nus NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Trustee Board report

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NUS UK Trustee Board

Author:	Shakira Martin
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Directors	National President and Chair, Shakira Martin NUS Officer Director, Amatey Doku NUS Officer Director, Gwyneth Sweatman NUS Officer Director, ZamZam Ibrahim NUS Officer Director, Shuwanna Aaron Student Director, Amanda Chetwynd-Cowieson Student Director, Nicola Hemmings Student Director, Yousef El-Tawil Student Director, David Titley Student Director, Jaspreet Singh Student Director, Jo Goodman External Director, Kate McKenzie External Director, Thomas McNeil External Director, Morenike Ajayi External Director, Jo Binding
Action:	National Conference will be asked to vote to approve this report

Introduction from the Chair

Welcome to National Conference and to this report from the NUS UK Board (one of three Boards which make up the NUS Group.)

The Boards and Committees are an important part of the NUS governance processes. They ensure that our organisation is legally and financially secure, so that we can continue to campaign on the issues that affect our students the most.

To achieve this, the NUS UK Board oversees our Student Voice work. At each meeting the Board will receive updates on the progress and actions of key projects, to ensure the continued effectiveness of NUS in tackling key student issues. Other powers are delegated by the Board, and we also receive reports from the Audit and Risk and the Human Resources Subcommittees.

This report provides a summary of the updates and decisions made at this Board and the attendance of the Trustees. My report further highlights some key things that have happened over the past 12 months.

As you would expect during a year of Turnaround the NUS UK Board have been concerned with Turnaround work. This work is detailed in other papers presented to National Conference.

This report is on behalf of the Trustee Board. National Conference are asked to note its contents and approve this report.

What does the NUS UK Board do?

The NUS UK Board (referred to in the Articles as the 'Trustee Board') is responsible for the management and administration of the National Union and may exercise all the powers of the National Union as set out in these Articles of Association and the Rules. Subject to Article 69 the NUS UK Board's principal function in exercising its powers, duties and functions shall be to serve the aims, objects and wishes of the National Conference, National Executive Council and committees in line with Policy set out by those bodies.

No alteration of these Articles or the Rules shall invalidate any prior act of the Trustees which would have been valid if that alteration had not been made. A meeting of the Trustees at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by the Trustees.

The NUS UK Board's powers under Article 67 shall include but not be limited to ultimate responsibility for the:

- management and administration of the National Union;
- the Detailed Internal Budgets of the National Union; and
- in conjunction with the National Executive Council, the formulation and proposal to the National Conference of the Budget of the National Union as presented by the National President.

NUS UK Board Attendance

Position	First Name	Last Name	Meeting 1 10/10/18	Meeting 2 (Joint Boards 16/01/19)	Meeting 3 (Joint UK and Turnaround Board meeting 20/02/19)
National President	Shakira	Martin	Attended	Attended	Apologies
NUS Officer	Amatey	Doku	Attended	Attended	Apologies
NUS Officer	Gwyneth	Sweatman	Attended	Attended	Attended
NUS Officer	ZamZam	Ibrahim	Attended	Attended	Attended
NUS Officer	Shuwanna	Aaron	Attended	Attended	Attended
Student Director	Amanda	Chetwynd-Cowieson	Attended	Attended	Attended
Student Director	Nicola	Hemmings	Apologies	Attended	
Student Director	Yousef	El-Tawil	Attended	Attended	Attended
Student Director	David	Titley		Attended	Attended
Student Director	Jaspreet	Singh	Attended	Attended	
Student Director	Jo	Goodman	Attended		
External Director	Kate	McKenzie	Apologies	Attended	Attended
External Director	Thomas	McNeil	Attended	Attended	
External Director	Morenike	Ajayi	Apologies		
External Director	Jo	Binding	Attended	Attended	Attended

Board Subcommittee Attendance

Position	First Name	Last Name	Meeting 1 08/11/18	Meeting 2 18/01/19
UK Board Student Director	Amanda	Chetwynd-Cowieson		Attended
UK Board External Director (Chair)	Kate	McKenzie	Attended	Attended

Finance and Resource Subcommittee Attendance

Position	First Name	Last Name	Meeting 1 26/09/18	Meeting 2 08/11/18	Meeting 3 14/01/19
NUS UK Board Member	Morenike	Ajayi	Attended	Attended	attended
NUS UK Board Member	Amatey	Doku	Apologies	Attended	attended

