

NUS Scotland Vice-President Education

Author:

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Committees: SEC

Action: Approve

Priorities

Main priorities	Progress (what have you achieved since the last Committee meeting)
Fair FE Attendance Policy	I re-released the Fair FE Attendance Policy survey, and have now received over 1300 responses, which has far surpassed my personal goal of 500. I am now collating the data to produce a report which will give us an overall picture of the attendance situation for FE students in Scotland, and I will produce an action plan based on this report.
Produce an NUS Scotland Guide	I have now finished my NUS Scotland Guide which aims to make NUS Scotland more accessible to new members, and am awaiting the final design to be finished. I am hoping to have this ready for distribution by NUS Scotland Zones Conference.
Student Placements	I contacted all HEIs that have teaching students, including non-affiliates, to ask for nominations of those interested in sitting on the Student Placement Management Group. The three Officers nominated discussed amongst themselves who they felt would be best to sit on this group, and the position has now been filled.

Other achievements

NUS Scotland Zones Conference	We now have a finalised agenda for the NUS Scotland Zones Conference on 23 rd November in Edinburgh.
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Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed

Event/meeting	Outcomes and/or actions taken or agreed on
College Good Governance Steering Group	This group discusses the governance of College Boards, with my role being to represent students. At this meeting, there was some disagreement on whether there should be a trade union representative on college boards in addition to college staff representatives, with the argument being that this may dilute the student voice. As a result, a sub-committee has been formed consisting of those who disagree, to discuss a solution. I will not be sitting on this group.
Cross Party Groups on University and Colleges	I was an observer at the Cross-Party Groups on University and Colleges, where representatives from colleges and universities discuss projects that they have run in Scottish Parliament. My purpose in attending these meetings is to meet others from across the sector to identify collaborative working opportunities.
QAA Enhancement Theme Launch	I attended the QAA Enhancement Theme Launch, with the enhancement theme for the next three years being 'Evidence Based Practice'. There were presentations throughout the day on what people had been working on within the sector, in addition to workshops on how we could implement the theme in practice. The event was a great opportunity to network with others across the sector, and to discuss how we could work together on the new enhancement theme.
Zone Conference Planning Groups	I am policy lead for NUS Scotland Zones Conference this year, therefore I have been attending planning groups for this. We now have a finalised agenda and are promoting sign-ups for the event.
College Student Board Training	I attended College Board Training alongside College Students' Association Officers, where we were trained on governance within College Boards. As someone who has never sat on a College Board before, the training was beneficial for me to understand the governance within the Scottish College Sector.
NUS Scotland Governance Catch Up	I caught up with NUS UK on the Governance Changes at a UK level, and what this may mean for NUS Scotland. We discussed the potential change in title of "Vice President Education" to "Deputy President", the future of Vice President Communities, and different ideas of different ways NUS Scotland Officers can be held accountable.
15 – 24 Learner Journey Review Group	The 15-24 Learner Journey review is a programme of work, led by the Scottish Government in partnership with others, to review the effectiveness and efficiency of the 15-24 Learner Journey for all 15 to 24 year olds. The last group was focused on the hypothetical future of funding for students, where we debated the idea of having a 'student account', which would be a pot of money that every student in Scotland is entitled to. I raised the issue of this marketizing education, voicing concerns of the impact that too much focus on the financial side of education has had in England and Wales.

Leadership Foundation Event for New Governors	The event for New Governors, ran by the Leadership Foundation, was for new student governors on University Courts. I was a keynote speaker, and talked about the importance and value of having student representation on University Courts. I also answered questions at the end, including how Lay Governors can engage with students, and how universities can be more accessible.
UCU Conference	The UCU (Universities and Colleges Union) Conference, which was held at the University of Strathclyde, was the conference for all UCU members in Scotland. I was a keynote speaker, and discussed the aims of NUS Scotland, such as widening access, maintaining free tuition and student mental health. I was then part of a panel discussing the future of funding for Higher Education in Scotland, debating the importance of the continuation of free education and the benefits to the Scottish economy.
CDN Development Committee	The CDN (College Development Network) Committee brings together staff representatives from colleges in Scotland and informally discusses any issues that arise. This meeting focused strongly on the difficulties that colleges are having regarding the implementation of the new How Good is Our College Framework. I raised concerns over the lack of engagement with Students' Associations in this, and also the potential capacity issues of some Students' Associations when finding ways to engage their students in the framework.
SCQF Quality Committee	The SCQF Quality Committee reports to the SCQF Trustee Board, and reviews things like new organisations requesting SCQF accredited courses, and monitoring SCQF courses that already exist. At the meeting, we looked at how SCQF can give credits to health students on placements, and reviewed whether a heating company had the criteria to deliver SCQF accredited training courses to its employees.
Sparqs Trustee Board	I am a trustee of sparqs, therefore attended the first sparqs trustee board. This included my sparqs trustee induction, where we discussed the purpose of sparqs, the history of the organisation and our roles as trustees.

Plans before the next meeting

Action/work area	What I hope to achieve
NUS Scotland Zones Conference	I hope to have received positive feedback overall from NUS Zones Conference delegates.
Fair FE Attendance Survey	I hope to have collated this data into a report and decided on our next steps.
NUS Scotland Guide	I hope to have this completely finished and published.

Membership Engagement

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
Kelvin College	Visited to assist on promoting the FE Fair Attendance Survey to students.
HISA	Met with VPHE to provide more information on TEF.

Media engagement and external relations

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
The Herald	Commented on why changing access thresholds for widening access students entering university, i.e. lowering grades has a positive economic impact.

Declaration of gifts, hospitality and interests

Declaration	Further comment
Halloween Cake	President of Glasgow Kelvin College bought me a Halloween Cake in aid for SAMH. This cost 30p.