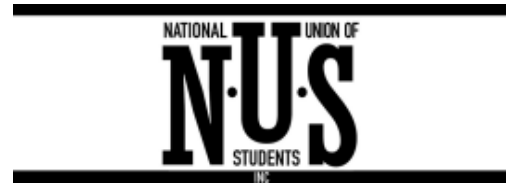


National Executive Meeting

National Union of Students Inc.

Tuesday, 10th May 2022



Minutes

Meeting Details:

Venue: Online

Time: 7:30pm AEDT

Chair: Georgie Beatty (National President)

Minute Taker: Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

1. Meeting Open - 7:35pm

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

1.2 Attendance

National Office Bearers/Non-voting members

Georgie Beatty	National President
Emily Sagolj	National Secretary
Luc Velez	National Education Officer
Billy Zimmermann	National Welfare Officer
Jacqueline Price	National Women's Officer
Jordy Duffey	National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer
Ella Hickey	National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer
Zebadiah Cruickshank	National First Nations Officer
Georgie McDaid	National Disabilities Officer
Akshay Jose	National Ethnocultural Officer

State Branch Presidents/Voting Members

Isaac Solomon	SA State Branch President
Beatrice Co	Vic State Branch President
Emma Hogan	NSW State Branch President
Beatrice Tucker	ACT State Branch President

General Executive Members/Voting Members

Adam Steiner	General Executive Member
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Grace Hill	General Executive Member
Guleid Abdullahi	General Executive Member
Jeremy Gilchrist	General Executive Member
Sabrina Yassine	General Executive Member
Sinead Winn	General Executive Member

1.3 **Absent**

Faizan Akram	WA State Branch President
Isobel O'Dwyer	General Executive Member
Kedar Krishnan	General Executive Member

1.4 **Election of Deputy Chair**

Action

The National Executive appoints Emily Sagolj as the Deputy Chair of the Committee.

Moved: Georgie Beatty (National President)

Seconded: Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

For: 14 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Carried without dissent

1.5 **Acceptance of Apologies**

Action

The National Executive accepts the apologies of the following:

- Dhruv Sabharwal (National International Officer)
- Jonathan De La Pena (National Small & Regional Officer)
- Lana Goodman-Tomsett (Qld State Branch President)
- Tiana Myers (General Executive Member)
- Kelly Cvetkova (General Executive Member)
- Trisha Banga (General Executive Member)
- Alex Nancarrow (General Executive Member)

Moved: Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

Seconded: Isaac Solomon (SA State Branch President)

Carried without dissent

1.6 **List of Accepted Proxies**

The following proxies have been accepted by the National Secretary:

- Emily Sagolj (Lana Goodman-Tomsett)

- Emma Hogan (Tiana Myers)
- Isaac Solomon (Trisha Banga)
- Ella Hickey (Alex Nancarrow)

1.7 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

None received.

1.6 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Emily advised that she needed to change some minor inaccuracies in the NX3 minutes, which includes correcting the time Kedar left the meeting (from 8.15pm to 8.40pm) and changing references to UMSU International to just UMSU.

Action

That National Executive acknowledges the circulated minutes of the previous meeting and the discussed amendments are a true and accurate reflection of that meeting.

Moved: Georgie Beatty (National President)

Seconded: Jordy Duffey (National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer)

For: 14 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Carried without dissent

2. National Officer Reports

2.1 President

2.2 General Secretary

2.3 Education Officer

2.4 Welfare Officer

2.5 Women's Officer

2.6 Queer Officer

2.7 LGBTQIA+ Officer

2.8 Small & Regional Officer

2.9 International Officer - not submitted

2.10 Disability Officer

2.11 First Nations Officer - not submitted

2.12 Ethnocultural Officer

2.13 **Motion to Accept National Officer Reports**

Action

That National Executive accepts the submitted reports of the National Officers.

Moved: Sinead Winn (General Executive Member)

Seconded: Sabine Yassine (General Executive Member)

For: 14 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Carried without dissent

3. State Officer Reports

3.1 Victorian State Branch President

3.2 NSW State Branch President - not submitted

3.3 SA State Branch President

3.4 WA State Branch President - not submitted

3.5 ACT Branch President

3.6 Motion to Accept State Officer Reports**Action**

That National Executive accepts the submitted reports of the State Officers.

Moved: Georgie Beatty (National President)

Seconded: Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

For: 14 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Carried without dissent

4. Matters for Discussion**4.1 Profit & Loss**

Emily advised that the profit and loss report was not attached this month due to the Admin & Finance Officer not sending it in time. She advised that she would circulate this to everyone once she receives it.

4.2 AISA Services Agreement Report & Proposed Changes

Emily advised that the AISA report actioned in NX3 was attached for the National Executive to view. She noted that it delved into the background and investigation, processes and risk mitigation, the timeline of informing office bearers, the legal advice sought, the actions taken following NX3 and the proposed changes.