Overview of work and decisions of the NUS UK Board

Main Priorities	Progress (what has been achieved since Conference 2018)
Administration & Appointments	Appointed Shakira Martin, Amatey Doku, Morenike Ajayi and Jo Binding to the Turnaround Board Appointed Amanda Chetwyn-Cowieson and Kate McKenzie to HR Subcommittee Appointed Amatey Doku and Morenike Ajayi to Finance and Resources Subcommittee Agreed a cycle of business for the year to include Joint Board meetings with the Boards of NUS SU Charitable Services and NUS Services.
Reports	Received reports from the Chief Executive and Leadership Team. Noted the work of the National Executive Council and Zone Conferences Received reports on current finances and financial scenario planning Received NUS UK Accounts Received reports on Turnaround and scenario planning Received Reform White Paper Received feedback from members and stakeholders on Reform White Paper
Strategy	Agreed the formation of NUS' Turnaround Board Agreed transitional arrangements for 2019/20 to ensure NUS' solvency Approved audit accounts and estimates Received updates on NUS' race equity plan Proposed estimates to NUS National Conference
Turnaround Board	The Turnaround Board was formed to take action on short and long term financial and governance issues across the NUS Group. It was tasked, in conjunction with NUS UK Board, to come back with a range of proposals on the future of NUS' governance with a final way forward prepared for National Conference and a Company Law meeting in 2019. It is made up of members from the principle Boards of NUS UK, NUS Charitable Services and NUS Services. Actions undertaken by the Turnaround Board have been: Commissioned an independent forensic analysis of the NUS Group accounts by KPMG Prepared a discussion paper setting out the principles and ideas for the reform of NUS Group and reviewed responses.

	Published a White Paper on Reform and open a consultation with all members on this paper
Audit and Risk	Following the setting up of the Turnaround Board the NUS UK Board, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, agreed to place meetings of the Audit and Risk subcommittee on hold. Due to this year's financial situation, measure have been put in place to place NUS' finances under increased scrutiny from directors of each entity in the group as well as from external advisers. The Board therefore felt that governance, audit and risk within NUS UK and the NUS Group was subject to sufficient scrutiny during the Turnaround period.
Finance and Resources	Areas relating to Finance and Resources are delegated to Finance and Resources Subcommittee. In order to monitor the work of this committee the Board receive minutes and reports following each meeting. The Board also has representatives making up the membership of this committee alongside members of other NUS Boards and external members. Overseen financial impact planning for the Turnaround Board Monitored 13 week and longer term cashflow Monitored audit and risk records
Human Resources	Areas of Human Resources are delegated to the HR Subcommittee. In order to monitor the work of this committee the Board receive minutes and reports following each meeting. Approved Voluntary Redundancy Scheme Monitored progress of culture work in the context of turnaround Monitored progress of Race Equity work Approved policies: Anti-bribery and Probation policies
Corporate Governance	Agreed the formation of NUS' Turnaround Board Received and scrutinised the proposals for a new Corporate Governance arrangements Approved the Terms of Reference and delegated authorities

Report from the Chair of the NUS UK Board

NUS100

NUS100: Manifesto for a Just and Sustainable Future launched in July 2016. It is a six-year framework which sets out what we want to achieve and how we want to achieve it.

This section of the report provides an update of some of the activity we've undertaken against the key themes in the strategic plan since NUS National Conference 2017. This is not an exhaustive workplan but it gives an overview of some of the work of NUS. These four areas of our plan are:

- Everyone can access and excel in post-16 education
- The learner voice creates change in education
- Wellbeing and welfare are central to the student experience
- Students have confidence to engage in civic life

We achieve these by:

- Supporting excellence in students' unions
- Developing a strong and influential collective voice
- Putting data, evidence and digital at the heart of our work
- Attracting and retaining outstanding people

NUS UK is explicitly responsible for the four areas of our plan as well as Developing a strong a influential collective voice. The other areas of work are directed by other entities within the NUS Group.

Activity This Year

The specific circumstances of the work around Turnaround has meant a; smaller staffing resource, less money for activity costs, and restrictions on budgets and travel. In turn this has meant that the work in NUS UK has been more tightly focused around fewer priorities. Details on Turnaround are included extensively elsewhere in the papers.

The below gives an overview of some of the key campaigns which have taken place in NUS UK separate to Turnaround. It's important to note that this does not account for all of the work taking place in NUS UK but should give an overview to delegates of some of the work which has been taking place.

If you are interested in a fuller overview of the work going on in NUS you may be interested to read our impact report

Black attainment gap programme

This has been a cross-organisational piece of work which has sought to address the persistent Black attainment gap by working at a national level with UUK to produce a report on current activity; to work at a local level with decolonisation campaigns and local activists; and to plan for future work by rerunning our Race for Equality research into the experiences of Black students. Since launching the campaign we have seen institutional targets around the attainment gap announced by the Office for Students as well as a suite of work to address inequalities announced by the DfE.

