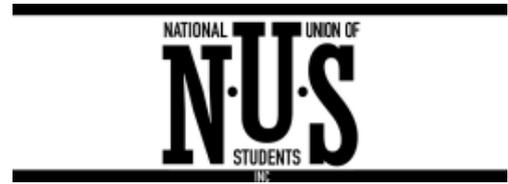


# National Executive Meeting

National Union of Students Inc.

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2022



## Minutes

### Meeting Details:

Venue: Online

Time: 7:30pm AEST

Chair: Georgie Beatty (National President)

Minute Taker: Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

## 1. Meeting Open - 7:40pm

### 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
Jordy Duffey	National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer
Ella Hickey	National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer
Georgie McDaid	National Disabilities Officer
Dhruv Sabharwal	National International Officer

#### State Branch Presidents/Voting Members

Isaac Solomon	SA State Branch President
Lana Goodman-Tomsett	Qld State Branch President

#### General Executive Members/Voting Members

Grace Hill	General Executive Member
Jeremy Gilchrist	General Executive Member
Kelly Cvetkova	General Executive Member
Sabrina Yassine	General Executive Member - joined at 7.47pm
Sinead Winn	General Executive Member

Tiana Myers                      General Executive Member  
Trisha Banga                      General Executive Member

1.3        **Absent**

Zebadiah Cruickshank   National First Nations Officer  
Jonathan De La Pena   National Small & Regional Officer  
Faizan Akram                      WA State Branch President  
Beatrice Tucker                      ACT State Branch President  
Kedar Krishnan                      General Executive Member

Observers

Andy Shim                              Honi Soit Representative

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

1.5        **Acceptance of Apologies**

**Action**

The National Executive accepts the apologies of the following:

- Beatrice Co
- Jacqueline Price
- Alex Nancarrow
- Emma Hogan
- Adam Steiner
- Akshay Jose
- Guleid Abdullahi
- Isobel O'Dwyer

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

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**1.6 List of Accepted Proxies**

The following proxies have been accepted by the National Secretary:

- Emily Sagolj (Beatrice Co)
- Ella Hickey (Alexander Nancarrow)
- Tiana Myers (Emma Hogan)
- Billy Zimmermann (Adam Steiner)
- Trisha Banga (Guleid Abdullahi)

**1.7 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

Billy declared a conflict of interest regarding the YouX motion because he is studying at the University of Adelaide and is a former member of the University of Adelaide Union board.

**1.6 Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**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:** Emily Sagolj (National Secretary)

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**2. National Officer Reports**

- 2.1 President
- 2.2 General Secretary
- 2.3 Education Officer - submitted 1 day late
- 2.4 Welfare Officer
- 2.5 Women's Officer
- 2.6 Queer Officer
- 2.7 LGBTIQIA+ Officer - Submitted 1 day late
- 2.8 Small & Regional Officer - Not submitted

- 2.9 International Officer
- 2.10 Disability Officer
- 2.11 First Nations Officer - Not submitted
- 2.12 Ethnocultural Officer

Grace asked about what Georgie's meeting with Jason Clare consisted of. Georgie said it was just an introduction. She advised that the optics of discussion for this upcoming meeting will be a JRG overhaul, vibes on SSAF reform and duty of care, plus the importance of free education. She noted that we would also discuss the accords.

Sabrine Yassine joined the meeting at 7:47pm.

Andy asked about the agenda with Jason Clare and spoke about the need to address issues for disabled students. He asked whether there is intention from the NUS to engage with Jason Clare with regard to disability reform.

Georgie advised that she would liaise with Georgie McDaid and Andy further about this.

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

## **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 - Not submitted
- 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:** Billy Zimmermann (National Welfare Officer)

**For:** 14   **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 brought up the issues discussed at the last meeting. She advised that she would be working with the NUS's Admin & Finance Officer (Fin) to fix these changes by the next meeting.

##### **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 7:54pm.

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

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**Action:**

The National Executive moves out of in camera discussion at 8:09pm.

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

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**Motion:**

The National Executive decides to take no further legal action in regard to the AISA issues originally raised in the April National Executive Meetings.

