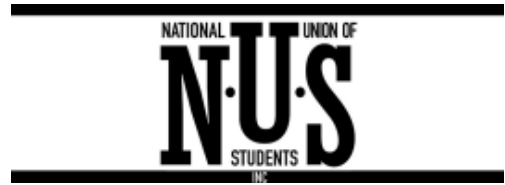


# National Executive Meeting

National Union of Students Inc.

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022



## Minutes

### Meeting Details:

Venue: Online

Time: 7:30pm AEST

Chair: Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

Minute Taker: Billy Zimmermann (National Welfare Officer)

## 1. Meeting Open - 7:41pm

### 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
Dhruv Sabharwal	National International 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
Lana Goodman-Tomsett	Qld State Branch President

General Executive Members/Voting Members

Adam Steiner	General Executive Member
Grace Hill	General Executive Member
Guleid Abdullahi	General Executive Member
Isobel O'Dwyer	General Executive Member
Jeremy Gilchrist	General Executive Member
Kelly Cvetkova	General Executive Member
Tiana Myers	General Executive Member

Observers

Andy Shim	Honi Soit Representative
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1.3 **Absent**

Kedar Krishnan	General Executive Member
Jonathan De La Pena	National Small & Regional Officer

1.4 **Election of Deputy Chair**

**Action**

The National Executive appoints Georgie Beatty as the Deputy Chair of the Committee.

**Moved:** Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

**Seconded:** Guleid Abdullahi (General Executive Member)

**For:** 16 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

1.5 **Acceptance of Apologies**

**Action**

The National Executive accepts the apologies of the following:

- Sabrina Yassine (General Executive Member)
- Beatrice Tucker (ACT State Branch President)
- Alex Nancarrow (General Executive Member)
- Sinead Winn (General Executive Member)
- Faizan Akram (WA State Branch President)
- Trisha Banga (General Executive Member)

**Moved:** Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

**Seconded:** Zebediah Crickshank (National First Nations Officer)

**For:** 16   **Against:** 0   **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

1.6   **List of Accepted Proxies**

The following proxies have been accepted by the National Secretary:

- Emily Sagolj (Sabrine Yassine)
- Luc Velez (Beatrice Tucker)
- Ella Hickey (Alex Nancarrow)
- Georgie McDaid (Sinead Winn)
- Isaac Solomon (Trisha Banga)

1.7   **Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

None received.

1.6   **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**Action**

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

**Moved:** Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

**Seconded:** Zebediah Criuckshank (National First Nations Officer)

**For:** 16   **Against:** 0   **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

**2.   National Officer Reports**

2.1   President (Moved to after 2.4)

2.2   General Secretary

2.3   Education Officer

2.4   Welfare Officer

2.5   Women's Officer

2.6   Queer Officer

2.7   LGBTIQIA+ Officer

2.8   Small & Regional Officer

- 2.9 International Officer
- 2.10 Disability Officer
- 2.11 First Nations Officer
- 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:** Luc Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

**Seconded:** Zebediah Criuckshank (National First Nations Officer)

**For:** 16 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

Emily Sagolj handed the chairing of the meeting to Georgie Beatty at 8:02pm.

Billy Zimmermann handed over the minute taking to Emily Sagolj at 8:02pm.

### **3. State Officer Reports**

- 3.1 Victorian State Branch President
- 3.2 NSW State Branch President
- 3.3 SA State Branch President
- 3.4 WA State Branch President (Submitted NX1, NX3 & NX4)
- 3.5 ACT Branch President - not submitted
- 3.6 **Motion to Accept State Officer Reports**

**Action**

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

**Moved:** Zebediah Criuckshank (National First Nations Officer)

**Seconded:** Tiana Myers (General Executive Member)

**For:** 16 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

## 4. Matters for Discussion

### 4.1 Profit & Loss

Emily advised that the P&L for the financial year and year to date was attached for members to view. She advised that detailed reports for both were provided and that she is working with the NUS's Admin & Finance Officer (Fin) to make the report easier to read.

Luc noted that queer officer expenses seemed to be under his budget line. Emily advised that she had noticed this and some other minor mistakes too, and noted that she will be working with Fin to ensure all expenses are accounted for correctly.

### 4.2 AISA Action Updates

Emily put forward a motion to move to in camera to discuss the ongoing legal advice regarding AISA.