Education on the Edge

In a time of flux in the further and higher education landscape we have sought to quantify and address the risks to the provision of education and potential institutional failure across FE and HE to be able to lobby the Government and sector for changes in policy and greater protection for students and learners. This work has incorporated our influencing of the Augar Review in England, following on from last year's Poverty Commission report, as well as support for the Association of College's Love Our Colleges campaign.

Race Equity Impact Report

In July 2017 NUS launched a five-year Race Equity Plan to tackle institutional racism. This plan is grounded in the view that racism is deeply embedded across society, including within institutions. In September we launched our Race Equity Impact Report to look at the progress we've made so far and some the lesson we've learned.

Student housing

We have launched two reports into the costs and conditions of student housing, including the latest of our Accommodation Costs Survey reports and a new version of our Homes Fit For Study reports. We have used these in lobbying the Augar Review committee as well as encouraging local action on housing with students' unions.

Mental health

There is sector-wide interest in mental health and this has manifested in a number of work strands within NUS, including Scottish Government-funded activity in Scotland, engagement with working groups in Wales, and shaping the new Student Mental Health Charter with Student Minds, as well as other work on student suicide. Key goals have included ensuring culturally competent care and address the causes as well as the symptoms of mental ill health.

Taking the Hit

Part of NUS' strength is the link between our campaign work and commercial services. Last year the Welfare zone and Trans Campaign collaborated with Release to launch Taking The Hit, the first ever report into student drug use. We want to ensure that as many SUs as possible are best equipped to help their students make informed decisions about drugs. The tests now available on the purchasing consortium are high quality, affordable and cover the substances we found to be most commonly used in our report, specifically MDMA, ketamine and cocaine. The kits are now on the NUS Connect Trading Directory and orders can be placed on the NUS SU retail outlet.

Students not Suspects

The Black Students' Campaign launched new resources for elected officers to effectively oppose Prevent. These new resources accompany What is Prevent and why should we oppose it and How does Prevent affect my institution, launched during Islamophobia Awareness Month, to provide students' union with an in-depth understanding of the duty and how to build a strong and impactful campaign to oppose Prevent within students' union.

The NUS Women's Campaign also wrote an extensive post on how Prevent has disproportionately targeted British Muslims, but especially Muslim women, who already face the sharp end of structural and institutional racism.

#BudgetforBetter

Alongside calling for improvements to financial support for students, NUS Scotland's #BudgetforBetter campaign also put forward the need for ring-fenced funding to improve student mental health support. Following the success of their campaign, in September the Scottish Government announced £20 million of funding to recruit 80 new counsellors for Scotland's colleges and universities as part of their Programme for Government.

Stop and Scrap Universal Credit Training Days

NUS Disabled Students' Campaign, Women's Campaign, and Parents and Carer's Campaign, along with colleagues at Unite the Union and Unite Community have been providing training to students and officers across the UK in utilizing different campaigning methods to work toward stopping and scrapping Universal Credit

People's Vote

NUS has been calling for a People's Vote on Brexit. This year we have called for all students and academics to have the opportunity to say no to the increasingly likely situation that we lose the benefits that come from academic mobility. You can read some of the statements made by NUS Wales here and NUS-USI on Brexit here.

Migration Advisory Committee Report

The International Students' Campaign responded to the long awaited Migration Advisory Committee Report noting 'At its worst, it represents a failure to act on the evidence presented to the committee, from NUS and others within the sector, demonstrating the immeasurable social and economic benefits that international students bring.' You can read their response in full here

Gender Recognition Act

The LGBT+ campaign encouraged students' unions to stand up for Trans Students through responding to the Government's consultation on reforms to the Gender Recognition Act. Their guidance covered potential impacts of reform and encouraged students' unions to respond. This work was supported by NUS Scotland, NUS Wales and NUS Women's Campaign.

#TrustUs

NUS USI have been campaigning to call on Westminster to legislate for free, safe, local, and legal abortion services in Northern Ireland. The #TrustUs work was inspired by the HometoV8te campaign. You can read more on the work of NUS-USI here.

16 Days of Activism

From 25 November to 10 December, women and allies around the world marked the UN's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. NUS Wales Women's Campaign launched a toolkit to help students and students' unions join in and call for an end to violence against women and girls in Wales once and for all.

