



cd21

resolutions

annual conference
28-30 march 2006



Conference accepted the following as Newly affiliated constituent members

Newry & Kilkeel Institute Students' Union
North East Worcestershire (NEW) College Students' Union
Oatridge College Students' Association
Deeside College Students' Union
Forth Valley College, Students Association
Jennie Lee SA at Adam Smith College

Constitutional Ratifications – Constitution now AMENDED

In the Constitution change "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual" to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans" wherever it occurs.

In the constitution change "Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual" to "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Trans" wherever it occurs.

In the constitution in section 63.d.i, change "lesbian, gay and/or bisexual members" to "lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans members

In the Standing orders change "Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Conference" to "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Conference"

MOTION: 301

Heading: Steering Committee Motion

Conference believed:

1. That NUS constitution defines Steering Committee's primary role as being "to ensure the smooth running of conference and facilitate debate".
2. According to the NUS Constitution the NEC not are responsible for the workings of conference (paragraph 30b).
3. The report on the resignation of NUS committee members by Marco Henry noted that there was some doubt as to whether the steering committee remit extends in relation to materials being distributed from the stalls outside of the conference hall.

Conference further believed:

1. The report, the resignation of NUS NEC members and a member of NUS Steering Committee by Marco Henry, published in September 2005 made a number of recommendations.
2. In relation to the steering committee the report recommended that "the responsibilities of the Steering Committee should be clearly defined in the Standing Orders and the Committee strengthened and provided with the necessary support to effectively undertake its defined functions. Quick decision making is a key requirement."
3. The confusion as to which body is responsible for the stall area and materials distributed therein, needs to be clarified.
4. That freedom of speech must be upheld at NUS Conferences, with the exception of materials and individuals that contravene the NUS no platform policy and/or incite hatred against sections of our communities (as defined by law and or NUS policies).
5. The dissemination of literature, that incites hatred against others based on race, religion, sexuality, disability gender, or nationality by NUS delegates or guests at conference can affect the smooth running of conference.
6. Speedy action should be taken to ban/remove literature and or persons and stalls distributing such materials, as described above, from the conference centre. However such action should only be taken if there is clear breach of no platform policy or clear incitement to hatred.

Conference resolved:

1. To clear up confusion as to which committee should take responsibility for the stalls area and materials emanating from there.
 2. To allocate the responsibility for the stalls area and materials distributed there-in to NUS steering committee.
 3. Allow steering committee the discretion to remove/ban literature deemed to clearly contravene the no platform policy and/or incite hatred as defined above and persons or stall holders/stalls distributing such materials.
 4. Ensure that steering committee have support throughout conference to facilitate meetings etc.
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MOTION: 302**Heading: Steering Committee Motion**

Submitted by: Steering Committee

Conference resolves:

1. That in all their actions, members of the Steering Committee shall act with propriety and impartiality at all times.
2. To amend the Constitution, Rule 40, "no member who has been a member of the Steering Committee shall be eligible for election to the National Council or National Executive until four years have elapsed"

DID NOT RECEIVE 2/3 MAJORITY, RECEIVED SIMPLE MAJORITY SO ONLY POLICY AND DOESN'T CHANGE CONSTITUTION

MOTION: 303**Heading: Support & Access to Steering Committee****Conference resolved:**

1. The Steering Committee shall be assigned staff support.
 2. The Steering Committee be assigned a section of the NUS website which shall detail the duties of the Steering Committee, the members of the Steering Committee and contact details for the Steering Committee.
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MOTION: 304**Heading: Mission & Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee****Conference believed:**

1. Steering Committee needs a constitutional mission and reference of terms for execution of its duties and conduct of its members and business.

Conference resolved:

1. To amend the Constitution inserting addendum to Rule 40 as follows:
 - f. The Steering Committee shall meet formally within 6 weeks of the close of any meeting of the Conference (Annual or Extra-Ordinary) to execute its duties as laid down in the Standing Orders and progress any outstanding resolutions, policy or mandates from the Conference. The Steering Committee shall meet additionally as required by Standing Orders and by resolutions of the Conference and shall schedule one meeting specifically to revise the procedure for the

Conference; a report of which shall be forwarded to the Conference and Constituent Members four weeks in advance for information.

g. The Steering Committee as a whole and the full members of the Steering Committee shall, at all times while in office, be impartial, uphold a decent propriety and shall act at all times in the best interest of the whole Conference, delegate access and participation.

h. No member of the Steering Committee shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Steering Committee without the consent of the Steering Committee resolving formally to delegate authority to one or more members.

i. The Steering Committee shall establish guidelines on how to conduct its business.

j. The Steering Committee shall keep a record of its meeting (including attendance of members), with an official copy of the minutes being signed by two members of Steering Committee and the Chair of the Steering Committee for the time being and lodged with the National Secretary, and these shall be open to inspection by any individual or organisational member without notice.