**Action:**

The National Executive moves to in camera discussion at 8:02pm.

**Moved:** Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

**Seconded:** Georgie Beatty (National President)

**For:** 16   **Against:** 0   **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

**Action:**

The National Executive moves out of in camera discussion at 8:12pm.

**Moved:** Georgie Beatty (National President)

**Seconded:** Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

**For:** 16   **Against:** 0   **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

### 4.3 NUS' Position After the Federal Election

Grace Hill (General Executive Member) raised this item to discuss the NUS's thoughts after the federal election results, thoughts about the NUS's position during the election, and to discuss what our position is now that the Government has changed.

Georgie suggested that she pose the two questions to members of NX. She limited speaking time to 1 minute.

Question 1: What is the NUS's thought on the federal election results?

- Emily mentioned the issue of primaries for Labor being low and the concern

from seeing parties like the UAP having an increase in support. However, she was excited about the opportunity of a Labor government that is keen to listen to what the NUS has to say.

- Kelly voiced that she thought the ALP campaign was too right wing.
- Lana mentioned minor parties in Qld being an issue.
- Billy mentioned that the liberals refused to meet with us when in government, but now we have the opportunity to meet with people in government who actually want to listen.
- Luc was thoroughly uninspired by Labor's platform, he also thinks the teals are a concern. Luc said that the teals represent rich suburbs that are liberals who just listen to science.
- Grace thought that the result was not a left-wing outcome, she noted the right-wing nature of the election campaign. She raised the importance of being in the room and whether it's worth it. She voiced that they're unwilling to do anything to alleviate that crisis.
- Zeb voiced that he was really happy with the result and that he sees it as a good result for the future.

#### Question 2: What did people think of the NUSs position in the campaign?

- Kelly said that our intervention into the election was pretty soft on Labor, and that the general issues facing higher education were not addressed by the Labor party, but the NUS pushed that they would.
- Georgie advised that the It's Time for Change campaign is not just an anti-liberal government campaign, it is about pushing Labor to be better too.
- Billy said that we designed the campaign to continue regardless of the government that wins, it was designed to be an ongoing campaign.
- Grace said the elephant in the room was that higher education was not even a factor in the election and she said the NUS didn't do anything to make this a factor, and didn't critique the ALP for offering nothing to students. She noted that what we could've done is put pressure on them from the left to do more. She criticised the Labor factions and the grindies for this.
- Luc said that on lots of issues the NUS was silent, but not education. He noted that we endorsed the Greens' policy. He said Labor isn't going to bring changes but strikes can. He said that it was disappointing that SAIt from USyd went down to Victoria to help campaign for the Vic Socialists and that they should have been helping more on the ground with the strike at USyd.

#### Question 3: Where does the NUS go now?

- Luc said that it should be industrial action. He said there might be a big protest all together on the same day. He voiced his concern with campuses who don't have connections with the NTEU and how to help encourage the NTEU to be more militant on strike action.
- Kelly said in terms of looking at what role progressive institutions can play under a Labor government. She said it's important to know the effect a Labor government can have on these institutions. She noted that in NSW there's strikes under a lib gov, but in Vic there's a Labor with the same issues and no striking. She said being in the room with people who have made the same promises as the libs is probably not going to turn the tide for us.
- Grace voiced that she wanted to hear from Labor members present at NX.
- Emily voiced that she understands that Labor is not going to be perfect, however they are the only ones that will make tangible positive changes for not only students, but the whole of Australia. She said that our position is to encourage the government to make these positive changes now that we have

- a government who wants to hear us.
- Grace said they're going to be pressured, she said the focus of the NUS should be to mobilise students. We should turn NUS to issues most mobilising to students.
  - Georgie McDaid advised that she hates the Labor party and that their education policy is terrible, but their disability policy is amazing and it's very optimistic. She said fixing the NDIS is a big part of her portfolio, and it's important to look at the other areas that will be improved which will have benefits on students too.

#### Question from Observer

Andy enquired as to whether the National Disability, Education and Welfare Officers are willing to endorse the NUS's 2020 submission to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. He mentioned the problem of disabilities often being treated as a lesser issue, and the problem of only 20% of students claiming to be supported by their student union when issues arise.

