October 2018.

4.2 NUS UK officers update

LMcC provided an update. All of the NUS UK officers are keen to do things in Scotland and in the nations in general. SA advised that she has had conversations with them about the work they could do in a UK context that will have benefits in Scotland – e.g. the black attainment gap, student deportation. Zamzam Ibrahim, NUS Vice President (Welfare and Citizenship) and Ilyas Nagdee, NUS Black Students' Officer will be up in Scotland from 10-15 September and SA will have a catch up with them in Glasgow. She has suggested to them that they publicly announce through NUS channels that they will be in Scotland to give an opportunity for others to meet with them.

LMcC added that he, GJ and SA have submitted an email to request that they sit on the three NUS governing boards.

4.3 TOTUM

SA gave an update on TOTUM which is a new brand of the NUS Extra card with a new card and interface with an app. The card is being released in two phases. The second reiteration of the card will have a debit card facility for mobile phones and a wallet to store ID. There will be an opportunity at the Gathering to pick up some freebies. The launch date for the app is 12 September 2018. LMcC agreed to check whether the Committee could each get a card as members of SEC. It was confirmed that the price of the card is the same as the current NUS extra.

Action:

LMcC to check whether the Committee could each get a TOTUM card as members of SEC.

5 AOB

5.1 Motions

Motion 1

Liberation campaigns should be at the heart of NUS Scotland

Speech for: Titi Farukuoye

Speech against: Gemma Jones

Speech in favour: Shuwanna Aaron

Speech against: none

(Chair passed to GJ)

Parts: To remove resolves 1, 2 and 4

Speech for removal of parts: Liam McCabe

Speech against removal of parts: Manish Khatri

The parts were retained

Parts: To remove 'to push' from resolve 6:

Speech for: Shuwanna Aaron

Speech against: none

The parts were removed

Summation: Shuwanna Aaron

This motion was passed.

(Chair passed back to LMcC)

(SA left the meeting at this point)

Motion 2

NUS Scotland liberation officers should be part-time

Speech in favour: Titi Farukuoye

Speech against: none

This motion was passed.

(TW left the meeting at this point)

Motion 3

Post study work visa + reduce student fees

Speech in favour: Manish Khatri

Speech against: none

Summation: Manish Khatri

This motion was passed

Motion 4

Stop deportation

Speech in favour: Manish Khatri

Speech against: none

Parts: to remove resolve 3

Speech for removal of parts: Matt Crilly

Speech against removal of parts: none

The part was removed

Parts: to remove 'mandate, support and' from resolve 2

Speech for removal of parts: Gemma Jones

Speech against removal of parts: None

The parts were removed
Parts: to remove resolve 1
Speech for removal of parts: Liam McCabe
Speech against removal of parts: Titi Farukuoye
The parts were retained
Summation: Manish Khatri
This motion was passed

LMCC confirmed that the motions passed today will require to be ratified at NUS Scotland Conference in March. He advised SEC to be mindful going forward that it is not the place of SEC to pass new policy on behalf of the entire movement, only when there is a change of policy.

5.2 Plan of Work

SEC were asked to give their thoughts on what would be markers for success to share with SA/SU officers in the course of the upcoming Plan of Work visits. The following were raised:

- Gender neutral toilets, liberation history month, anti-sexual harassment campaign
- Representation - in the sense of engaging other liberation officers to raise their voice
- Sharing counsellors between universities and colleges
- Sharing clubs/societies between universities and colleges
- Financial support for refugees

5.3 Election of Asylum Seeker and Refugee Officer

The question was raised whether the election of an Asylum and Refugee Officer would have to wait until NUS Scotland Conference next March or was there a process to facilitate an event to do this. It was clarified that Zone Conference could not be used for this purpose as it was not a democratic event and that an extraordinary conference would bring associated difficulties of cost and ensuring quoracy. It was suggested that a member of SEC who identifies as an asylum seeker could be used as a contact/conduit in the interim period which would be helpful for press comments too.