RULES REVISION MOTIONS

Basket I - General Tidy up

1. Removal of sector references: RATIFICATION AND CONSTITUTION NOW CHANGES

Conference resolved to amend the constitution as follows

a) Delete 21C ix

b) Replace 24b with 24b Delegates coming from Constituent Members from the Higher Education sector must be elected by Cross Campus Ballot

c) In 27c delete. "Sector conferences shall have no quorum"

d) In 27e and 27f delete "when it is not divided into sectors,"

e) Delete 36d vii

f) Delete from 76b "and meetings of Sector Conferences"

g) In the election regulations

Delete 101 h

In 601 delete "Sector Committees

Delete 704

h) In the standing orders Delete 302j, 303c

2. Technological Anomalies: NEW AND NEEDS TO BE RATIFIED TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

Resolved to amend the constitution as follows in 30e delete “telex or cable” and insert “or email”

Basket 2

Mature students

RATIFICATION AND CONSTITUTION NOW CHANGES

Conference resolved to amend the constitution as follows

To remove from the constitution

Section 43 ‘Mature Students’ National Committee’

a. ii) One member of MSU Executive

and

c. i) ‘organised in conjunction with the Mature Students Union.’

Basket 3

Removal of Legal Assistance Fund Clause

NEW AND NEEDS TO BE RATIFIED TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

Conference resolved to

1) in the constitution Delete Clause 79 Legal assistance to members

2) In schedule 3 Annual Subscriptions Delete “and legal assistance fund” from clause 209

Basket 4 - National Council

RATIFICATION AND CONSTITUTION NOW CHANGES

Conference believed

1) Two extraordinary conferences passed policy to remove NEC voting rights at National council.

Conference resolved to amend the constitution as follows

1) Delete 36 d, i

2) Add International Students Campaign to 36,d,iii

3) Delete Mature Students Union and Add Mature Students National Committee 35,d,v

Basket 5

Campaign Committees

NEW AND NEEDS TO BE RATIFIED TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

21 b) Members with speaking Rights

Add vii) the Campaign committees of the NUS

36 d) The National Council

iii) Delete “international students campaign, anti-racism campaign” and replace with “one delegate from each of the NUS Campaign committees”

Add vii) delete replaces with one delegate of each of the Campaign committees of NUS

Add 36e) Members of council with speaking rights only

i) One representative of any ad hock committee

Committees General

Add 43 NUS Campaign committees

a. The Campaign committees of the NUS are:

Anti-racism / Anti Fascism

International Students Committee

Mature Students Committee

Environmental and Ethical Committee

- i) They shall have a chairperson nominated by and from the NEC who shall have a casting vote only.
- ii) The Chairperson shall be responsible for convening the work of the committee, keeping within budget, and acting as secretary to the committee.
- iii) Each Campaign committee shall comprise of 6 elected members from constituent member organisations. 3 members of the NEC appointed by and from the NEC.
- iv) Campaign committees shall be able to invite observers with speaking rights from other relevant committees and organisation as they choose appropriate.
- v) Campaign committees shall have two delegates with speaking rights to Annual National NUS conference.
- vi) Campaign committees shall each have one voting delegate to national council.
- vii) All Campaign committees shall have one conference per year where committee elections are to be held under the advice and rule of elections committee.
- viii) All Campaign committees shall co-operate with the national executive on the implementation of policy relating to the area where they specialise.
- ix) All Campaign committees and Ad Hock committees shall present a written report to Annual national conference and to the report and plan document.

Delete 43 mature students' national committee

Renumber as appropriate

Delete 72 to 74.

Basket 6

Areas and Area Support Fund

NEW AND NEEDS TO BE RATIFIED TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

Replace 47a of the constitution with

47 a The National Union will establish and assist, through an area support fund, with funding the area organisations. The National Executive will set in the estimates a budget for an Area Support Fund. The dividing of this money to the Areas will be decided by the first Area Convenors Meeting of every year.

In clause 36,d, iv replace “areas political convention” with “area convenors meeting”

Basket 7

Autonomous Liberation Campaign Consolidation motion

NEW AND NEEDS TO BE RATIFIED TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION

Conference resolved to amend the constitution as follows:

replace 19 b with

19b The Conference shall have the power to determine the policy of the National Union either of its own motion, in full session, or by ratifying policy decisions taken Autonomous Liberation Campaign Conferences

Replace 21 b vii with :

21 b vii Members of NUS campaign committees as appointed by the committee (to include Mature Students Committee, Anti-Racism Committee) and members of the Autonomous Liberation campaign committees..

