

# National Executive Council Guide

## Guide to understanding the role of the NEC

NUS' campaigning and influencing work is governed by the NEC. This guide will give you an overview of the NEC, what the role is of officers and councillors, what happens in meetings and the key dates for you to note.

### The role of the NEC

Between meetings of National Conference, the NEC holds the oversight function over the political aspects of the organisation. National Conference hears reports from zones, liberation, nations and sections and asks questions of them and holds the zone members to account on their policy work. The NEC does the same. The National Executive Council's should solve disputes to do with the organisation's priorities of work.

The execution of zone policy is the property of the Zone Committees and Zone Conferences but the NEC will receive reports from them on their work and may occasionally debate policy deferred to them by National Conference.

The NEC can set up committees to look at issues that span more than one Zone, Nation, Liberation campaign or Section. Currently in existence and reporting back to NEC are the Anti racism Anti-Fascism committee, the Communication and Membership scrutiny group, the Liberation, Equality and Diversity Committee and the Ethical and Environmental group.

One of the important jobs of the NEC is to receive reports from the Trustee Board on key

issues and prepare joint reports with them for National Conference. The Estimates sent to National Conference each year are set by both the NEC and Trustee Board jointly for example.

At the first NEC meeting of the year you will set by-laws and a cycle of business for the year ahead.

### Who sits on the NEC?

The National Executive Council is made up of Officers and Councillors.

Officers are the political leadership of the organisation, elected by National Conference, Nation Conferences, Liberation Conferences and the International Students' Section Conference. They are responsible for the implementation of policy.

Councillors are the Block of 15, 5 members of the Zone Committees, 2 from the Mature and Part time and Postgraduate committees and one member from each of the Black, Disabled and Women's Liberation groups, the International Students Section and the 3 Nations. With the officers they are responsible for the setting of policy and ensuring the officers are properly implementing it.

A list of NEC members for 2014/15 is included in Appendix 1.

## What happens in an NEC meeting?

NEC meetings are comprised of 3 sections

**Introduction and Administration** where the NEC deal with any issues such the approval of the previous minutes

**Reports and Accountability** where the Zones and scrutiny groups are held to account, the Trustee minutes are scrutinised and the Nations, Liberation and Sections are noted for information

**Motions and Proposals** where the NEC sets interim policy or receives proposals from the Trustee Board or sub committees of the Council.

## Paperwork

### Submitting Reports

Those who have to submit reports do so using a template set by the Clerks. Reports are never more than 2 sides in a specific font. Any extra will be deleted and not submitted.

### Submitting Motions

Any NEC member may submit motions to the Council. They should be concerned with the work of the NEC. Work relating to a specific Zone should be referred to that Zone Committee.

- Each member of NEC may submit up to 1,400 words of motions to each NEC meeting
- Each motion must be seconded by at least 2 other members of NEC

### Submitting Amendments

Any NEC members may submit amendments to motions received. They should be concerned with the contents of that motion.

- Each member of NEC may submit up to 500 words of amendments to each NEC meeting
- Each amendment must be seconded by at least one other member of the NEC

### Other papers

The NEC will receive a number of reports from the senior managers group or sub committees to discuss and approve.

### Starred Items

A number of NEC items will appear as 'starred' on the Agenda. No further discussion on these will be had at NEC unless the chair is asked before the meeting for the item to be 'un-starred'.

## Voting and Parts

**Voting** will usually be on a simple show of hands. In some cases NEC members may call for a recorded vote which means that how each member present votes will be recorded in the minutes and put on public display.

During a recorded vote you will be asked to say your initials and whether you are for, against or abstaining from the motion or discussion. Please do this slowly so it can be recorded.

### Parts

At the chair's discretion they may hear a call for parts in a meeting and invite a speech for and against them.

## The role of Councillors

There are 39 councillors on the NEC receiving reports on the Priority campaign, work of each of the 5 zones and the Council's sub committees. A Councillor has 2 specific roles that are important to the scrutiny and direction of the political leadership. These are consulting with students' unions and scrutinising the reports presented to you.