She delved into the proposed changes which included:

- Financial delegation charts;
- Profit & Loss descriptions;
- Having 2 authorisers for all payments;
- Removing inconsistencies and issues in our rules;
- Drafting more rules regarding financial oversight for our regulations; and
- Changing banks.

As well as various admin changes to ensure that National Executive members are more accountable to member organisations, such as:

- Strict deadlines for agenda additions;
- More transparency regarding meeting attendance and report submission;
- A schedule of National Executive Meetings being present on our website;
- Creating policies such as observer protocols for our meetings;
- Drafting more explicit responsibilities for National Office-Bearers; and
- Formalising the delegated responsibility of the Executive Committee.

She noted that some of these changes are being implemented through motions in this meeting, however some will be implemented further in the year.

Luc noted that we should have the zoom link for National Executive meetings more readily available for people who want to attend.

Georgie advised that she distributed the zoom link to student media around the country to attend and noted that this is something we can do more consistently.

Guleid voiced concern with anyone being able to turn up to meetings and thought that they could affect the productivity of meetings if not monitored appropriately.

4.3 **Procedural Motion**

Grace raised that she submitted a solidarity with UMSU on Palestine motion earlier today and that she wanted to put forward a procedural motion to discuss it today given other motions were submitted last night.

Emily advised that Grace submitted her motion too late and that the other motions were pertaining to her AISA services agreement report which was submitted well in advance of today's National Executive meeting.

Beatrice Tucker spoke in favour of discussing the motion today and advised that she was happy to move the procedural motion. Beatrice Co spoke against it and noted that we need more time to consider it.

Billy voiced that the attacks on UMSU are terrible, but that the motion itself is unclear and needs to be amended before being tabled to the National Executive.

Action:

The NUS National Executive discusses *Motion 5.6: NUS stands in solidarity with UMSU on Palestine* submitted by Grace Hill and Kelly Cvetkova.

Mover: Beatrice Tucker (ACT State Branch President)

Seconded: Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

For: 2 **Against:** 12 **Abstain:** 0

Failed

5. Matters for Decision

5.1 Observer Protocol and Guidelines

Emily raised that currently none of the NUS's rules contain any guidelines for observers to attend meetings of the NUS National Executive. However, she noted the importance of encouraging member organisations and student media to attend if they would like to. In turn, she has drafted rules to ensure that future meetings of the National Executive can be inclusive but still have constructive discussions.

She advised that the intention is for these rules to be implemented into the NUS by-laws by the end of the year, however for now these rules will remain as a separate protocol and guidelines.

Akshay asked if there's a provision regarding in camera discussion. Luc advised that in camera discussion is already covered in our regulations.

Motion:

1. The NUS National Executive endorses the Observer Protocol and Guidelines attached.
2. The NUS National Executive actions the National General Secretary to upload the Observer Protocol and Guidelines to the NUS website and distribute the document to accepted observers.
3. The NUS National Executive actions the General Secretary to table the rules to add to the NUS By-Laws at the 2022 National Conference.

Mover: Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

Seconded: Billy Zimmermann (National Welfare Officer)

For: 14 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Carried without dissent

5.2 (Standing Resolution): Creation of NUS Executive Committee

Luc raised the allegations discussed in NX3 regarding the 2020 and 2021 General Secretaries. He advised that in response to this we need to decentralise some of that authority from a single person. He noted that there is a lot of financial and political responsibility delegated to the General Secretary and other office bearers, particularly the President, Education Officer & Welfare Officer, but nothing has ever been formally cemented.

He discussed the informal 'Executive Committee' (consisting of the President, General Secretary, Education Officer & Welfare Officer) that has existed by convention for years, but has never been ratified. In turn, he has assisted in drafting rules to formalise the Executive Committee and grant it delegated responsibility.

He noted the importance of consensus on this committee so that if one member is not happy the decision has to go to the National Executive. He raised the example of the Duty of Care Campaign, which was not explicitly mentioned in the NUS platform, but was implicitly mentioned. In turn, the Executive Committee made the call that this campaign was within the scope of the NUS platform.

Grace advised that formalising the Executive Committee is not wrong, however saying that this will stop financial mismanagement is not accurate given that our current rules should have stopped those issues in the first place.

Emily noted that whilst our current rules should have done so, the pattern of letting procedures within the NUS be governed by convention and not doing anything to fix this has contributed to the problem of office-bearers not informing others about big projects or major items of expenditure.

Alex Neale (Tharunka representative) joined the meeting at 8.21pm.

Grace clarified that she was not objecting to the formalisation of the Executive Committee, but was objecting to the funding approval aspect of it because it was unclear.

Emily advised that these concerns would be resolved through a financial delegation chart as this would clearly specify the limits of herself, the Executive Committee and any other office-bearers.