Replace the last sentence of 30c with

This clause does not give the National Executive the power of veto over how the Autonomous Liberation Campaign Committees decide to spend their allocated money.

Replace 31 d with:

31 d All members of the National Executive who are elected by the Conference shall join the National Executive at the end of the meeting of the Conference which elects them. The persons elected to be Presidents of NUS Scotland and UCMC/NUS Wales, Principal Officer of the NUS/USI Northern Ireland Region, and all Autonomous Liberation campaign officers shall join the National Executive at the end of the meeting of the Conference following their election or on the first of July whichever is the earlier and retiring members shall leave the National Executive on the 31st August of the year following that in which they are elected. Until the 30th June the less recently elected holder of each office shall have precedence and responsibility for the performance of the function of the office and the more recently elected holder of the office shall be designated by the name of his/her office followed by the word ‘elect’. From 1st July the more recently elected holder of each office shall have precedence and responsibility for the performance of the functions of the office and the other holder of the office shall be designated by the name of his/her office preceded by the word ‘retiring’.

Replace 32 a with

32 Eligibility for Election to the National Executive

a A person shall be eligible for election to the National Executive if at the close of nominations he or she is an individual student member of the National Union, or a member of the National Executive and in the case of the Autonomous Liberation campaigns officers they are eligible to be elected to the relevant committee and in the case of the International Students officer they are a non-EU Students.

Replace 33 e with

33e Where a vote of no-confidence is carried by the Conference against any of the following officers, that officer shall retain his or her office but shall cease to be a member of the National Executive Committee:

- i The President of NUS Scotland
- ii The President of UCMC/NUS Wales
- iii The Principal Officer for the time being of the NUS/USI Northern Ireland Region
- iv Autonomous Liberation campaign officers
- v The International Students Officer

replace 34b with

34 b A casual vacancy in any of the Autonomous Liberation campaign officers shall be filled as follows.

i If the vacancy should occur after the end of the relevant Campaign Conference but before 1st July in the same year, it shall be filled by the person who has been elected to that position but who has not yet taken office, who shall continue as a full member of the National Executive.

ii If the vacancy should occur at any other time, an Autonomous Liberation campaigns officer may be elected at an Extraordinary Autonomous Liberation campaign Conference if 25 requests for such a conference are received within four weeks of the vacancy. If this does not occur, a woman shall be selected by and from the relevant Autonomous Liberation campaigns Committee, with the ratification of the National Executive, to be co-opted to fill the position until a successor is elected at the next Autonomous Liberation Campaign Conference.

Replace 36 a iii with

36 a iii Determine the policy of the National Union by ratifying policy decisions taken at the Autonomous Liberation Campaign Conferences.

Replace 36d ii with

36d iii One representative elected by and from each of the Autonomous Liberation campaign conferences, Anti-Racism Campaign and the UCMC/NUS Wales Welsh Language Campaign.

Replace 36 g with

36 g Should National Council fail to ratify the policy of any of the Autonomous Liberation campaign committees then the matter shall automatically pass to the next meeting of Annual Conference for ratification.

Delete sections 54 to 70 of the constitution (and don't renumber)

54 Autonomous Liberation Campaigns

54 There shall be the following Autonomous Liberation campaign Conferences and Committees

- a Women's Campaign
- b Lesbian, Gay , Bisexual and Trans Campaign
- c Black Student's Campaign
- d Students with Disabilities Campaign

55 General rules for Autonomous Liberation campaign Conferences

- a Each Autonomous Liberation Campaign shall hold an Annual Campaign Conference which shall elect the Autonomous Liberation Campaign Officers and the Autonomous Liberation Committee. Other meetings of the campaign conferences may be convened in accordance with each Autonomous Liberations campaign's Standing orders.
- b Each Autonomous Liberation campaign conference shall discuss matters of concern to the Autonomous Liberation campaign.
- c The Report and Plan of the Autonomous Liberation Campaign Committee shall be discussed at the Autonomous Liberation Campaign Conference.