Luc advised that he is not aware of the contents of the submission, but he would be broadly in support if it was previously endorsed. He voiced that these are ongoing issues that need to be considered. He noted that he's not a person with a disability and that he works with Georgie a lot when questions of disability come up.

Andy enquired as to whether the NUS would be supporting the 2020 submission and raising it with Ministers such as Bill Shorten and Jason Clare.

Luc said that he would, but noted that lobbying Ministers is not the be all and end all, in turn we should be doing more.

Billy said that he would, he voiced that a lot of these issues are very campus based. He noted that the University of Adelaide doesn't have a disability room even though they're a Go8 university.

#### **4.4 Education Conference Updates**

Luc advised that EdCon is happening in approximately a month at USyd. He noted that the theme this year is Radical Education: The Revival of Student Unionism. He advised that plenaries are generally decided. There will be 6, which includes plenaries focused on: education, climate organising, uluru statement of the heart, NTEU strikes (focusing on what usyd did and what other can do), SASH, and a session dedicate to state break-outs. He reminded everyone that Emily has sent out all the forms re: registration, equity grants and workshops.

Guleid enquired as to why there is no international student plenary.

Luc said his perspective was that we could have an international student focus in the education plenary and that we work to make sure there's a good chunk of time dedicated to both domestic students & international students. He noted that none of the other plenaries are autonomous-position based.

Guleid voiced that the biggest frustration on his end is that international students have had a tonne happen to them in the past 5-weeks and there's a lot that needs to be spoken about. He said there's lots of issues we face that should be raised and that there are plenaries that could be blended such as climate & education. He

asked if there were any international students on this committee and voiced that this plenary is something that we should not compromise on.

Luc said that he doesn't think that a lack of an international students focused plenary means that they are excluded. He said topics like education and climate organising need to be considered by all. Luc said that he knows Guleid is not saying that climate change isn't important, just as he isn't saying that he is against international students

Guleid voiced that international students aren't against a climate change discussion, but he thought it was important for international students to have the opportunity to educate everyone on their issues. Plus he said it's a plenary that's been very successful in the past.

Grace said that an international student plenary has not been there all time. She said we should focus on what would actually have to happen to revive the student union movement.

Dhruv voiced that there are problems international students face that are pressing and need to be addressed. He noted that these issues shouldn't be put into a corner.

Georgie said that this issue can be raised at the next EdCon planning committee.

## **5. Matters for Decision**

### **5.1 Disability Department Registration to AFDO**

Georgie McDaid said that registration to the AFDO is \$30 a year and that it will be good to get involved and get to know other organisations involved in the disability space.

#### **Motion:**

- The NUS National Executive empowers the NUS Disability Department to apply for Associate Membership of AFDO
- Upon successful application, the NUS National Executive approves cost of \$30 a year invoiced to the General Secretary

**Mover:** Georgie McDaid (National Disability Officer)

**Seconder:** Emily Sagolj (National General Secretary)

**For:** 16    **Against:** 0    **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

### **5.2 NUS Stands with Refugees**

Kelly said this is important for the NUS to pass this motion given the lack of support for refugees and the pattern of locking refugees in offshore and onshore detention.



She brought up the rally which should be endorsed by the NUS. she noted that we need to consider the position we will take now that there's a new government. She advised that the first thing Labor did on their first day was to turn back refugees coming from Sri Lanka.

Grace advised that this fits in with what the NUS's strategy should be, but also that it goes to another part of the previous conversation. She said there's people who knowingly aided the government who people fled from.

Billy suggested an amendment to remove point 3 for factual reasons. He noted that the reason we know about the boat turn back was because the coalition government did it on election day, and that there was a press release about it. In turn, this was not the Labor government, so it's something that's factually incorrect.

Georgie said that Labor wouldn't have done anything different if we had been in government, so we shouldn't be giving them credit or hiding that.

**Amendment:**

Remove point three from motion 5.2: 'NUS denounces the Albanese government for turning back a boat of refugees from Sri Lanka. NUS believes that refugees have a right to seek asylum in Australia.'

**Mover:** Billy Zimmermann (National Welfare Officer)

**Seconder:** Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

**For:** 11   **Against:** 4   **Abstain:** 0

**Carried**

Luc and Grace proposed another amendment to motion 5.2 to denounce the Albanese government and requested a named vote. Georgie allowed a named vote.

