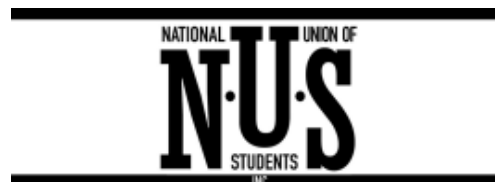


National Executive Meeting



National Union of Students Inc.

Wednesday, 6th November 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 (Apology) | National Welfare Officer |
| Lucy Fawcett | 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) | National International Officer |
| Jacinto Hedus (Apology) | 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 (Proxy to Caitlin Marlör) | NSW State Branch President |
| Liam Bessell-Koprek (Proxy to Brandon Lee) | ACT State Branch President |
| Jeremy Wong | Qld State Branch President |
| Heidee Autistic | 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 (Proxy to Disha Zutshi) | General Executive Member |
| Nicholas Goodyer | General Executive Member |
| Edward Archer | General Executive Member |
| Brandon Lee | General Executive Member |
| Kevin Li (Proxy to Asad Jan) | General Executive Member |
| Alexander Knowles (Proxy to Olivia Stronach) | General Executive Member |
| Daniel O'Shea | General Executive Member |
| Molly Quinnell (Proxy to Daniel O'Shea) | General Executive Member |
| Asadullah Jan | General Executive Member |

1.1 **Absent**

1.2 **Observers**

1.3 **Election of Deputy Chair**

Action

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

Committee.

Moved: Ngaire Bogemann (National President)

Seconded: Tess Robb (General Executive Member)

Carried Without Dissent (CWD)

1.4 **Acceptance of Apologies**

Action

The National Executive accepts the apologies of the following:

- Refer to Attendance Sheet

Moved: Ngaire Bogemann (National President)

Seconded: Caitlin Marlor (S&R Officer)
CWD

1.5 **List of Accepted Proxies**

The following proxies have been accepted by the National Secretary:

- Refer to Attendance Sheet

1.6 **Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest**

None received.

1.7 **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 7 - 02/10/2024

Moved: Ngaire Bogemann (National President)

Seconded: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)
CWD

2. **National Officer Reports**

2.1 Chance for OBs to speak further on their reports.

Ngaire took her report as read; Eddie asked Ngaire about the upcoming TEQSA Conference. Mairead commented that TEQSA was free to attend online, that Universities usually receive 3 student tickets which are typically passed on to the Student Union. Ngaire noted that she was speaking on "Student Experience in the Higher Education Sector"

Jonathan took his report as read;

Eddie spoke to their report stating that they have had a focus on the anti-abortion movement. Xavier asked about what Eddie planned to do after the current outcome of the U.S. Election with a Republican win. Eddie noted that despite the rise of homophobic and anti-abortion support, particularly within the U.S., that this is the time to shut down such far right movements early and before they gain momentum.

Mairead gave a verbal report noting the successes of Disability Conference despite the organisational and technical issues. They noted that it was great to hear presentations from both students in attendance but also from peak bodies such as the Australian Disability Network or CIDA to name a few. That through funds raised and grants given that there is space for the Disabilities Department to continue to advocate for Disabled rights, particularly as we go into the new year. Mairead commented that they would be unable to attend NatCon in Ballarat and asked for support in ensuring NatCon remains accessible.

Caitlin took report as read

Lucy took report as read

2.2 Motion to Accept National Officer Reports

Action

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

Moved: Caitlin Marlor (National S&R Officer)

Seconded: Liam McLaren (TAS State Branch President)
CWD

3. State Officer Reports

3.1 Chance for SBPs to speak further on their reports

Disha had nil to add;

Heidee had nil to add;

Liam McLaren had nil to add;

3.2 Motion to Accept State Officer Reports

Action

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

Moved: Caitlin Marlor (S&R Officer)

Seconded: Liam McLaren (TAS State Branch President)
CWD

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1 October Financial Statements

Speaker: Jonathan De La Pena

Nil questions were asked about October Financial Statements

4.2 Disability & Ethnocultural Conference Debrief

Speaker: Mairead Foley, Jacinto Hedus & Jonathan De La Pena

4.3 National Conference Update

Speaker: Jonathan De La Pena

Jonathan spoke to the ongoing planning of National Conference with the venue likely to be held at Federation Uni Ballarat.

Mairead spoke in dissent to this citing the accessibility issues at FedUni that attendees suffered last year, specifically the inaccessibility of travel around the campus and the accommodation.

Jonathan stated that mitigation measures would be taken if hosting NatCon in Ballarat , including exploring the option of an on-campus mobility vehicle operated by the NUS for those with mobility issues, an on-campus livestream for attendees with sensory issues and a commitment to consider the accessibility needs of attendees and to do our best, in coordination with Conference Organisers, to meet these needs.

