

Executive Summary

How the national organisations will deliver

Surfing the Wave



national union of students

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National Collaboration

The NUS and NUS Services Boards agreed to fully merge all back office operations within the two organisations by Summer 2010 to eliminate duplication and deploy resources more effectively. Value-for-money studies have taken place on all back office functions. The AMSU trustees are proposing AMSU be integrated in to NUS who would have responsibility for students' union staff development.

Legal Vehicles

A new model of corporate governance is proposed that would be clearer, simpler and more transparent, ensuing greater overall coherence and goal alignment (taking in to account the Collaborations work with NUS Services and AMSU). The new model would preserve NUS' existing political campaigning ability, enable access to new income streams, maximise tax efficiencies and limit liability.

Student Movement Talent Management Strategy

It is people that change lives. It is people who create great organisations that then deliver amazing things. We have to do everything we can to allow talent to blossom and to retain it within students' unions. On the assumption that AMSU merged with NUS an indicative talent management strategy is outlined for the student movement.

Building an Inspiring Brand

The NUS brand is the standout brand of the student movement – recognised across the country as being synonymous with student voice and students' unions. We will review our brand values and brand alignment following research in 2010.

Towards Seven Million Voices and a National Database

The Student Movement has one of the largest memberships in the UK representing a total of seven million individuals. Its potential as a force for positive change is immense. Critical to our ability to utilise this potential is our ability to be able to contact all students at the touch of a button. We propose a number of key steps designed to accelerate the build of students' union databases that will create a campaigning force of seven million voices for the movement.

Funding the Future National Organisations

For 2010–11 it is proposed to increase the amount of hardship funds available with a 'recessionary fund' and ensure there is no additional fee for traditional 'AMSU' benefits. We are actively exploring free membership of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) (or equivalent in the Nations) for all students' unions. It is also recommended that we review the current affiliation fees model in 2010–11 and set targets to diversify NUS income streams and continue to reduce reliance on affiliation fees and students' union funding over the next five years and beyond.

Estates Strategy

A short-term lease (3–5 years) in London is currently being negotiated for NUS HQ. It is proposed that preparations begin now to re-structure the NUS balance sheet in order to purchase a freehold property in London following the end of this lease. This would be the NUS National Student Centre which would accommodate NUS staff, conferencing and training space, other education, youth and student organisations and franchised/commercial space. We will review all other lease agreements and freehold properties within the NUS portfolio.

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