- d The Autonomous Liberation Campaign Conference shall be restricted to the class of persons as defined for each campaign.
- e. Only persons allowed to attend the conference shall be eligible for election as delegates to the Conference.
- f The Autonomous Liberation Campaign Conferences shall be governed by such standing orders as they shall themselves decide.
- g The budget for Each Autonomous Liberation Campaign as determined by Annual Conference, comes under financial control of the relevant Autonomous Liberation Campaign Officers and Committee; the NEC has no power of veto over how the Committee decides to spend its allocated money.
- h The election of the Campaign Officer and the Campaign Committee shall be conducted in a manner approved by the Elections Committee, who may appoint a person eligible to attend the conference who is not a member of the Elections Committee to act as Returning Officer and to chair the hustings for the election.
- i Any person allowed to attend the conference shall be eligible for election to the Autonomous Liberation Campaign Officer and for the Committee, if at the close of nominations that person is an individual student member of the National Union.
- j Members elected to the Autonomous Liberation Campaign Committee shall take office at the end of the Annual Campaign Conference at which elected, and remain in office until the end of the next Annual Campaign Conference
- k The Committee shall convene an Extraordinary Autonomous Liberation Campaign Conference, to discuss a motion of 'no confidence' in the Autonomous Liberation Campaign Officer(s) on receipt of a request in writing from 25 named Constituent Members
- l The Campaign Committee shall convene the Extraordinary Campaign Conference within seven weeks after receipt of the request, and not less than two weeks after the day on which the notice of the Extraordinary Campaign Conference would in the normal course of post be received by Constituent Members.
- m Delegates' entitlement and eligibility shall be as for the annual Campaign Conference, except that delegates shall not be required to have been elected by cross campus ballots.
- n No business other than the motion of 'no confidence' in the Campaigns Officer shall be discussed at an Extraordinary Campaign Conference, and if such a motion is passed by a simple majority the post shall become vacant and shall be filled by the casual vacancy procedure.
- o Any motion debated by the annual Campaign Conference may include an expression of 'no confidence' in the Campaign Officer. If such a motion is passed by a simple majority, the campaign Officer(s) post shall become vacant and shall be filled by the casual vacancy procedure.

56 General rules for Autonomous Liberation Campaign Committees

- a Each Autonomous Liberation Campaign Committee which shall consist of:
 - i The Autonomous Liberation Campaign Officer(s) who shall chair the Committee and who shall have a casting vote only when in the chair
 - ii Person eligible to attend the conference appointed by and from the National Executive without voting rights.
 - iii A number of persons elected by the Campaign Conference in a manner approved by the Elections Committee. The Campaign Conference shall be entitled to allocate places on the Campaign Committee for designated categories. The allocation of places and the designation of categories shall be decided by the Campaign Conference during policy debate and the policy determined shall not require ratification by Annual Conference. The policy passed shall take effect at the end of the Conference at which it was passed and shall continue in force until rescinded or amended by a subsequent Campaign Conference. The elections to

such allocated places shall take place at meetings convened during the Campaign Conference. The persons entitled to attend and vote at such meetings shall be members of the Campaign Conference and shall, on a self-determining basis, fulfil the entries for membership of such categories so specified by the Campaign Conference.

- iv The relevant campaign Officers of NUS Scotland and UCMC (NUS Wales) and NUS/USI with voting rights.

57 The following shall be the members of the Campaign Conference.

- a Members with voting and speaking rights.
 - i Members of Campaign Committee.
 - ii Delegates appointed by Constituent members in accordance with each Autonomous Liberation Campaign's Standing Orders
- b Members with speaking rights.
 - i Members of the National Executive eligible to attend the conference.
 - ii One eligible person appointed by each Area Organisation.
- c Members with limited speaking rights
 - i Eligible members of the Elections Committee or their appointed agents and eligible members of Finance and Rules Revision Committee, who may speak on matters relating to the work of their committee. An eligible member of the Women's Committee, National Executive Committee, Elections Committee, Finance Committee or Rules Revision Committee is not entitled to attend the Campaign Conference as a delegate from a Constituent Member.
 - ii Candidates for election to the position(s) of the relevant Campaign Officer and/or for election to the Campaign Committee, who may speak on matters relating to their election.
 - iii Eligible Representatives of Constituent Members who have been refused delegate credentials by virtue of the Constituent Member having failed to elect its delegates by cross campus ballot when required to do so, who may speak on matters relating to their failure to fulfil such requirements.

58 The Classes of persons eligible to attend each Autonomous Liberation Campaign conference are as follows

- a Women's Campaign shall be open only to women
- b Lesbian, Gay , Bisexual and Trans Campaign shall be open only to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, on a self-determining basis
- c Black Student's Campaign open only to black students on a self determining-basis.
- d Students with Disabilities Campaign shall be open to Students with Disabilities only on a self-determining basis

59 The number of members elected to each campaign committee shall be as follows:

- a Women's Campaign 12
- b Lesbian, Gay , Bisexual and Trans Campaign 13
- c Black Student's Campaign 8
- d Students with Disabilities Campaign 8