The National Executive decides to accept the \$4500 offered by Samuel Roberts.

The National Executive actions the NUS Executive to release a statement to members in regards to the finalisation of the matter.

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

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 4.3 **Education Conference Overview**

Georgie advised it was a very productive conference with lots of good discussions. She said it was good to see where people stand on JRG and the accords. She thanked all the working groups for their hard work.

Luc noted it would be good for Georgie, Emily, Grace and himself to get together to write a handover doc about EdCon for next year. Emily, Georgie and Grace agreed.

#### 4.4 **Discussion of Higher Education Accord**

Georgie advised that the NTEU are not supportive of the accord, but they are sussing out this week what it will look like.

The National Executive meeting adjourned for a 5-minute break - 8.17pm.

Kelly brought up the issue of predominantly VCs being included in the accords process.

Grace highlighted the issue of students, staff and bosses not having the same interests and how it does not work for them to come together.

Emily advised she wants to see what the process looks like, but noted that VCs being the only ones involved is pretty terrible.

Georgie reiterated that VCs are scabby and will not be productive to the conversation.

Grace does not think there is any way to have a positive outcome through this process.

## 5. **Matters for Decision**

### 5.1 **Changing perceptions, and the age - money for polling**

Billy advised that Georgie and him have been working with the FYA on an opportunity to put questions in the next round of essential polling. He noted that the questions need to be vetted, but would help show perceptions of student poverty and the age of independence.

He advised that this will go a long way in our research and in generating attention towards these issues. He noted that the NUS has been quoted \$1500 for the first question and \$1200 for every subsequent question + GST, and that this money would be coming out of the pool of \$10,000 the FYA provided to help with our campaigns, particularly the change the age campaign.

Grace enquired as to whether this could be used in other areas, such as to help with mobilising people on the ground.

Billy acknowledged this, however he noted that we need to get costs and proof for the government to see what changes need to be made. He advised that this is more cost efficient now that we have a government that is keen to listen.

Georgie voiced that this money is worth it in order to draw some media attention to the issue too.

**Action:**

National Executive Approves up to \$3000 to go to commissioning 'Essential Polling' for the campaign to Change the Age of Independence.

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

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

5.2    **Administration & Finance Officer Contract Renewal**

Emily advised that Finian Scallan has been employed part time as the NUS Administration & Finance Officer for just over a year now. In turn it is time to renew his contract. He is currently employed for 21 hours a week and his role is categorised as SUE 4.1 under the EBA, equivalent to HEW 4.1 under the modern award.

She noted that the budget review committee is in favour of the NUS maintaining an Administration & Finance Officer for 21 hours at the current award level, but adjusted for CPI.

**Action:**

The National Executive directs the General Secretary to renew the contract for the role of Administration and Finance Officer of the NUS with Finian Scallan for another 12 months and increase his current remuneration with CPI.

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

**Seconded:** Sinead Winn (General Executive Member)

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

**Carried Unanimously**

### 5.3 **NUS Opposes the Religious Discrimination Bill**

Grace advised that the religious discrimination bill in any form should not be supported by the NUS. She noted that whilst Labor's new bill may be a sanitised version of the original bill, it will still give courage to the religious right to push for more and discriminate against the LGBTQIA+ community.

Andy brought up the issue of disabled people being discriminated against and how he feels this is never addressed. He also questioned whether Grace would be in support of the Disability Officer of the NUS being paid.

Grace advised that ideally all NUS OBs should be paid, but that this is ultimately dependent on the funding of the NUS.

Andy asked if Grace was in favour of laws in place to ensure discrimination cannot happen to disabled people and whether a Disability Officer should be paid. Grace said yes to both.

Emily Sagolj left the meeting at 8:46pm and handed minute taking to Billy Zimmermann.

Ella Hickey expressed that a bill protecting religious people from discrimination is not necessarily a bad thing, although key parts of the bill are flawed.

Grace requested a named vote.

#### **Action:**

NUS will publish a statement from the main NUS facebook page, and put out a press release, denouncing any effort to revive the religious discrimination bill, and affirming our opposition to sexism, homophobia, and transphobia.