Billy suggested we have a 5 minute break, given that the meeting has gone for almost 2 hours.

**Procedural Motion:**

The National Executive meeting is adjourned for a 5-minute break.

**Mover:** Billy Zimmermann (National Welfare Officer)

**Seconder:** Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

**For:** 13   **Against:** 3   **Abstain:** 0

**Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm and recommenced at 9:25pm.

Discussion ensued regarding the amendment proposed by Luc & Grace.

Lana left the meeting at approximately 9:28pm and proxied her vote to Billy.

Isobel left the meeting at approximately 9:28pm and proxied her vote to Tiana.

Emma left the meeting at approximately 9:29pm and proxied her vote to Jacqueline.

Adam left the meeting at approximately 9:29pm and proxied his vote to Emily. This was not able to be accepted as she was already holding a proxy.

**Amendment:**

The NUS denounces the albanese government for maintaining a shameful and murderous policy of turning back boats.

**Mover:** Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

**Seconder:** Grace Hill (General Executive Member)

**For:** 4 - Beatrice Tucker (proxied to Luc Velez), Kelly Cvetkova, Sinead Winn (proxied to Georgie McDaid), Grace Hill.

**Against:** 11 - Sabrine Yassine (proxied to Emily Sagolj), Lana Goodman-Tomsett (proxied to Billy Zimmermann), Guleid Abdullahi, Beatrice Co, Isaac Solomon, Trisha Bana (proxied to Isaac Solomon), Jeremy Gilchirst, Alex Nancarrow (proxied to Ella Hickey), Tiana Myers, Emma Hogan (proxied to Jacqueline Price), Isobel O'Dwyer (proxied to Tiana Myers).

**Abstain:** 0

**Failed**

Discussion ensued regarding the original motion and potential amendments. Emily put forward a procedural motion to end discussion about the motion and take it to a vote.

**Procedural motion:**

End discussion on motion 5.2 and vote on the original motion with the carried amendment (removal of point 3).

**Mover:** Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

**Seconder:** Isaac Solomon (SA State Branch President)

**For:** 11   **Against:** 4   **Abstain:** 0

**Carried**

**Motion:**

1. NUS endorses the Melbourne 'World Refugee Day rally - no refugee left behind' demonstration and will encourage member student unions to do the same.
2. NUS will promote the demonstration on social media.
3. NUS demands the Biloela family be granted permanent protection, and the opportunity to have Australian citizenship if they wish.

**Moved:** Kelly Cvetkova (General Executive Member)

**Seconded:** Grace Hill (General Executive Member)

**For:** 15 **Against:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

**Carried Unanimously**

5.3 **Student Media is Essential**

Luc explained that in recent negotiations with with UTS Students' Association, senior management has demanded that funding for UTS's official student publication, *Vertigo*, be slashed by approximately half the agreed-upon amount set at the beginning of this year. He voiced that this was a pointed attack on student voices and impacted *Vertigo*'s ability to function for the second half of the year.

Emily advised that the situation is more nuanced than the motion portrays. She acknowledged that student media has been notoriously underfunded around Australia, however UTS upper management have not slashed funding this year. She advised that *Vertigo* was told they would be receiving \$120k, which was a rise from the previous year. Further, *Vertigo* never got a promise from the university to double funding. In turn, she thought characterising *Vertigo* funding as being attacked by upper management as inaccurate.

**Amendment:**

The platform of motion 5.3 is amended from 'The NUS stands in solidarity with UTS *Vertigo* and condemns these attacks initiated by upper management' to 'The NUS stands in solidarity with UTS *Vertigo* and denounces upper management for overriding the independence of student union funding decisions.'

**Moved:** Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

**Seconded:** Guleid Abdullahi (General Executive Member)

**For:** 10 **Against:** 4 **Abstain:** 0

**Carried**

**Platform:**

The NUS stands in solidarity with UTS Vertigo and denounces upper management for overriding the independence of student union funding decisions.

**Action:**

- The NUS share this motion on its social media platforms including Facebook and Instagram.
- The SRC share any relevant material from UTS *Vertigo* pertaining to the motion.

**Moved:** Luc Velez (National Education Officer)

**Seconded:** Georgie Beatty (National President)

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

**Carried Unanimously**

6. Meeting Close - 9.48pm