



NatCon Policy Submission Guide

For the National Union of Students

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1. When to Submit Policy

Policy submissions open at 09:00am AEDT on 3/11/22 and close at 23:59 AEDT on 30/11/22. Any submissions sent after the closing date will not be added to the policy book, so make sure to get it in on time.

Policy is to be emailed to gensec@nus.asn.au

2. Who Can Submit Policy

Policy can be written by anyone, however it must be moved and seconded by an NUS delegate. This doesn't mean you aren't able to speak on the policy during the conference; it simply has to be submitted by a delegate.

Example:

Moved: Emily Sagolj (National Secretary) on behalf of [writer of motion]

Seconded: Georgie Beatty (National President) on behalf of [writer of motion]

3. How to Format Policy

All policy motions must contain the following components:

1. A title outlining what the policy is;
2. A preamble introducing and explaining the policy;
3. A platform which explains the position the policy wishes the NUS to adopt; and/or
4. An action section, which details the steps the NUS will take if the motion is passed.

All policies must be submitted in a word document; any other formats will not be accepted. In your policy document, please use Calibri font in size 12, with 1.5 spacing. Please try to keep policy succinct and to the point. Any other questions please feel free to email gensec@nus.asn.au

4. Policy Platform/NUS Rules Amendment Template

Title [either make it something relevant to the amendments or fun/eye-catching]

Section:

[Chapter name], [subchapter name], [clause/s]

Preamble:

[this should just be a succinct explanation in of the proposed policy, including any relevant background information]

Action:

1. [this should be in numbered points and outlines the desired amendments to the policy platform]
2. [this could be adding a section/clause/sub-clause, deleting a section/clause/sub-clause, or tinkering with the wording of a section/clause/sub-clause].
3. etc.

Moved: [Name of delegate/national OB/state OB] (NUS Position or Campus)

Seconded: [Name of delegate/national OB/state OB] (NUS Position or Campus)

NOTE - please make your amendments and the relevant sections of the platform being amended are clear. If needed, include an excerpt of the section you wish to amend.

5. Urgency Motion Template

Title [either make it something relevant to the motion or fun/eye-catching]

Preamble:

[this should just be a succinct explanation of the proposed policy, including any relevant background information]

Platform:

1. [this should be in numbered points and outlines the NUS's position if this motion is adopted]
2. etc.

Action:

1. [this should be in numbered points and outlines the desired actions the NUS will take if the motion is adopted].
2. etc.

Moved: [Name of delegate/national OB/state OB] (NUS Position or Campus)

Seconded: [Name of delegate/national OB/state OB] (NUS Position or Campus)

NOTE - It is not necessary for you to include both platform items and action items for urgency motions, you need to have one, but up to you whether you have both.

6. Example of Policy Platform Amendment

Survivor-centric responses to SASH

Preamble:

A lot of universities still take a terrible ‘perpetrator focus’ when it comes to complaints of SASH. Although working towards some form of sanction against the perpetrator is important, it’s crucial to remember that the survivor coming forward needs a lot of support and that this support is needed to encourage disclosures into the future. The Women’s chapter does cover a lot of this in clause 8, however a big issue that’s still present is the transparency of complaint outcomes.

Students are sometimes left in the dark and forced to chase up complaints, they’re not told their full range of options, or they’re just left with a vague response regarding the outcome of their complaint. In turn, the NUS should also support that survivor-centric responses to SASH include that complaint options are clear, outcomes of complaints are transparent, and outcomes are reported in a timely manner to survivors.

Section:

Women’s Chapter, Sexual Assault and Harrassment Prevention, Clause 8.

Action:

1. Add the following sub-clause to clause 8 (Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention) of the Women’s Chapter: ‘complaint options being clear, outcomes of complaints being transparent and outcomes reported in a timely manner’.
2. This is to be read as: ‘The NUS supports a survivor-centric response to sexual assault and harassment. This includes:
 - a. the establishment of an independent investigative process, with appropriately trained staff.
 - b. accessible trauma informed therapeutic services.

- c. complaint options being clear, outcomes of complaints being transparent, and outcomes reported in a timely manner.
- d. the development of alternative justice and resolution processes in regard to sexual assault and harassment, with appropriately trained and supported staff across all Australian universities.
- e. recognising that patriarchy, compulsory heteronormativity and toxic masculinity are key contributing factors to the epidemic of sexual assault and harassment in Australian universities. Furthermore, universities should not promote “Men’s Rights Activist” theory or propaganda in any way.

Moved: Emily Sagolj (Deakin University)

Seconded: Georgette Mouawad (National Women’s Officer)

7. Example of Urgency Motion

Looking after Regional Students

Preamble:

A Report from Reach Out Australia has found from 2017–2021 an increase in probable serious mental illness amongst rural young people from 20.9 percent to 27 percent. The data from 2021, in particular, showed that of all age groups included in the research, 18–19 year olds were the group most likely impacted by mental health.

Platform:

1. The NUS acknowledges the challenges that regional students face in terms of mental health difficulties and stands in solidarity with regional and rural students from all across Australia.
2. The NUS is to focus on promoting mental health awareness in country areas, this could be by working with headspace, black dog institute, beyond blue or royal far west.
3. The NUS will also survey young people about mental health and present these ideas to institutions which promote mental health awareness.

Action:

1. The NUS will engage with mental health agencies such as headspace, black dog institute, royal far west or beyond blue, to formulate a survey and build a framework to assist rural students in regards to mental health.

Mover: Jye Langley (University of Wollongong)

Second: Jemima Tilly (Deakin University)

8. Additional Resources

To assist with drafting policy, the following docs are available to guide you:

- 2021 Rule Changes Submitted:
<https://nus.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-Rule-Changes-Updated.pdf>
- 2021 Policy Platform Changes Submitted:
<https://nus.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-Policy-Amendments-Day-3-.pdf>
- 2021 Urgency Motions Submitted:
<https://nus.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-Urgency-Motions-Day-3.pdf>