

NUS Scotland Vice-President Education

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Committees: SEC

Action: Approve

Priorities

Main priorities	Progress (what have you achieved since the last Committee meeting)
100% FE Attendance Policy	We have contacted every Students' Association in the country that represents FE students to find out how the 100% attendance policy is implemented on their campuses, and to discover how FE students feel it could be improved. The aim of this is to investigate which colleges have localised attendance policies, so that we can assess inconsistencies and finalise our specific ask when fighting for a fairer FE attendance system.
Produce an NUS Scotland Guide	I have asked for feedback on what NUS members would like to see in a guide for those who are new to NUS, and have pulled together a draft that covers the feedback I have received. Currently, I am looking at providing a brief introduction, an explanation of NUS Scotland Officers, NUS Scotland's democratic pathway, information on how policy works, a link on how to write a motion, liberation, and a jargon buster. I aim to make this as easy to understand as possible, and hope to have it finalised by Zones conference in November.
Student Carers	I delivered a presentation alongside the Vice President Support from the University of Strathclyde Students' Union at the NUS Scotland Gathering on how to engage Student Carers at Students' Associations. I have gathered a list of names of those interested in representing Student Carers, and my next step will be to contact everyone to plan a meeting where we can share best practice on how to represent these students.
Student Placements	I have 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. I have also requested a meeting with all Officers responsible for representing Student Teachers on their campuses to ensure that the new representative is provided with a clear indication of any placement issues.

Other achievements

Plan of Work Visits	The NUS Scotland FTO team has visited every Students' Association in the country, outlining our Plan of Work for the year and finding out what SA Officers have planned for the year. All Students' Associations agreed to put their logos on the Plan of Work document, and we had an extremely positive response overall.
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Attendance at events/meetings and actions taken or agreed

Event/meeting	Outcomes and/or actions taken or agreed on
That's Quality College Event	I spoke at the sparqs 'That's Quality' event for Scottish colleges, which is an event that focuses on quality in learning and teaching. I spoke on the college work that NUS Scotland plans to do this year, and was then a panel member for a Q&A with stakeholders from across the education sector. This provided an opportunity for NUS Scotland college members to ask questions on a variety of topics, and to promote NUS Scotland's campaigns to a wider audience.
NSoA Meeting	I met with the staff lead for the National Society of Apprentices to discuss the current issues that apprentices are facing, and the future of apprenticeships in Scotland. The major issues are the disparity of bursaries depending on the age of an apprentice, i.e. under 18 year olds receiving less money, and a lack of engagement from apprentices in the National Society. Apprenticeships in Scotland will be increasing, with a particular focus on increasing Graduate Level Apprenticeships, i.e. degree level.
Sparqs Trustee Induction	I have been appointed as both a trustee and signatory for sparqs, in line with their terms of reference of having an NUS Scotland officer on the board. This was a brief meeting to discuss my role as a trustee, with the first meeting being 06/11/17.
Simon Blake Meeting	Simon Blake, the CEO of NUS UK, visited the NUS Scotland Office to find out what the plans are for NUS Scotland this year. We also found out more about NUS 100, NUS UK's Strategic Plan.
Universities Scotland Widening Access Work Stream Catch Up	Universities Scotland is writing a report as an outcome of its widening access work stream, and I met with them to give feedback my thoughts on their first draft. The aim is to continue recommending universities on to develop their widening access work. This report remains confidential at the moment, however NUS Scotland is being consulted during this process to provide insight and student representation during the process.

The Gathering	I attended the NUS Scotland Gathering, where every Officer in Scotland is invited along to hear about the work of NUS Scotland, how they can get involved, and share best practice with one another. I was part of the NUS FTO session, where we introduced our Plan of Work for the year, and also delivered a presentation on how Students' Associations can engage with Student Carers.
Widening Access Delivery Group	The Widening Access Delivery Group is a group led by the Scottish Government. The group is made up of all major stakeholders, and keeps track of the work being done on the recommendations that came as a result of the Commission on Widening Access. There are different work streams for the group, each focusing on different areas of widening access, and all of their updates come to this group, with its aim to see a holistic view of widening access work. My role on the committee is to feed back from a student perspective on this current widening access work, and to advise stakeholders on how it can be carried out to best represent students in both Further and Higher Education.
SFC Joint Skills Committee	This committee is led jointly by the Scottish Funding Council and Skills Development Scotland, with the purpose being to discuss how skills in young people can be developed. At this specific meeting, we spoke a lot about the effect that the apprenticeship levy is having on organisations and apprentices, and how we can ensure the money is being used in the best way possible. If you are unfamiliar with this topic, you can find out more about the apprenticeship levy here: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/skills-strategy/apprenticeship-levy
Team Away Day	I attended the NUS Scotland Team Away day, where NUS Scotland staff and Full Time Officers received training on how the Scottish Government and Parliament works. We then spent an afternoon drilling down on our Plan of Work objectives, making them more specific and planning the activities we would need to do to achieve them.
15-24 Learner Journey Review	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 meeting I attended focused on Apprentices and Further Education students, and we looked at data examining the destinations and journeys of these students.
SCQF Meeting	I met with the SCQF to discuss how we can better promote SCQF qualifications to students and apprentices. The SCQF has developed a framework that explains how qualifications interlink with one another, demonstrating the different ways in which students and apprentices can transition into different forms of education. I feel this is an extremely useful tool for students and apprentices to understand the different paths available to them, therefore we decided it would be beneficial for the SCQF to hold a workshop on this, and for me to promote this to NUS Scotland members. The framework we were discussing can be found here: http://scqf.org.uk/