60 Exceptions for Students with Disabilities

Members elected to the Students With Disabilities Committee shall take office at the end of the Students With Disabilities Campaign Conference at which they are elected. Members elected for one year shall leave office at the close of the Annual Campaign Conference following their election. Members elected for two years shall leave office at the close of the second Annual Campaign Conference following their election

61 Exceptions for Women's Campaign Conference

Appointment of delegates to Women's Conference

- a Delegates from Constituent Members in the Higher Education Sector shall elect their delegates by women only cross campus ballot. Each Constituent Member shall appoint only one delegate to the Women's Campaign Conference.
- b Any Constituent Member which is required to elect its delegates by cross campus ballot, which believes itself to be unfairly penalised by such a requirement, may apply to the Women's Committee to be made exempt from this requirement.
- c Applications for exemption must be lodged with the Women's Committee by the time specified in the Women's Campaign Conference Standing Orders. The application shall be considered to apply to the Women's Campaign Conference for the academic year in which the application is lodged. The Women's Committee shall rule on each application.
- d Any Constituent Member whose application for exemption has been refused shall have the right of appeal to the Women's Campaign Conference. Such appeals shall be lodged with the Women's Officer within the time specified in the Women's Campaign Conference Standing Orders. The decision of the Women's Campaign Conference on such appeals shall be final.
- e At the Women's Campaign Conference following that at which a Constituent Member's application or appeal has been rejected, that Constituent Member must elect delegates by cross campus ballot. At that time, a Constituent Member shall be entitled to apply and appeal once again as above, but in the event of this application and appeal not being successful, the effects of the penalty clause below shall immediately come into effect. No Constituent Member may appeal against the Women's Committee exempting another Constituent Member from using a cross campus ballot to elect its delegates.
- f Penalty Clause: If a Constituent Member fails to fulfil the correct requirements and has exhausted the appeals procedure set out above and has not received any exemption, then the representatives of that Constituent Member shall not be entitled to attend the Women's Campaign Conference as delegates, nor shall the Constituent Member be entitled to vote on motions or elections, but the representatives shall be granted the status of members with limited speaking rights.
- g Exemption: The Women's Committee may recommend in exceptional circumstances that a Constituent Member and its representatives shall not suffer any of the sanctions set out in the Penalty Clause despite that Constituent Member's failure to fulfil any of the above provisions. Such a recommendation shall be made only by the Women's Committee and shall be made to the Women's Campaign Conference and shall apply only to the Women's Campaign Conference at which the recommendation is made.

Replace 78 a with

- 78 a Every member of the National Executive, National Council, Finance Committee, Steering Committee, Rules Revision Committee, Elections Committee, Autonomous Liberation Campaigns Committees, Mature Students Committee, Ad Hoc Committees, every appointee, and every member of the staff of the National Union shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the assets of the National Union. Such indemnity shall be against all losses or liabilities that may be sustained or incurred in or about the execution of his or her duties in the course of the office held or anything related to it.

Basket 8

Submission of Motions to Annual Conference

THIS WAS DELETED BY BASKET 8 (Motion 402)

MOTION 402**Heading: Basket 8****THIS CHANGES STANDING ORDERS SO DOES NOT NEED RATIFICATION**

Replace RRC text with (replacing Standing Orders 102 f and 102 g):

“Motions shall be submitted in the first instance electronically in accordance with rulings from the Steering Committee. Electronic submission shall be verified by the use of a secret passcode which shall be notified by the Steering Committee to the senior Executive Officer of Constituent Members or nominated member of a National Committee. Motions may also be submitted by hard copy, in which instance, three copies shall be submitted prior to the deadline.

The deadline for all motions shall be 1.00pm on the day of the deadline.

A pro-forma coversheet shall be submitted at the same time as the copy(ies) of the motion, one for each motions which shall detail the word count, the authorising body for the motion, the date of the meeting of the authorising body and contact details for at least two senior Executive members of the Constituent Member or National Committee.”

MOTION 403**Heading: Committee Positions and International Students Officer****NEW AND NEEDS TO BE RATIFIED TO CHANGE CONSTITUTION**

43 iii) delete from constituent member organisations.

add in a manner approved by elections committee.

add

43 b) eligibility to stand

i) committees positions are open to all members of the NUS except Mature students as status will be defined by over 21 at beginning of studies and International students are defined by Institution and non EU

International students conference shall annually elect the International Students' officer. this election shall be in a manner decided by the elections committee for a candidate to be eligible for the election to the international students' officer they must be defined as international student by their institution and they are non-EU student at close of nominations.

