

## Vice President (Further Education) National Conference Report

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**Action:** Approve

<b>Priority Aims</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To improve students' unions profile and investment in the FE and skills sector                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To protect and improve funding for 16-18 education</li> <li>To win improved student travel discounts and access locally with students' unions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Strategy</b>
<p>To achieve the key aim of putting the importance of students' unions and learner voice to colleges, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>collaborate with key influencers across the sector to run campaigns with students at the forefront, showing the strength and value of effective student voice.</li> <li>capitalise on these campaigns to make the case for greater investment and support for student voice in colleges</li> <li>promote strategic approach to learner voice through sector promotion of the LVF</li> </ul>

### Breakdown/Update

Area of work	Progress
<p><b>Improving students' unions profile and investment in the FE and Skills Sector</b></p> <p>(All Year)</p> <p>Policies: FE101   This Story is getting old... time for investment in FE/College our voices to be heard!</p>	<p>This is the overall goal to be achieved whilst achieving the 2 areas of work below.</p> <p>FEZone have been working closely with Association of Colleges (AoC) on promotion of NUS Events and resource to principals that our part of both of our structures, whilst also encouraging those who are not affiliated to NUS to join. This is to also help support student voice in their institutes, through tools, such as the Learner Voice Framework, and the development support NUS can provide. In the new regulatory framework from Ofsted (to be launched in September 2019) Student Voice (through Youth Social Action) is now part of the Inspection criteria in Colleges across in England.</p> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Next step is to work with AoC puts students at the heart of decisions being made about the quality and governance of the learning experience. And make sure this continues through continued growth in FE Engagement. This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting with the heads of AoC to discuss future partnerships</li> <li>Creating a guide to Youth Social Action and Student Engagement from a college point of view</li> </ul>
<p><b>To protect and improve funding for 16-18 education</b></p> <p>(Term 1)</p>	<p>FEZone have joined with the AoC and other Education Unions for a week of action on the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> October called #loveourcolleges. Which included a national day of action on October 17<sup>th</sup> in London:</p>

<p>Polices:</p> <p>Motion 201   Putting Learners at the heart of the Post 16 Skills Plan</p> <p>Motion 203   Save Our Support Services</p> <p>Motion 205   An Agenda on Tertiary Education</p>	<p>This involved Mass Lobby of Parliament &amp; #loveourcolleges rally. 3000 students staff and principals attend the march and lobby in Westminster on a very wet day to hear from a wide range of speakers pushing the message of Fairer Funding for FE. The speakers included the NUS President and Jess Crowley from City College Norwich representing the voice of students.</p> <p>The lobby also saw a student led petition by Brockenhurst college students reach near on 70,000 signatures leading to a debate in parliament in January. Showing students have a voice and do want to make a difference.</p> <p>Festival saw 70+ Student Leaders come to Sheffield and engage with the agenda for the day , which included introduction to NUS, Motions and campaigning, Learner Voice and much, much more. We were also joined by the chair of the AoC who took part in a live Q&amp;A Session and a photo call of making sure FE is no longer on life support.</p> <p>On Valentines Day 2019, a letter signed by 165 Cross Party MP's was handed into the Treasury calling for Fair Funding in FE and we have been clear that this is over all Educational pathways.</p> <p>This work has been my key message when meeting the Education Resource Group of the Augar Review, to fight genuine concerns of making sure the review does not take from Higher Education to fund further Education, but to see investment into the sector and further education to be treated as an equal education provider in this country.</p> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>The 'Love Our Colleges' campaign is an ongoing campaign, with the next steps to influence party manifestos and the next budget. Linking with the 'Education on Edge' campaign from HE Zone.</p>
<p><b>To win improved student travel discounts and access locally</b></p> <p>(Term 2)</p> <p>Motion 203   Save Our Support Services</p>	<p>During last year FEZone launched a campaign to tackle Transport costs facing FE Students and Apprentices. At national conference 2018, FE Zone gave an overview of its survey findings which had 1000 views to look over. I saw the spilt of issues dependant on region across the UK.</p> <p>Time was then taken to compare with findings in the Poverty commission and give findings to the Post-18 Funding Review, UCAS Council and Government officials to show how the cost of living strains are a barrier to education.</p> <p>In January 2019 it was announced that 16-18-year olds studying in Further Education would be charged child fares for train tickets. Showing the message of "myFEJourney" is being heard.</p> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>To research and create a case study of local areas to see what colleges do to support students getting too college, this is based on devolved legislation that local authorities should be providing support to 16-19 years to get to college.</p>