Xavier proposed La Trobe Bundoora, the other campus put forward for consideration to host NatCon.

Jonathan responded that with the proximity to NatCon that there were issues of having mixed accommodation with La Trobe students and attendees and that this would be a safety issue. Jonathan noted that he had reached out to La Trobe Bundoora earlier in the week and had yet to receive a response and commits to continuing to reach out to see their efficacy, however stated that if a resolution could not be reached by the end of the week that Ballarat would need to be the other option to explore for National Conference.

5. Matters for Decision

Motion to move 5.1 to 5.5 en bloc

Mover: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)

Seconder: Tess Robb (General Executive Member)

CWD

5.1 2024 National Conference Organisers

To assist with the running of NatCon, the National Executive traditionally appoints 2 Conference Organisers who have experience in the running of previous conferences. The following people have been recommended as conference organisers.

- Harry Danton-Jack
- Ben Naiju

Their experience with NatCons previously will help to ensure this year's NatCon can be run smoothly. Previous Conference Organisers have been paid between \$3000 to \$6500 for their assistance with the conference. I am recommending that the National Executive approves up to \$3500 for the 2024 Conference Organisers.

Action:

1. The National Executive approves Harry Danton-Jack & Ben Naiju as Conference Organisers for the 2024 National Conference held in December.
2. The National Executive approves \$3500 + GST in remuneration for each Conference Organiser.

Moved: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)

Seconded: Ngaire Bogemann (National President)

5.2 Appointment of National Conference Returning Officers

Preamble:

Election time is fast approaching, as pursuant to NUS Bylaw B33 the National Executive must appoint a returning officer one month prior to the beginning of conference.

Action:

1. The National Executive appoint OGL Group as Returning Office for National Conference in accordance with NUS By-Law B33.
2. The National Executive will appoint a Deputy Returning Officer via circular resolution.

Moved: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)

Seconded: Ngaire Bogemann (National President)

5.3 Appointment of Accreditation Committee

Preamble:

The National Executive must by three-quarters majority appoint an Accreditation Committee which must be at least one individual who has been admitted to practice as a solicitor for at least five years. The Accreditation Committee must:

- a. accredit delegates and observers in accordance with B2 and B16;
- b. review the accreditation of delegates and observers in accordance with B8;
- c. allocate votes to delegates in accordance with R20;
- d. verify the delegation of voting rights by delegates unable to attend Conference in accordance with B9; and
- e. prepare an accreditation report, which includes votes for each member organisation:

The Accreditation Committee must meet before, and, if necessary, at each meeting of National Conference to consider the accreditation of delegates.

Traditionally, Maurice Blackburn recommends one solicitor for us and our auditors recommend another for the Accreditation Committee. Their recommendations are as follows:

- Cassie Serpell: <https://www.vicbar.com.au/profile/7097>
- Declan Murphy: <https://www.listgbarristers.com.au/barristers/declan-murphy>

Action:

The National Executive:

1. appoints Cassie Serpell to the Accreditation Committee; and
2. appoints Declan Murphy to the Accreditation Committee.

Moved: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)

Seconded: Ngaire Bogemann (National President)

5.4 Pre-Conference Business Committee

Preamble:

The National Executive must elect a Pre-Conference Business Committee of 5 persons before each meeting of the National Conference. The Pre-Conference Business Committee holds office until the Conference Business Committee takes office. National Conference must elect a Conference Business Committee of 7 persons on the first day of Conference, immediately after the election of the returning officer under B48.

Action:

The National Executive appoints the following to the Pre-Conference Business Committee:

- Ngaire Bogemann
- Jonathan De La Pena
- Sabine Yassine
- Xavier Dupe
- Caitlin Marlor

Moved: Mover (Position)

Seconded: Secunder (Position)

5.5 Ratification of Fee Review Committee

The Fee Review Committee has this year in order to approve fee waivers for member organisations. This is a list as approved by Fee Review Committee exc GST.

University of Tasmania - \$5,000 **Same as 2023**
Edith Cowan University Student Guild - \$500 **Down from \$1,000**
University of Adelaide - \$1,000 **Same as 2023**
UWA - \$15,015.35 **Down from \$20,000**
Curtin University - \$38,700 **Down from \$41,000**
Monash University (Clayton) - \$15,000 **Same as 2023**
Victoria University - \$2,000 **Same as 2023**
University of Melbourne - \$80,000 **Same as 2023**
University of South Australia - \$10,900 **Same as 2023**

Fees presented to member organisations which had not submitted a Fee Waiver Form, as decided by the Fee Review Committee.