MOTION 404**Heading: Autonomous Liberation Campaigns motion****THIS WAS AN AMENDMENT WHICH HAS BEEN INCORPORATED INTO BASKET 7 (ABOVE)**

ZONE:	700	STRONG & ACTIVE UNIONS
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MOTION: 701**Heading: Campaigning And Inclusive Unions****Conference believed:**

1. Representation and campaigning on behalf of its members' interests are central roles of students' unions.
2. Students are increasingly engaging in campaigning – for example in the peace, trade justice and environmental movements.
3. NUS has an important role to play in involving these students, in giving student unions a lead on campaigning priorities and supporting them to run effective campaigns.
4. The successful pressing of 'trespass' charges by Lancaster University against six students for organising a peaceful protest on campus was outrageous, setting a dangerous precedent.
5. Student Unions need to have the ability to mobilise its membership with political campaigns to challenge universities when they act against the student interest.
6. Students' unions should be run by students. Institutions should not attempt to take them over or remove elected representatives. Students' unions should be guaranteed a fixed minimum proportion of their institution's funding.
7. NUS should seek to challenge and intervene when institutions threaten students with disciplinary action for speaking publicly about their institution.
8. Students enter into contractual agreements and/ or codes of conduct with institutions that often state they may be disciplined for participating in any activity that may jeopardize or damage the good name or reputation of the University.
9. NUS and local unions should be vibrant, diverse student communities.
10. The student movement is strongest when involving all sections of its membership. NUS liberation campaigns ensure proper representation and challenge discrimination and must be defended.
11. Up to a fifth of students come from a Minority background
12. This statistic is not born out when looking at the backgrounds of those students who run their student unions and societies
13. Minority students face discrimination on grounds of faith, race, ethnicity, sexuality and culture.
14. Initiations and similar events which involve the forcing or requiring of an individual to consume alcohol, engage in nudity and other behaviour that may be deemed humiliating are frequently held by clubs and societies.
15. Some FE and HE institutions continue to hold seminars and lectures on Wednesday afternoons, especially for postgraduate students.
16. Under-investment in sports facilities, such as non-grass pitches, contributes to low participation in physical activity on campuses.
17. The 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games will result in the building of new sporting facilities in the London area.
18. Only 6 out of 10,500 athletes at the 2004 Olympics were openly LGBT.
19. The British Paralympic team won the most medals at the 2004 Paralympics.
20. Women's sport consistently receives less funding and prestige than men's sport.
21. That there is an urgent need to cut through the confusion which still exist among students movements activist concerning the so-called ultra-vires provisions of charities law.
22. That the law as it stands violates students' democratic rights by in effect allowing the Government to dictate what student unions can and cannot spend money on.
23. That it should be up to union members what their unions spend money on.
24. That since most activists, let alone most students, know very little about the law actually says, it has been known for student union officers to use ultra vires to wriggle out of mandates which they do not want to uphold and oppose policies which they do not like when there is no question of illegality whatsoever.
25. That even in cases where expenditure is ultra vires, there are almost always alternatives and ways to get around the law (e.g. organising benefit gigs, donating funds from commercial revenue, paying for educational materials).
26. Confusion about ultra-vires often deters unions from campaigning.
27. Recognition gained by the Make Poverty History campaign was partly due to the Live 8 concerts.

28. Young people are becoming politicised as part of radical new movements that have shaped the way many of us see the world.
29. Millions of students across the world are challenging the priorities of global capitalism and imperialism.
30. The NUS's spending over the last year includes: £50,000 for research into "reform and £20,000 (25% of the whole budget) on the campaigns launch.

Conference further believed:

1. Many minority students do not believe that the student movement caters for their specific needs
2. Many minority students are members of formal or informal social and support networks
3. The student movement should reach out to Minority students and engage with them, offering services tailored to their specific needs
4. Unions exist to support student activism beyond curricular activities.
5. Campaigns such as those calling for '*Black Student representation in every union*' should be supported.
6. Initiations and similar events can be a barrier to inclusion, dangerous and disrespectful to the community and possibly result in bad press for students' unions.
7. All students should have Wednesday afternoons free to participate in extra-curricular activities.
8. The investment in new facilities must extend further than the 2012 Olympics, to the whole country, and be accessible to all.
9. Under investment in sports facilities and performance space at FE and HE institutions contributes to fewer students participating in sports clubs and societies.
10. That in the meantime NUS produce a guide for student unions which, in addition to setting out the case for reform of the law, a) explains in detail, with case study examples, what the law actually says and what it doesn't and b) proposes ways in which student unions can, when necessary, get round the law.
11. Student unions should be run by students. Institutions should not attempt to take them over or remove elected representatives for acting in line with democratic decisions to function independently,
12. The autonomy of SUs must be absolute.
13. That the repressive ultra-vires laws introduced by the Tories in the 1994 Education Act are often narrowly interpreted by those who wish to bully and pressure students' unions, guilds and associations out of campaigning on issues that affect students in our wider context within society.
14. That the 1994 Education Act has often been used to attack liberation campaigns by those who claim that oppression caused by society does not affect "students as students".
15. Methods of campaigning used by Make Poverty History are effective in uniting a movement.
16. Students are prepared to fight. When NUS called a national demonstration against fees in 2003, 30,000 students responded to the call. Students in Italy responded to privatisations in November 2005 by occupying 50 universities for 3 weeks. We should follow their example. Occupations could have stopped course and department closures, and the closure of Plymouth University's Exmouth Campus.