### Consulting

There will be around 10 days between receiving the paperwork for the NEC and the meeting itself. They should identify areas of interest and consult with the membership on them. Block of 15 members will have been allocated specific unions to discuss NEC issues with. When

consulting they need to make sure they have sought a balance of student views and remember that the membership of NUS is students' unions.

### **Scrutiny**

The National Executive Council's role is to provide strategic political leadership. This is why people run for NEC positions, but it is a much harder task than commenting on operational functions within NUS – a role that it

can be tempting to take on instead during meetings. As councillors they should be interrogating the work of the zones, National President and the sub committees to make sure it is meeting the strategic political aims of NUS.

The balance for councillors of course is to make sure they are asking questions on strategy but not erring into operational areas that can be discussed informally outside of meetings.

# Appendix 1 – NEC Members 2014/15

(plus five new Zone members to be elected in October 2014)

## Full Time Officers

Toni Pearce	National President
Joe Vinson	Vice-President (Further Education)
Megan Dunn	Vice-President (Higher Education)
Piers Telemacque	Vice-President (Society and Citizenship)
Raechel Matthey	Vice-President (Union Development)
Colum McGuire	Vice-President (Welfare)
Malia Bouattia	Black Students' Officer
Maddy Kirkman	Disabled Students' Officer
Robbie Young	LGBT Officer (Open place)
Fran Cowling	LGBT Officer (Women's place)
Susuana Antubam	National Women's Officer
Shreya Paudel	International Students' Officer
Gordon Maloney	NUS Scotland President
Beth Button	NUS Wales President
Rebecca Hall	NUS-USI President

## NEC Councillors

Amy Smith	National Executive Councillor (Further Education Zone)
Tom Flynn	National Executive Councillor (Higher Education Zone)
Hugh Murdoch	National Executive Councillor (Society and Citizenship Zone)
Nosheen Dad	National Executive Councillor (Union Development Zone)
Chantel Le Carpentier	National Executive Councillor (Welfare Zone)
Teodora Teodorescu	National Executive Councillor (International Students)
Kae Smith	National Executive Councillor (Part Time Students)
Erin Lee	National Executive Councillor (Mature Students)
Simon Englert	National Executive Councillor (Post Graduate Research)
Ste Smith	National Executive Councillor (Post Graduate Taught)
Zekarias Negussue	National Executive Councillor (Black Students)
James Elliott	National Executive Councillor (Disabled Students)
Rochelle Owusu-Antwi	National Executive Councillor (Women Students)
Kirsty Haigh	National Executive Councillor (NUS Scotland)
Fergal McFerran	National Executive Councillor (NUS-USI)
Grace Burton	National Executive Councillor (NUS Wales)

Poppy Wilkinson	National Executive Councillor
Michaela Vyse	National Executive Councillor
Michael Rubin	National Executive Councillor
Amy Smith	National Executive Councillor
Charlie Agran	National Executive Councillor
Hannah Graham	National Executive Councillor
Shakira Martin	National Executive Councillor
Dario Celaschi	National Executive Councillor
Daniel Cooper	National Executive Councillor
Aaron Kiely	National Executive Councillor
Zarah Sultana	National Executive Councillor
Clifford Fleming	National Executive Councillor
Edmund Schluessel	National Executive Councillor
Vonnie Sandlan	National Executive Councillor
Abdi-Aziz Suleiman	National Executive Councillor

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## Appendix 2 – Key Dates

<b>Meeting date</b>	<b>Motion &amp; reports</b>	<b>Amendments &amp; Emergency Motions</b>	<b>Final papers sent by</b>
August 4 2014	July 14 2014	July 23 2014	July 25 2014
September 16 2014	August 26 2014	September 3 2014	September 5 2014
December 4 2014	November 17 2014	November 26 2014	November 28 2014
March 4 2015	February 16 2015	February 23 2015	February 25 2015
April 20 2015	This meeting briefs you on your role and responsibilities at Conference		
June 2 2015	May 19 2015	May 26 2015	May 28 2015

### **National Conference**

21st – 23rd April 2015