## Other work

### T-Levels and Technical Education:

Department of Education consultation into T-Levels closed at the end of February 2019. T Levels are a new mode of post-16 technical study being piloted from academic year 2020/21. T Levels will offer learners the opportunity to mix classroom-based learning with a 45 day industry placement with a relevant employer.

Our consultation responses focused on the aspects that will have the biggest impact on students' experiences of T Level study. These are:

- Information, advice and guidance
- Student placements and support
- Learner voice and quality assurance

### Future Ready Skills Commission

In January I joined the Future Ready Skills Commission based in West Yorkshire. This is a new national skills commission that will explore how greater devolution can create a skills system that responds to the needs of local economies and ensures people are properly equipped for the jobs of the 21st Century. NUS will bring the student voice perspective to education, specifically around Careers Advice and Guidance.

### Post 18 Augar Review

I have been working with the Vice President (Higher Education) as part of the Education Resource group, speaking about the fairness of funding required in Further Education especially when it comes to Student Maintenance and support, whilst also being clear on what all Tertiary Education needs from this review:

- Maintenance Grants
- Rent and Tenancy Fees/Standards
- International Student Support
- Fees and Quality Charters
- Information, Advice and Guidance

### Brexit and FE

Through out the year I have been supporting the Vice President (Higher Education) in working with the Peoples' Vote campaign and For Our Futures Sake talking about how Brexit will affect further education students and institutes

### NUS Reforms

With the "Get to safety" work that took place in the first part of the year, my zone budget was reduced to £3,000 for the rest of the year, which has meant that some work has had to be put on hold and travel has reduced. Made a note that my travel would reduce significantly, and I have stepped calling FE Officers and holding surgeries to offer what support I can.

I have been to all conversations with the Full Time Officers in regards to the consultation whilst also attending Strategic Conversation to make sure Further Education and Apprentices have not been forgotten in this process. Also I have been working to create packs ahead of National Conference, that will be available to all delegates to explain and breakdown these reforms and how the process and conference will work this year.

**Personal Note: Due to a Family Death and Illness in December and January my work slowed, and I stopped travelling.**





## Membership Visits/Engagement

Since July 2018 to March 2019, Myself and FEZONE have visited/attend:

- David Russell – Education and Training Foundation
- Highbury College
- TEF Independent Review Students Listening session
- Augar Review – Education reference group
- AoC - Academic and sixth form Policy group
- #Iwill Advisory Council – Education meeting
- People's Vote Rally in Sheffield - Speaker
- The Convention – People's Vote – Panel Member
- Hereford College of Arts
- UCAS Council
- Strategic Conversation
- NUS Wales
- Association of Colleges Annual Conference
- Blackpool and the Flyde College
- City College Norwich
- Northern Regional College (Ballymena Campus)
- Leeds City College
- Oaklands College
- Portsmouth College
- North East Officer Network @ Teeside University
- Narco Centre (Leeds)
- Launch of Women for Peoples vote campaign (Speaker)
- North East Rally for Peoples vote (Speaker)
- The Gathering
- City of Glasgow College
- BBC Look East - A Level Segment (Guest)
- NUS Lead and Change (Hertfordshire and Leeds)
- Tradeshow 18
- NUS Awards 18
- Students' Union 18