5.4 New Private Housing Legislation

MC advised that Strathclyde University advisers are conducting research in to what this means for students, and in particular loopholes for private student halls providers. He wanted to give SEC notice and raise the issue with NUS Scotland should any future action be considered. ES agreed to discuss this issue further with KO offline.

5.5 Joshua Gregory

GJ and TW respectively informed SEC that both NUS Scotland at the Gathering and Abertay University Students' Association would mark a celebration of Joshua Gregory's life.

Motion 1

Liberation campaigns should be at the heart of NUS Scotland

Proposed by: Titi Farukuoye

Seconded by: Manish Khatri

NUS Scotland Executive Committee notes:

1. NUS Scotland Liberation officers represent the most marginalised students in our movement. It is through their ability to understand, recognise and highlight unique struggles of the most disadvantaged students that we as an organisation, can improve and campaign for a better and more inclusive student experience across Scotland.
2. Despite Liberation campaigns often championing progressive policies, frameworks and structures, like launching an individual Trans student campaign for the first time, Liberation campaigns overwhelmingly rely on voluntary, free labour and individual efforts, passion and will to push beyond personal limits to get things done.
3. Liberation officers often struggle to achieve their goals or have an impact on their student community, because their efforts are not given enough weight within the organisation's structure and as a result don't see through.

NUS Scotland Executive Committee believes:

1. That for NUS Scotland to campaign for a better student experience, liberation campaigns should be at the core of the entire organisation, rather than individual officers and campaigns.
2. Centring liberation campaigns will enable the organisation to thrive and fulfil its goal as proactive, member-led organisation that takes a leading role in achieving societal change and progress.
3. It will empower liberation officers, their committees and improve their experience working for NUS, while simultaneously improving SUs and students experiences and engagement.

NUS Scotland Executive Committee resolves:

1. NUS Scotland Liberation officers should be included in the plan of work to equal amounts as FTOs.
2. NUS Scotland Liberation officers should have dedicated staff support.
3. NUS Scotland should review structures so that liberation issues and the awareness of intersectionality can be championed from within all parts of the organisation.
4. NUS Scotland should campaign for a Liberation officer on every campus.
5. NUS Scotland should actively seek to support cooperation between liberation campaigns, as well as give incentive to SEC members and student representatives across Scotland, to prioritise liberation campaigns and take their intersectionality forward.

Motion 2

NUS Scotland liberation officers should be part-time

Proposed by: Titi Farukuoye
Seconded by: Manish Khatri

NUS Scotland Executive Committee notes:

1. NUS Scotland Black Students' Campaign and LGBT+ passed this motion demanding part-time liberation officers at their last conference.
2. Means for this motion to take shape within NUS Scotland have been explored and it has been established that financial issues and structures are decided within NUS UK.
3. Liberation officers often struggle to achieve, their goals or have an impact on their student community, because their efforts are not given enough weight within the organisations' structure and as a result don't see through.

NUS Scotland Executive Committee believes:

1. That for NUS Scotland to campaign for a better student experience, liberation campaigns should be at the core of the entire organisation, rather than individual officers and campaigns.
2. The number of students applying for liberation post is low, voluntary - unpaid officers do not have enough time or resource to help students across Scotland when they have to balance their education and job.
3. We need to create a culture of solidarity while providing consistent support throughout the year rather than just at conference.

NUS Scotland Executive Committee resolves:

1. NUS Scotland should work with NUS UK to find a way of making part-time paid Liberation Officers feasible.
2. NUS Scotland should look to NUS UK to look for better structures to supporting Liberation Campaigns in Scotland.
3. NUS Scotland should work with UK Liberation Officers and NEC Members to achieve the goal of part time paid Liberation officers.
4. NUS Scotland should support and mandate motions passed on liberation conferences.
5. Centring liberation campaigns will enable the organisation to thrive and fulfil its goal as proactive, member-led organisation that takes a leading role in achieving societal change and progress.
6. It will empower liberation officers, their committees and improve their experience working for NUS, while simultaneously improving SUs and students' experiences and engagement.

