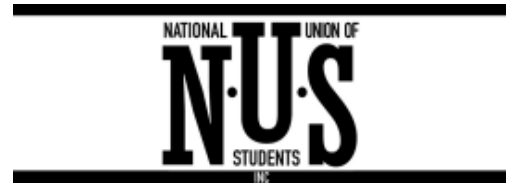


National Executive Meeting



National Union of Students Inc.

Wednesday, 15th March 2024

Agenda

Meeting Details:

Venue: Zoom

Time: 7:30 pm AEDT

Chair: Ngaire Bogemann (National President)

Minute Taker: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)

1. Meeting Open - 7:34pm

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

1.2 Attendance

National Office Bearers/Non-voting members

Ngaire Bogemann	National President
Jonathan De La Pena	National Secretary
Sabrina Yassine	National Welfare Officer
Grace Franco	National Education Officer
Ela Akyol	National Women's Officer
Ella Gutteridge	National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer
Eddie Stephenson	National Queer/LGBTQIA+ Officer
Chandra Altoff (Apology)	National First Nations Officer
Mairead Foley	National Disabilities Officer
Reynal Adrien (Apology; joined 8:09pm)	National International Officer
Jacinto Hedus (Apology; joined 8:01pm)	National Ethnocultural Officer
Caitlin Marlor	National Small & Regional Officer
Beth Shegog	National TAFE Officer

State Branch Presidents/Voting Members

Oliver Shephard-Bayly	SA State Branch President
Disha Zutshi	Vic State Branch President
Hamish Covell	NSW State Branch President
Liam Bessell-Koprek	ACT State Branch President
Jeremy Wong (Proxy to Jacinto Hedus; joined 7:48pm)	Qld State Branch President
Heidee Austic (Proxy to Yashaiah Varona)	WA State Branch President
Liam McLaren	TAS State Branch President

General Executive Members/Voting Members

Xavier Dupe	General Executive Member
Veronika Gobba	General Executive Member
Tess Robb	General Executive Member
Finbar Bray	General Executive Member
Nicholas Goodyer	General Executive Member
Lucy Fawcett	General Executive Member
Brandon Lee (Apology)	General Executive Member
Kevin Li	General Executive Member
Alexander Knowles (Proxy to Jonathan)	General Executive Member
Daniel O'Shea	General Executive Member
Molly Quinnell (Proxy to Dan O'Shea)	General Executive Member
Asadullah Jan	General Executive Member

1.3 **Absent**

1.4 **Election of Deputy Chair**

Action

The National Executive appoints Jonathan De La Pena as the Deputy Chair of the Committee.

Moved: Disha Zutshi (VIC State Branch President)

Seconded: Molly Quinnell (General Executive Member)

1.5 Acceptance of Apologies

Action

The National Executive accepts the apologies of the following:

- Chandra Altoff (First Nations Officer)
- Brandon Lee (General Executive Member)

Moved: Jonathan De La Pena (General Secretary)

Seconded: Nick Goodyer (General Executive Member)

1.6 List of Accepted Proxies

The following proxies have been accepted by the National Secretary:

- Jonathan De La Pena (on behalf of Alexander Knowles)
- Yashaiah Varona (on behalf of Heidee Austic)
- Dan O'Shea (on behalf of Molly Quinnell)
- Jacinto Hedus (on behalf of Jeremy Wong)

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 and the discussed amendments are a true and accurate reflection of that meeting.

NX 1 - 30/01/2024

ENX 1 – 16/02/2024

Moved: Bethany Shegog (VE Officer)

Seconded: Jonathan De La Pena (General Secretary)

2. National Officer Reports

2.1 Chance for OBs to speak further on their reports.

2.2 Motion to Accept National Officer Reports

Action

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

Ngaire took her report as read

Jonathan took his report as read; a question was raised on why the agenda was sent late to which he apologised; a question was raised on when the website would be fixed and the appropriate NatCon documentation shared to which he responded that the Policy Platform would be uploaded by the end of the month;

Sabrina took report as read; spoke to the event scheduled tomorrow

Grace spoke on her report holding a meeting of Education Officers; spoke on triple j hack

regarding the recent Accord release;

Ela spoke to her report on engaging with UOW community organizing; period poverty campaign making progress

Ella spoke on working with Students With Palestine in QLD, holding biggest protest in UQ to date; they spoke of ongoing protest action in future.

Eddie spoke on students strike for Palestine and the ongoing momentum for student activism particularly for Palestine actions. They spoke on role of police at Mardi Gras and commented on the police's re-inclusion into Mardi Gras.

Francois apology, take report as read;

Mairead took report as read but spoke on the disability roadmap. They also spoke on how the Accord had not been briefed on Disability Royal Commission and noted that Accord did not address intersectionality

Rey apology, take report as read;

Jacinto apology, take report as read;

Caitlin Went to UEW OWeek, reached out to regional campuses to build network

Beth took report as read; getting funding from RMIT to get reach outs to RMIT TAFE students

Moved: Veronika Gobba (General Executive Member)

Seconded: Beth Shegog (VE Officer)

3. State Officer Reports

3.1 Chance for SBPs to speak further on their reports

3.2 **Motion to Accept State Officer Reports**

Action

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

Oliver took report as read; spoke on state based campaigns at USASA

Disha gave verbal report; 7 OWeeks attended across all Victorian campuses;

Hamish gave verbal reports; Universities Accord welcomed by many member organisations; aims to increase student awareness on UniAccords. Spoke with Callum Glasgow of the student advisory council.

