

## NUS Scotland Vice-President Education

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### Priorities

Main priorities	Progress (what have you achieved since the last Committee meeting)
Fair FE Attendance Policy	I have researched every FE institution in Scotland, collating all available attendance policies. I will now compare these policies against responses from the survey, to assess whether there are correlations in the data, e.g. do attendance policies that only allow a certain number of self-certified absences correlate with qualitative feedback that states students were penalised for being unwell for a long period of time? Do attendance policies that outline pastoral care correlate with positive responses in the survey? I will then narrow these institutions down to identify where local wins can be made, e.g. working with an individual institution to improve their self-certified absence system. This is due to the SFC attendance policy allowing autonomy amongst FE institutions, and thus challenges and good practice being on a local level.
Student Carers	I have now set up a group for Student Carers representatives in Scottish education institutions. I hope this will be a forum where representatives can share best practice, and where we can organise informal meetings to discuss potential collaborative projects that SAs can work together on. I have also contacted Carers Trust Scotland to enquire what their projects are for 2018, to see how their work can tie in with the work of SAs and NUS Scotland.
How Good Is Our College	I am meeting with the President of ECSA to discuss How Good Is Our College, and to determine ways in which we can encourage Scottish College SAs and institutions to engage students in the process.



## Other achievements

NUS Scotland Zones Conference	NUS Scotland Zones Conference received positive feedback overall from delegates.
NUS Scotland Membership Guide	This guide was completed, published and made available as a hard copy at NUS Scotland Zones Conference.

## Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed

Event/meeting	Outcomes and/or actions taken or agreed on
Race Equity Training	I attended Race Equity Training for one day, whereby I learned about unconscious bias, recognising white privilege, and how to approach talking about race. The training was extremely beneficial, as it taught me how to be an effective bystander if I witness racism. It also allowed me to reflect on my own behaviours through raising my awareness of 'micro-aggressions', which are behaviours that seem harmless to a white person, but that negatively affect people of colour due to being continuously subject to them. One example provided was a white person asking to touch a black person's hair, unaware that this is something that is always asked of this person. Role playing also taught me how to effectively approach racism when the person committing it did not realise they were doing anything wrong, and helped me feel more confident speaking about race.
Access and Inclusion Committee	The Access and Inclusion Committees gathers stakeholders from across the board, for example college principals, university principals, members of the Scottish Funding Council, Colleges Scotland, etc. to discuss the state of access and inclusion in education across Scotland, and how we can work together to improve this. At this particular meeting, we discussed the Student Support Review which was launched the same day, and I highlighted that NUS Scotland were happy to see a commitment to review the FE student attendance policy, due to this posing a barrier to access and inclusion. I also highlighted that the term 'articulation' needs to be more narrowly defined when discussing articulation students, as often they are lumped together as one group. However, the experience of articulation students greatly depends on their level and previous experience.
NUS Scotland Zones Conference	NUS Scotland Zones Conference received very positive feedback overall from delegates. The main area of the day was a session on the Student Support Review, and how SAs could engage in action to receive support from MSPs. Other workshops included sessions on housing, a discussion on whether there should be a minimum block grant for college SAs, and the Emily Test.

Budget for Better Campaign Launch	I attended Edinburgh College for the Budget for Better campaign launch, where we held a stall to encourage Edinburgh College students to sign the petition stating that they agree with our asks in the Student Support Review.
Gender Based Violence Discussion Panel Host	I hosted a panel discussion on gender based violence at Aberdeen University, which brought together charities who have expertise in gender based violence. They gave presentations on how gender based violence manifests, and engaged in an in-depth discussion with the audience, which I facilitated.
Team Away Day	I attended the NUS Scotland Team Away Day, where I reviewed my objectives and planned for the next six months. The Away Day was an opportunity for me to ensure that I am continuously monitoring my progress and planning to fulfil my manifesto pledges. My focus of the day was how I am going to progress with the FE Fair Attendance work, and shaping my work on Student Carers.
Cross Party Group on Universities and Colleges	I attended the Cross-Party Group on Universities and Colleges at Scottish Parliament, and the theme was widening access. The purpose of these groups is for institutions in the sector to deliver presentations on a particular theme. Presentations were delivered from GCU, RGU and HISA on their work around widening access, and an opportunity for questions followed.

## Plans before the next meeting

Action/work area	What I hope to achieve
Student Carers	I hope to have received more interest in joining the Student Carers Facebook Group, and to have received a reply from Carers Trust Scotland on how we can work together.
Fair FE Attendance Survey	I hope to have identified colleges who would like me to work with them on making changes to their FE attendance policies.
How Good Is Our College	I hope to have devised a plan on how to better engage students in How Good Is Our College through working with Sparqs and speaking to College SAs.

## Membership Engagement

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
GCUSA	I attended GCUSA to ask students to sign up to the Budget for Better Campaign.
RCS	I attended RCS to ask students to sign up to the Budget for Better Campaign.
ECSA	I attended ECSA for the Budget for Better Campaign Launch.
GCCSA	I attended GCC for a general catch up, to find out whether there is anything they need assistance with, and to talk about How Good Is Our College.
ENSA	I spoke with the President of ENSA in a 1-2-1 membership engagement Skype call.
USSA	I attended USSA for the Reclaim the Night march.

## Media engagement and external relations

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
Edinburgh University Radio	I spoke on Edinburgh University Radio about the Student Support Review, and the positive impact that this could have on students.

## Declaration of gifts, hospitality and interests

Declaration	Further comment
N/A	N/A