NUS Scotland and NUS UK Governance Reform	<p>I had a brief introduction on the NUS Scotland and NUS UK Governance Reform, with further information and a more in-depth explanation of the reforms being scheduled for late October. This is important to ensure that we are up to speed on the developments of the Governance Reform.</p>
QAA Scotland Strategic Advisory Committee	<p>The purpose of the QAA Scotland Strategic Advisory Committee is to discuss quality arrangements in Scotland, to then report back to the QAA Board on the work that Scotland is doing. At this meeting, I highlighted ways in which we could better engage students in the quality of their education in Scotland, and also suggested ways that we could better engage students in the QAA Enhancement Themes.</p>
Student Support Review	<p>I have been part of the ongoing Student Support Review discussions with the NUS Scotland Full Time Officer team.</p>
TEF Group Meeting	<p>The Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Group Meeting is to bring universities in Scotland together to discuss TEF and the developments at each institution. At this meeting, I stressed that NUS Scotland continues to strongly oppose TEF, with concerns over fees rising for fee-paying students. I also highlighted that TEF is undermining the partnership approach in Scotland, that is promoted through the Quality Enhancement Framework (QEF), as some universities continue to opt into TEF, even with their Students' Associations resisting.</p>
Transnational Education sparqs	<p>Sparqs are developing a tool kit on how Students' Associations can best engage with students on their transnational campuses. I will be part of reviewing the draft of this tool kit, to ensure that there is guidance for Student Representatives on how to engage with students overseas.</p>
SHEEC	<p>Through its support for and promotion of quality enhancement, the Scottish Higher Education Enhancement Committee ensures that higher education in Scotland remains at the forefront of developing and enhancing the student learning experience and student success. At the meeting, I stressed the importance of ensuring the last Enhancement Themes, which was 'Transitions', is made sustainable. I also advised that the proposed student strand in the new Enhancement Theme is resourced and supported appropriately, due to the high turnover of Officers in the sector.</p>
Student Learner Review Report Catch Up	<p>I caught up with the SFC on where we are with the Student Learner Journey report, to provide input from a student perspective on what things are important to highlight when discussing the journey of 15-24 year olds in education. It was agreed that schools have an extremely important part in ensuring that pupils are fully informed when making choices affecting their future, and that there needs to be more work around removing the perception that Higher Education is the only culturally acceptable destination.</p>

Plans before the next meeting

Action/work area	What I hope to achieve
Produce an NUS Scotland Guide	I hope to have completed this guide, and to have disseminated it to those attending NUS Scotland Zones Conference.
100% FE Attendance Policy	I will be re-releasing this survey in October to increase respondents, therefore I hope by the next meeting that I will have collected and analysed this data, and that the ask will be more specific when campaigning against the 100% FE policy.
Student Placements	I hope to have filled the student place on the Student Placement Management Group, and assisted in facilitating an election for this if needed.

Membership Engagement

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
Kelvin College, University of Strathclyde, SRUC, HISA, University of West Scotland, Forth Valley College, Glasgow Caledonian University, Ayrshire College	I visited all of these Students' Associations to discuss the NUS Scotland Plan of Work.
City of Glasgow West College Scotland Fife West Lothian College Borders Clyde Dundee and Angus HISA RGU QMU	I contacted these members to find out more about how the attendance policy works on their campuses for FE students, and contacted RGU and QMU to benchmark these policies against attendance policies in Higher Education.

Media engagement and external relations

Member Union	Purpose and anything to report on
BBC Radio Scotland	I spoke on the 'Personal Best' show regarding student wellbeing and to promote ways in which students can look after themselves if they are just starting university. The show was targeting parents and carers of university freshers, to discuss their concerns and to offer advice on the different activities and support networks available to new students.
BBC Scotland	I appeared on BBC Scotland's Facebook live stream, on a weeklong show that discussed the biggest issues facing Millennials. I was asked what the purpose is going to university when there are few graduate jobs available in comparison to the number of graduates. Therefore, I explained the additional benefits of going to university that are not education based, explained that not all graduates necessarily want to work in their field, and highlighted that we need an increased number of graduate-level jobs to ensure that there are enough positive destinations for graduates who wish to pursue employment in their degree subject area.

Declaration of gifts, hospitality and interests

Declaration	Further comment
N/A	