

Priority Zone

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Submitted to	National Conference
Action	Approve

Section 1 | Priorities for 2018-19

In this section of the report you will need to write in the projects you are working on and the progress made since they started.

Projects	Progress How has this area of work progressed since it's commencement
Turnaround / Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I've been working with the Boards, the Turnaround Board, with the senior staff, and with externals including KPMG and our lawyers BWB.• There has been a lot of papers to read, financial information to go over, and a lot of meetings to attend to come up with potential solutions to very difficult problems.• I'm happy to report to you that, so far, the targets set for the Turnaround of NUS are being met.• We've made the in-year savings set by the Finance Committee and as part of that we completed a voluntary redundancy scheme in December 2019.• We've secured a cash loan facility from the bank.• We've developed a financially viable budget for next year that enables us to run a core services to Members, whilst starting to re-build our reserves.• We've opened our accounts up to external expert scrutiny from KPMG – and ALL NUS BOARDS have had a chance to speak directly to KPMG to ask questions.• We've run a significant consultation with member students' unions on reform and published a Consultation Paper and now a White Paper which was open not only to members but comments from sections, liberation campaigns, individual students and stakeholders.• We're now waiting to see if we find a buyer for our London building.• It's hard work and completely relentless but turnaround is happening to ensure we secure our future.
Poverty Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last year I commissioned the Poverty Commission, which looked at the impact of class on access and participation into post-compulsory education. This included working with commissioners from CLASS, the Rowntree Foundation, the TUC and the Equality Trust. I've spoken about the Poverty Commission in a number of different forums including party conferences and parliamentary events. Further work has been done looking into hidden costs of education and on the costs of transport.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Getting in and getting on: hidden costs” briefing follows on from the findings of NUS’ 2018 Poverty Commission report that states students from a working-class background face a “poverty premium” often paying higher direct and indirect costs to access post-16 education. • These indirect or hidden costs are not a new problem; they have been widely identified as a persistent problem for students. I have been campaigning to end hidden costs for years, and many students’ unions across the UK have done amazing work to eradicate hidden costs for students • NUS research has found that high hidden costs are still impacting the studies and wellbeing of many students, despite the Competition and Markets Authority describing hidden costs as unfair practice. • I’ve also worked with the campaigning organization Fair by Design to consider how the poverty premium affects students and how we can work on the wider poverty premiums in society.
Widening Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access has been a common thread throughout my time as NUS president and this work continues. The OfS review of access and participation and the renewed sector focus on the black attainment gap are just a couple of examples. • I spoke at a parliamentary reception to highlight the issue that, it still remains that social mobility is at a standstill and your level of socio-economic advantaged remains the biggest contributing factor to whether or not you attend university. • To combat this I made the point that to be successful we need to deliver greater investment in early years education, deliver significant investment in IAG for students, and work to address students’ course retention and success.

Augar Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I welcomed the long-overdue review into post-18 education, which finally recognised that the current system is not fit for purpose. We submitted substantial evidence to the Review, including the Poverty Commission report, and I have met Philip Augar twice to make the case for reform. Amatey and Emily have sat on the panel's student reference group. • It is a major opportunity for the government to address the real issues facing students up and down the country, and we are waiting for publication. I am confident that we will see some positive outcomes but we will also scrutinise it carefully for any aspects which would disadvantage students. • I still believe support for students through maintenance grants and other financial support needs to be a fundamental part of the yearlong review. • It is also critical that the review recommends greater support for further education learners. They are being forgotten and if the government are going to pledge that they will spend time thinking about how to help those in FE and vocational courses it must put its money where its mouth is and replace real resource that has been drained from the sector over the past 8 years. • I still believe It's ridiculous that many students pay so much for their education in tuition fees in the first place, and then have to fork out cash for items and services which are key to taking part and thriving. • Ultimately, the Department for Education will take forward the recommendations and I will continue to argue for a system that supports students getting in and getting on in further and higher education.
Jisc and The Student Engagement Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I worked to Jisc to help improve the digital student experience to be of the highest quality. Our benchmarking tool on the digital student experience, is one example of how we are helping institutions create change. This work is crucial as work places become increasingly digital. Institutions can play a vital role in providing a learning environment that develops digital skills whilst learning a trade or a subject.

<p>UJS Conference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish students didn't feel comfortable in NUS spaces two years ago, and one of my priorities on becoming NUS President was changing that. • Worked with former VP Welfare, Izzy Lenga, on changing that – implemented IHRA definition into NUS Disciplinary procedures and continued this work into this year • Visited Auschwitz with UJS and the Holocaust Educational Trust on two occasions • Continued to speak about the culture change in NUS-Jewish community relations. • I have been determined to improve relationships with the Jewish community and have spoken at a number of Jewish community events. • I acknowledge there's still work to do to ensure relations continue to improve and Anti-Semitism is eradicated from our campuses.
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Section 2 | Zone Policy

In this section of the report you will need to write in the policy that is within your Zone and any progress made since 1st July 2018.

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