Conference resolved:

1. Raise the profile of NUS' campaigns including through expanding the Priority Campaigns launch event, opening it up to more students and including sessions on planning student union participation, networking and training.
2. Defend students' right to peaceful protest.
3. Support the VP Further Education in campaigning for student union representation in FE.
4. Campaign for student unions to be guaranteed a fixed minimum proportion of their institution's government funding.
5. To organise regional events around the education, anti-racism and environment and ethics campaigns to help officers run effective campaigns.

6. To help FE unions set up campaigns to breathe life into their unions and encourage local HE Unions to offer support.
7. To ensure that our members are better supported and represented.
8. To liaise with the formal support networks accessed by Minority groups on campus (e.g. BOSS, CSSA UK, FOSIS, NHS, SCM, UJS) to find out how better to support and engage minority students
9. To give student officers the appropriate training that they need to engage with the Minority students on their campuses
10. NUS should support local unions in their attempts to contact and work with the formal and informal Minority students networks active on their campuses
11. NUS place a high priority on the involvement on Minority students in the student movement, and campaign in conjunction with the existing formal support networks accessed by Minority students to improve their involvement, both qualitatively and quantitatively
12. To run a national campaign through minority student societies with local unions promoting involvement in those unions and NUS.
13. Re-affirm support for NUS Liberation campaigns, defend their autonomy and resources.
14. Work with UJS, FOSIS and others to ensure events are timed appropriately, with necessary prayer facilities and food provision.
15. Support FOSIS' campaign for adequate prayer facilities in every institution.
16. Highlight to students' unions how alcohol can be a barrier to participation and encourage alcohol-free zones and social activities, especially during freshers' weeks, so that all members can participate fully in union activities.
17. To mandate the NEC to lobby all CMs to ban initiations and similar events which are a barrier to entry.
18. To continue to put pressure on FE and HE institutions to keep Wednesday afternoons free for all students with particular reference to postgraduates.
19. To support the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games bid.
20. To continue to support 'Out in Sport' campaign.
21. To work with the SWD Campaign to lobby the Government to increase funding for disabled sport.
22. To work with the Women's campaign to support the promotion of women in sport and women's' sport.
23. To call on the Government to ensure funding and support to make the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games accessible.
24. To campaign for the reform of charities law to allow student union members to decide what they want to spend money on free of Government interference.
25. To produce a guide for student unions on the lines set out above.
26. To brief CMs on their rights within the existing laws to campaign on political issues to end uncertainty and concern amongst student officers.
27. NUS investigate the feasibility of a National Concert to build on the existing campaign for a free, fair and funded education.
28. Seek to involve more student activists in NUS and student unions.

MOTION: **702**
Heading: **Student Voice**

Conference believed:

1. FE Unions in NUS are equally as important as HE Unions.
2. FE Unions represents more students than HE Unions.
3. The FE advocate system, and continued work with the Association of Colleges (AoC) has made excellent progress towards strengthening NUS nationally.

4. That the Foster Review of Further Education presents an opportunity for National Union of Students to promote the “learner voice” within the Further Education sector.
5. That class reps, department reps and other officers all benefit greatly from high quality training and as a result are able to deliver more effectively for the students they represent.

Conference further believed:

1. NUS should run at least one FE Priority Campaign every two years.
2. FE is diverse, and one student governor is unable to representation all students on the college’s corporation.
3. In Colleges that have full time staff support and a course rep system supported by the College there is an increase in students’ representation that has lead to change and improvement to services and support for students.
4. FE Students have the right to representation on local, regional and national LSC.
5. The Foster Review released in November 2005 highlights the importance of colleges having the learner voice in all core aspects of the college structure.
6. That the Scottish Funding Council for Further and Higher Education funds a project called sparqs (student participation in quality Scotland).
7. Operated by NUS Scotland, sparqs delivers training to student representatives across Scotland and helps students to engage in the quality processes within their institutions.
8. In its first two years of operation, sparqs has trained 3,000 representatives and has just received additional and increased funding for a further two years.
9. Relationships between HE and FE institutions should be improved and should primarily exist to support improved student representation.
10. HE and FE unions should work closely at Regional Conferences to ensure positive student representation and active Unions.