Luc noted that the consensus model for the Executive Committee is not inherently bad, it means that there's a few people other than the General Secretary approving expenses.

Motion:

1. The NUS National Executive endorses the creation of NUS Executive Committee which is made up of the:
 - NUS President
 - NUS General Secretary
 - NUS Education Officer
 - NUS Welfare Officer
2. The NUS Executive Committee must meet weekly, and update the National Executive on any significant political or financial decisions it has made.
3. A member of the NUS Executive Committee will give a verbal report back at every National Executive meeting, which will be included in the minutes and

sent to member organisations, ensuring campuses are kept up to date on the Committee's actions.

4. NUS Executive Committee must make decisions via consensus, where all members agree. When a unanimous decision cannot be reached, the matter must be taken to the National Executive to decide.
5. The National Executive, subject to the National Conference, maintains the management of the NUS. The NUS Executive Committee is subject to decisions made by the National Executive, it has delegated authority meaning it may be overruled by the National Executive.
6. The NUS Executive Committee will function to:
 - Interpret the NUS platform decided at the National Conference
 - Approve all expenditure above \$300,
 - with the General Secretary and one other office bearer being able to approve any expenditure below this amount; and
 - any expenditure above \$1000 being approved by the National Executive.
 - Coordinate any campaigns or events which are outside the scope of existing office bearers positions.

Moved: Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

Seconded: Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

For: 13 **Against:** 1 **Abstain:** 0

Carried

5.3 **AISA Services Agreement Action**

Emily advised that there were 3 options for the National Executive to choose from to pursue further legal advice in relation to the AISA matter discussed in NX3. She noted that written advice is more expensive, but would be worthwhile given it's better to get things in writing and it shows we are taking the matter seriously.

Akshay voiced that we should start with verbal advice and see where to go from there. Luc noted it's important we take this issue seriously, but we need to remember we are trying to get some of the \$9,500.00 back, so it doesn't make sense to expend too much money when verbal advice could be sufficient.

Guleid enquired as to what points we would discuss with the lawyers. Emily advised it would include all 5 points decided in NX3. Guleid enquired about who the letter of demand would be coming from. Emily advised that it would be best for the letter to come from a solicitor instead of the NUS.

Sinead asked about how many days we would need advice for, given the daily rate could be quite costly if this takes a long time. Emily advised she would look into this further.

Action

The NUS National Executive action the National General Secretary to enter into a costs agreement with Ben Bromberg or Maurice Blackburn, depending on total costs.

The NUS National Executive actions the National General Secretary to seek verbal legal advice, to action a letter from the acquired firm to be sent to Samuel Roberts, and for the Executive Committee to gauge whether to pursue written advice after receiving verbal advice.

Moved: Georgie Beatty (National President)

Seconded: Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

For: 14 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Carried without dissent

5.4 **NTEU Sydney Uni strike**

Luc encouraged anyone in Sydney who can come to the Sydney Uni strike to come at 7am on the 11th and 12th of May, or support online by donating to the campaign.

He noted how important this strike is and how management have blatantly refused to discuss some of the NTEU's important demands around pay and conditions. Staff are committed to maintain 40/40/20 teaching, research and administration models, ending forced redundancies, a pay rise and creating secure jobs for casual workers.

He emphasised the importance of showing solidarity with the broader trade union movement and the positive ripple effects this strike will hopefully have for other NTEU branches.

Platform:

1. The NUS supports the 48 hour strikes and pickets on May 11 and 12 2022.
2. The NUS represents the interests of students, and we believe that the corporate university as it currently operates is fundamentally harming our education, and that a strike is of the utmost importance to students.

Action:

1. Sydney-based officers of the NUS commit to attending the pickets and the NUS will encourage all students to do the same (either digital or virtual).
2. The NUS will share fundraising links for Usyd NTEU's strike fund, and encourage its members to support it when appropriate.

Moved: Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

Seconded: Beatrice Tucker (ACT State Branch President)

For: 14 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Carried without dissent

5.5 Education Conference Tender

Emily advised that there has been one tender received for the 2022 NUS Education Conference. This was submitted by the University of Sydney SRC and has been attached for the consideration of the National Executive.

Luc advised that USyd SRC have tentatively said that they could do the first week of July, however the 11th-13th of July is currently locked in. Adam voiced that the dates being earlier would be better for RMIT.

Guleid asked if there are themes being discussed for this conference. Luc advised there are tentative themes and that he is advocating for a theme around radical education. However, he advised that this has not been confirmed given the strikes at USyd have taken up a lot of time for USyd SRC.

Action

The National Executive Accepts the proposed tender for the 2022 NUS Education Conference by University of Sydney SRC.

Moved: Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

Seconded: Georgie Beatty (National President)

For: 14 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Carried without dissent

6. Meeting Close - 8.49pm