Membership Contribution 2018-19

Under section 2100 of the NUS Constitution, the Board is responsible for proposing the membership fee system for NUS in its report each year. We are required to do this according to the following broad principles:

a) Transparency

b) Ability of unions to pay

c) Fairness and comparisons of "like with like"

d) Flexibility for unions experiencing hardship

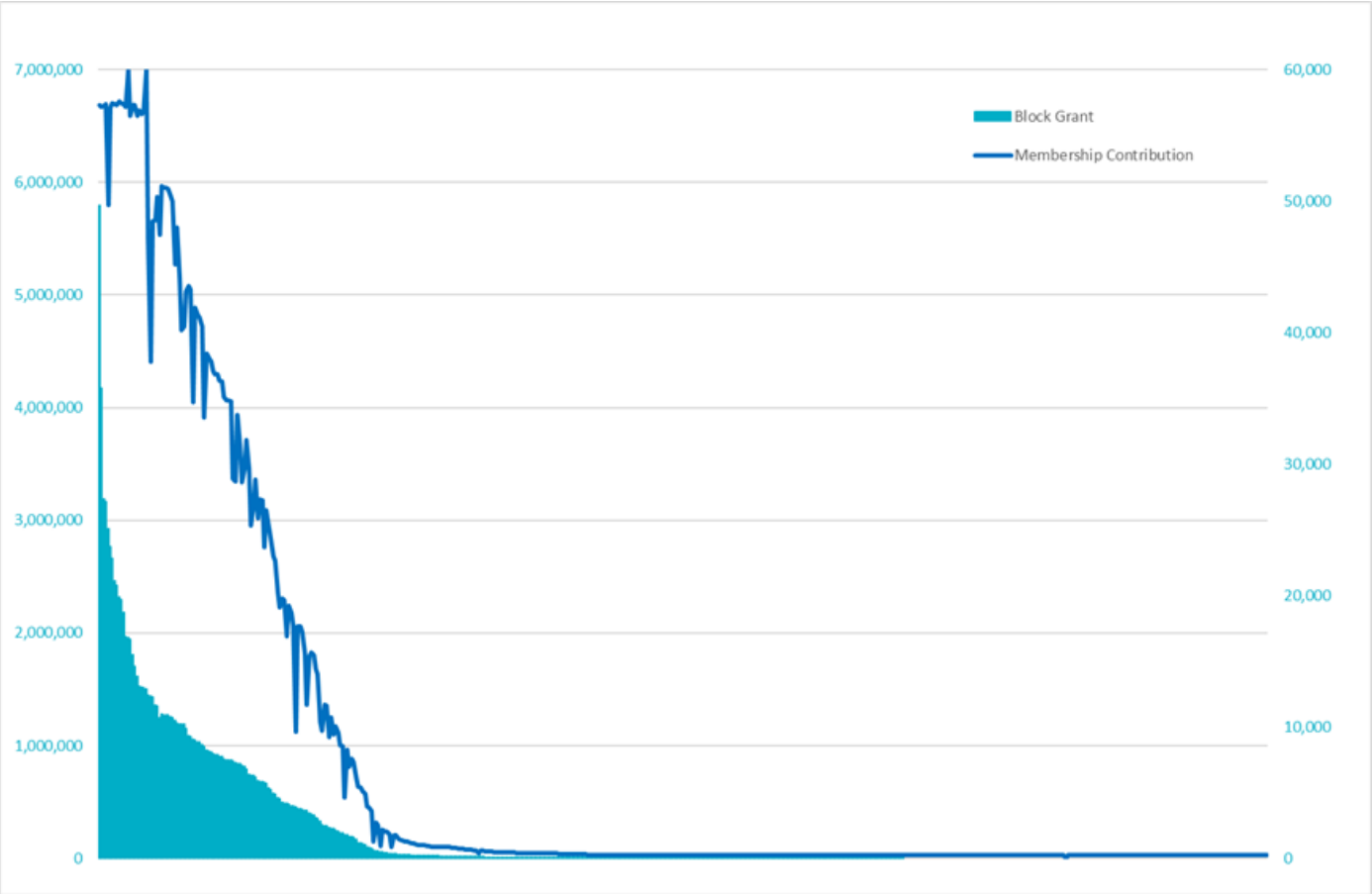
e) The system must be regularly reviewed

Membership Contribution 2018-19

In April 2017, National Conference supported a change to the pre-existing method of calculating membership contribution. This change resulted in a simpler and more transparent calculation which was 4% of block grant income with a minimum contribution of £250 and a maximum of £60,000.

To support unions where this change would result in them paying a higher fee, a period of transition was applied so that if a unions fee would increase under the new methodology, the increase would take effect over three years, with the unions paying their full calculated fee in 2019/20.

The membership fee for 2018-19 is due to be £4.1m which is a small increase on the fee for the prior year (at £4.0m) due to this transition relief.



Affiliation fees are likely to change in the future as part of NUS' Turnaround work. In light of feedback from the consultation on the future of NUS the NUS team in conjunction with the relevant Board are undertaking detailed financial modelling to consider the appropriate level of affiliation which gives students' unions a tangible fee reduction *and* ensures the NUS Group remains a viable proposition. This will be further developed in conjunction with members in the coming months