Motion 3

Post study work visa + reduce student fees

Proposed by: Manish Khatri
Seconded by: Titi Farukuoye

NUS Scotland Executive Committee believes:

1. International students come to the UK to receive an education, which includes not only their degree but their student experience.
2. From its Conferences 2014-2016, the NUS International Students' Campaign has passed three motions committing them to take action on international student fees:
 - a. 2014 – IS_142
 - b. 2015 – IS_155
 - c. 2016 – Motion 6
3. As a result of pressure from the International Students' Campaign and individual student unions, many universities across the UK have committed to fee freezes and caps on international student fee rises.
4. Despite tightening restrictions on visas for non-EU international students to enter and remain after graduation, universities are intensifying efforts to recruit international students.

NUS Scotland Executive Committee further believes:

1. While fee freezes and caps are commendable, it's not applied everywhere. Furthermore, non-EU international students continue to pay higher fees and face disparities in access to hardship and financial support compared to home/EU students.
2. Despite paying higher fees, international students do not receive any more value from their education.
3. Universities mainly recruit international students as "cash cows" i.e. to increase university profits and compensate for reduced higher education funding.
4. While it is understandable that universities need to offset funding cuts, this treatment means undue suffering for international students, such as being threatened with deportation or prevented from accessing work that would help them pay their fees, because they cannot pay their fees for any reason.
5. Furthermore, the abolition of the post-study work visa, tightening requirements for Tier 2 work visas and spousal visas and the rise in racism and xenophobia prevent and deter international students from remaining in the UK after graduation and contributing to it in any way.
6. International students are thus being treated unfairly and detrimentally, and this is counterproductive to the objective of creating a better society through higher education.

NUS Scotland Executive Committee resolves:

1. To continue and to campaign for existing policy from 2014-18 on reducing international student fees and fees cap.
2. To campaign to fight for Post Study Work Visa with student union across Scotland and the UK.

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3. To reject the argument that international students are valuable because they contribute to university revenues, and to stop using this argument in any form when advocating for international students.

Motion 4

Stop deportation

Proposed by: Manish Khatri
Seconded by: Titi Farukuoye

NUS Scotland Executive Committee believes:

1. After the government scrapped the post-study work visa, introduced NHS charges for non-EU students, numbers of international students getting deported have increased significantly.
2. Student Union have been fighting for numbers of years to protect their students from deportation whilst there is increase in number raids, detention, and deportations of students each year.
3. Student union often struggles to support their students affected by deportation as it requires a lot of lobbying and campaigns at the national level.
4. Brexit campaigns, anti-migration platforms have caused higher levels of insecurity and violence for migrant students including from politicians that are lining up to attack migrants.
5. Students affected by deportation have very less support and are often isolated and are often held in a detention centre which often is the result of human error.

NUS Scotland Executive Committee further believes:

1. Student leaders and local community at past and now have played considerable efforts in fighting deportation including the recent petition to keep Dinaparines' families together that over 93,000 people signed where many officers from NUS played a very crucial role.
2. Activities like this have created a unity among international and wider community and should be continued throughout the year as these racist and xenophobic ideology can only be defeated through active solidarity, not by creating further divisions.
3. The deportation itself have stopped students to progress in their study, spited families apart which have caused long term mental health effect and many other problems

NUS Scotland Executive Committee resolves:

1. Dedicate a section on the NUS website and provide toolkit, ideas and resources on ways students can fight off deportation.
2. Lobby government to support students affected by deportation to fight against any further attacks.
3. Organise and join campaigns against inhuman deportation and to campaign for the closing of detention centres.
4. Support and campaign with unions and organisations that fights off deportation while deepening the regional networks to achieve better unity of action.