Australian National University - \$36,718 **Up from \$31,600**
University of New South Wales - \$19,890.03 **Up from \$19,000**
University of Sydney - \$55,630.31 **Up from \$53,141**
University of Technology Sydney - \$35,000 **Same as 2023**
University of Wollongong - \$4,187.31 **Up from \$4,000**
Western Sydney University - \$3,297.56 **Up from \$3,150**
Queensland University of Technology - \$2,617.11 **Up from \$2,500**
University of Queensland - \$10,468.44 **Up from \$10,000**
RMIT University - \$41,873.74 **Up from \$40,000**
Flinders University - \$15,702.65 **Up from \$15,000**
Swinburne University of Technology - \$5,234.22 **Up from \$5,000**
Deakin University - \$33,498.99 **Up from \$32,000**
Latrobe University - \$3,140.53 **Up from \$3,000**

Total Affiliation Fees 2024 = \$435,374.24 + GST Up from \$432,960 + GST

Motion:

That the National Executive ratifies the the above fee waivers for 2024 as set by Fee Review Committee

Moved: Jonathan De La Pena (National Secretary)

Seconded: Ngaire Bogemann (National President)

Xavier noted that hosting EdCon in Perth did not seem to benefit the NUS as they continued to apply for fee waivers.

Ela stated that it is an issue that two men were being put forward for Conference Organisers is an issue, particularly since they are paid positions, and that she would be putting in a motion to mandate at least one woman to be involved as a conference organiser.

CWD

5.6 NUS NX condemns anti-abortion MPs

Preamble:

Conservative politicians are trying to restrict women's right to abortion. Queensland MP Robbie Katter has threatened to move a bill to restrict access to abortion in some cases. While the Liberal National Party claim they have "no plans" to restrict abortion, due to Queenslanders' overwhelming support for abortion rights, when abortion was decriminalised all but three Liberal MPs voted against decriminalisation, including the new Premier David Crisafulli. It's still LNP policy to allow a conscience vote if a bill is moved. The government includes such anti-choice bigots as Amanda Stoker. While assistant federal minister for women, Stoker attended anti-abortion rallies. She still holds anti-abortion views - she once described the decriminalisation as "barbarism [with] the cloak of civility".

Shamefully, many in the ALP have also supported moves to restrict abortion. A motion in the South Australian upper house to ban late-term abortions was defeated by only one vote. Both Labor and Liberal MPs voted in favour of the ban. None of these MPs were suspended for their extreme opposition to women's rights, unlike, for example, Fatima Payman following her vote to recognise a Palestinian state. Former SDA Secretary Joe de Bruyn, historically associated with the Labor Right, recently gave a speech at Australian Catholic University in which he attacked abortion and same-sex marriage. ACU students staged a mass walkout in protest at de Bruyn's appallingly bigoted views.

The claims of conservatives to be "pro-life" is rubbish. All attempts to restrict abortion are about denying women autonomy and equal rights. Any concessions to their demands makes it seem like they have genuine concerns, and emboldens them to demand more. As the US overturning of Roe v Wade demonstrates, these conservatives will never be satisfied until women are denied abortion access altogether. These attacks come as the far right is growing internationally on the basis of extreme misogyny. Young people on average have more conservative views on women's rights than previous generations did at their age. This makes it even more important that we protest against right-wingers.

For that reason, NUS LGBTI and Women's held a protest in Brisbane on Friday to oppose any restrictions on abortion and demand full abortion access. Given the Liberals ran a racist election campaign and are planning to further persecute Aboriginal youth, it's important that NUs has shown their right-wing attacks won't be accepted.

Platform:

1. NUS NX condemns the anti-abortion agenda of Robbie Katter and many Liberal and Labor MPs in Queensland
2. NUS NX condemns Liberal and Labor MPs in South Australia that voted against to restrict abortion rights
3. NUS NX supports the ACU who walked out on Joe de Bruyn's anti-abortion speech
4. NUS NX calls for abortion to be made free, legal and on-demand in all Australian states and territories

Action:

1. NUS President, Women's Officer and LGBTI Officers will publish the above on their official social media accounts

Moved: Ella Gutteridge

Seconded: Ela Akyol

Caitlin put forward an amendment:

Action:

Amend platform 1&2

NUS NX Condemns any Member of Parliament who actively expresses views or votes in a way that undermines a woman's right to choose their reproductive healthcare.

Moved: Caitlin Marlor (S&R Officer)

Seconded: Tess Robb (General Executive Officer)

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

Xavier and Eddie asked on how the NUS would face the ongoing rise of anti-abortion sentiment, particularly following the U.S. Election.

Ela asked if a conscience vote would be held regarding abortion rights at NatCon24.

6. Meeting Close - 8.47pm