NUS recognises that the passing of even a sanitized version of this bill will give courage to the religious right to press for more of their demands.

NUS affirms its opposition to religious institutions such as schools and hospitals discriminating against women and LGBTI people in any way.

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

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

**For:** 13 - Grace Hill, Kelly Cvetkova, Alex Nancarrow (proxied to Ella Hickey), Tiana Myers, Emma Hogan (proxied to Tiana Myers), Isaac Solomon, Sinead Winn,

Sabrine Yassine, Guleid Abdullahi (proxied to Trisha Banga), Lana Goodman-Tomsett, Trisha Banga, Jeremy Gilchrist, and Adam Steiner (proxied to Billy Zimmermann).

**Against:** 0

**Abstain:** 0

**Non-voting member support:** Georgie Beatty, Luc Velez, Jordy Duffey, Dhruv Sabharwal, and Georgie McDaid

**Carried Unanimously**

#### 5.4 **Solidarity with the movement in Sri Lanka, support Sr Lankan refugees**

Kelly introduced the motion and spoke of the amazing work of activists in Sri Lanka taking out the regime in Sri Lanka. She mentioned the mass demonstrations Colombo, after the Rajapaksa family enriched themselves whilst Sri Lankans have suffered.

She advised that a new president has been elected by the parliament - Ranil Wickremesinghe, who has been equally met with strong opposition from the movement.

She noted that the Australian Labor government is supporting the Rajapaksa government and the NUS should condemn them as well as show solidarity with the movement in Sri Lanka.

Billy put forward an amendment to remove point 3 from the motion, arguing that it is inaccurate and that we do not need to condemn Labor to commend the activists fighting overseas.

**Amendment:**

Remove point three from motion 5.4: 'NUS condemns the actions of the Australian Labor government in supporting the Rajapaksa government'.

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

**Seconder:** Lana Goodman-Tomsett (Qld State Branch President)

**For:** 10 **Against:** 3 **Abstain:** 0

**Carried**

Georgie moved immediately to voting on the now amended motion.

**Motion:**

1. NUS stands in solidarity with the ongoing movement in Sri Lanka against the Rajapaksa family, their supporters, and the government which continues to rule for the rich and refuses to meet the protesters' demands. As a student union we stand in solidarity with the protesters, including worker and student unionists, who were attacked and arrested at the protest camp in Colombo.
2. NUS condemns the Rajapaksa's campaign of genocide waged against Tamils in the country.
3. NUS condemns the Australian government for turning back refugee boats, and supports the right of refugees, including those from Sri Lanka, to seek asylum in Australia.

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

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

## 5.5 YouX

Isaac introduced the motion on YouX, explaining that the President of the then Adelaide University Union has renamed the Union to 'YouX'. He advised it is uninspiring and shares its name with various other organisations including a porn site.

Grace asked to clarify whether the 'statement to YouX' was a statement to the public or to YouX. She also noted that the commentary around has been funny but that the focus should be on the fact this is an attack on student unionism.

Isaac clarified that the statement is on YouX and not to them. He also clarified that he was on the same page about reorienting towards it being an attack on student unionism.

Grace suggested an amendment to add a point: 'The statement will explicitly condemn the faction 'Progress' as anti-union. Isaac and Georgie accepted this amendment.

### **Motion:**

National Executive Moves that:

1. The NUS opposes the rebranding of the Adelaide University Union (AUU) to 'YouX'.
2. The NUS condemns:
  - a. The ideological motives behind rebranding of the Adelaide University Union;

- b. The suppression of information surrounding the costs and consultation process for the rebranding;
  - c. The deeply worrying trend of secretive and undemocratic actions by President, Oscar Ong and members of the AUU.
3. The NUS President Georgie Beatty & NUS SA State President Isaac Solomon deliver a statement on the rebranding of the AUU to YouX.
- a. The statement will explicitly condemn the faction 'Progress' as anti-union.

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

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

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

**Carried Unanimously**

**6. Meeting Close - 9.07pm**