Liam Bessel took report as read;

Heidee apology, take report as read;

Liam McLaren took report as read; saw good movement from Palestine rallies

Moved: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)

Seconded: Lucy Fawcett (General Executive Member)

4. Matters for Discussion

- 4.1 **February Financial Statements**
Spoke on transparency of documents

Speaker: Jonathan De La Pena

5. Matters for Decision

5.1 Re-Affirmation of the NUS Policy Platform – Minimum Legislated SSAF

To re-affirm the NUS's stance as passed during National Conference 2023, in particular motions 2.12 and 2.13 (amended). While it is important that we maintain a consistent voice and messaging from the NUS, we are also bound by the Policy Platform set for the NUS at National Conference 2023.

Action:

The National Executive re-affirms its stance on a minimum legislated SSAF, in particular motions 2.12 and 2.13, including the amendment which reads:

2.12 SSAF in Student Hands

1. The NUS advocates for democratic, student-led control over organisations which receive SSAF funding.
2. The NUS encourages students to agitate for the democratic restructuring of all SSAF-funded organisations that are not meaningfully controlled by students.

“Amendment to 2.13: change Action 1 change all mentions of “50% SSAF to a minimum of 50% SSAF”

2.13 Achieving 50% SSAF Allocation for Student Organizations

1. NUS will work harder to secure a *minimum* 50% allocation of the SSAF for student organisations.
2. This will involve advocating with university administrations, raising awareness among students, and collaborating with student organisations.
3. The campaign will highlight the importance of these funds in enhancing the student experience, supporting essential services, and promoting student representation and participation in university life.

Discussion ensued include arguments for 100% SSAF campaign

Mover: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)

Seconder: Beth Shegog (VE Officer)

CWD

5.2 End Placement Poverty Campaign and Week of Action

Placement poverty continues to burden students all around the country. We know that students are suffering from working long, unpaid hours while also trying to study and live in an increasing cost of living crisis. We have heard from students and seen solidarity from the Unions, organisations. We have also seen Placement Poverty highlighted in the Australian Universities Accord. Now, it's time to act and create change.

The [Australian Services Union](#) and [Students Against Placement Poverty](#) are holding a Week of Action 8-12 April. There will be various events (tbc) which will culminate in a rally in Sydney (location tbc).

The NUS as the peak representative body of students nation-wide, should be involved in all campaigns to End Placement Poverty as a part of our overarching End Student

Poverty campaign. Endorsing this Week of Action is yet another way to show our work and support for the campaign.

Action:

1. The NUS will partner with the ASU and SAPP where possible on End Placement Poverty campaigns.
2. The NUS will endorse the Week of Action 8-12 May.
3. The NUS will encourage member organisations to attend and participate in events during the Week of Action.
4. Where possible, the NUS will engage students and student unions from all states and territories in the Week of Action.
5. The NUS will continue advocacy around Placement Poverty into the NUS *End Student Poverty* Week of Action.

Grace spoke on the motion; Xavier spoke and criticised ASU and their methods of campaigning; discussion ensued.

Mover: Grace Franco (Education Officer)

Seconder: Ngaire Bogemann (President)

CWD

5.3 Joining the Student Constituency of the Buildings Action Coalition (BAC)

On International Youth Day 2022, the Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Youth Constituency called on all humanitarian funds, development partnerships, and United Nations agencies to democratically include young people in decision-making structures.

Composed of more than 100 youth-led NGOs from 40 crisis-affected countries, and hosted by

the 100 Million Campaign at Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation, the ECW Youth Constituency is the first democratic youth constituency in the humanitarian sector.

Since the announcement of the campaign, the call to action has been endorsed by the Organising Bureau of European School Student Unions (OBESSU), All-Africa Students Union

(AASU), European Students Union (ESU), Commonwealth Students Association (CSA), and La

Organización Continental Latinoamericana y Caribeña de Estudiantes (OCLAE), in addition to

the Global Campaign for Education - United States (GCE-US) and Global Campaign for Education - Germany (GCE-Germany), transforming an aspiration into a grassroots movement.

The NUS has also been formally invited ([see invitation](#)) to join the newly-formed youth and student constituency of the Buildings Action Coalition (BAC), hosted by the United Nations Environment Program. The constituency is the first youth and student constituency for climate action.

To [join and endorse the movement, the requested wording can be found here.](#)

Action:

1. The NUS accepts the invitation to join the youth and student constituency of the BAC

2. The NUS will endorse the Youth Democracy and the Buildings Action Coalition on Twitter with the proposed wording
3. The NUS appoints Grace Franco (National Education Officer) and Lucy Fawcett (NX) *for the duration of their term* to be the joint
 - a. official contacts for the BAC, and
 - a. representatives to all subsequent meetings.
2. The representatives will report back to NX
3. *The NUS will work towards a climate NDA*

Grace spoke on the motion; Eddie and Ela queried an explanation on what was involved and queried the effectiveness of the motion; Veronika proposed amendment “for the duration of their terms” which was amenable to the mover; Xavier noting to vote against the motion as its ineffective and is the Gutterbridgeburg who is promoting against the UN and institutions who refuse to do anything about climate action vs institutions doing very wishy-washy climate motions. Further discussion ensued.

Mover: Grace Franco (Education Officer)

Second: Oliver Shephard-Bayly (SA State Branch President)

Xavier votes against; Carried

6. Meeting Close - 8.30pm