Conference resolved:

1. To campaign for an increase in the minimum Student Governor requirement from one to two on all College corporations, and to ensure that these are all democratically elected.
2. That the VP FE to look into setting up a democratically elected FE committee to represent the diversity of students in Colleges.
3. That the VP FE should look into the possibility of NUS holding a FE Campaign Conference on an annual basis where a FE committee could be elected.
4. The VP FE should work on the post-Foster report and campaign with the AoC for a democratically elected course rep system in all Colleges.
5. That NUS should continue to develop democratic and representative unions, especially in FE Colleges;
 - Ensure that all students unions are only run by democratically elected students.
 - That they get a minimum block grant from the sector funding council based on their numbers of members.
6. To promote the development of Learner Panel and participation of students union in each of the Learning Skills Council areas. To discourage local LSC’s from forming Learner Panels through partnerships with Connexions, instead of Student Unions.
7. To audit the representative structures in FE colleges, including times of student elections
8. To develop a charter mark for student representation within the FE sector, including the development of part time and full time Sabbatical positions.
9. To develop a charter mark for FE student unions to award to HE student unions for co-operation concerning collaborative provision.
10. Promote nusonline as a forum for learner voice by getting students to challenge their college over provisions for student involvement and student activities
11. To develop a national student survey for FE students
12. To promote the existing national student survey to HE students who are studying in further education colleges

13. To prevent the abuse of the NUS Extra card by FE colleges, who are refusing or being too incompetent to hold successful elections
14. To lobby for the establishment of a sparqs equivalent to cover the rest of the UK, providing training and support for student representatives.
15. To lobby for 0.5% of institutional income to be earmarked for the students' union for campaigns and representation.

MOTION: **703**
Heading: **NUS Extra**

Conference believed:

1. Annual Conference 2005 passed policy for NUS *"To continue vital in researching a paid for NUS card with the aim of introducing a vibrant and attractive product being available to students on a paid for basis from the start of 2006/2007 academic year."*
2. NUS Extra is a key way forward to secure resources for NUS and affiliate students unions to properly fund NUS work in representing student opinion and campaigning on this nationally and building stronger student unions locally.
3. That money raised by rolling out NUS Extra nationally will improve NUS ability to campaign, assist developments of strong democratic students' unions and also invest in developing the card and improving discounts students receive.
4. Students will save money overall, unions will receive money to pump back into student support and campaigns.
5. That some members of our National Union are concerned that paying for a discount card, will eventually lead to students paying for their membership card too, through a system of individual membership.
6. That some members of our National Union are concerned that the North West trial have not seen the range of discounts that were predicted during the debate at our 2005 Conference.
7. That the NUS supplies a discount card.
8. That trials are being run for an NUS extra card.
9. That some of the companies the NUS card promotes engage in socially irresponsible practices.

Conference further believed:

1. That the FE representation is often woefully funded; to ensure that the majority of our members are better supported and represented, money from the sale of NUS Extra in the FE sector should be ring fenced for the NUS FE campaign.
2. That individual membership was a Tory proposal that NUS defeated in 1994 and must never be introduced.
3. That a greater range of discounts will be possible with the rollout of NUS Extra nationally.
4. Benefits of the NUS card include a new income stream of tens and thousands of pounds for higher and further education students union to develop those students unions or to be offset against affiliation fees.
5. That the NUS Extra trial in the North West region has been a qualified success and given more time to prepare and develop its potential, a national roll-out will see the Extra card reaching its full potential, helping to fund NUS democracy, liberation campaigns, FE Students' unions and student participation at every level.
6. That NUS and NUS Services should regularly provide realistic information about the benefits and discounts available on the NUS Extra Card to CMs.
7. That the NUS Extra project is the only proposal on the table to raise significant funds for both NUS and cash strapped CMs.
8. That promoting socially responsible business is a positive step in making the world a more just place.

9. That socially responsible business includes co-operatives, clothing suppliers, fairtrade suppliers and renewable energy companies.
10. That the NUS has a chance to make a massive difference through the NUS discount card/NUS extra card.

Conference resolved:

1. To press ahead with the national roll out of the NUS Extra Card project in September 2006.
2. Alongside any 'paid for' card there must be a free democracy card available to all SUs denoting membership to the individual unions, that will be made available to all member unions.
3. That the revenue NUS receives from FE colleges selling the NUS Extra card should be ringfenced for the FE Campaign.
4. To oppose any move towards individual membership of NUS.
5. To redouble efforts to boost the range of discounts on NUS Extra in light of the resolves.
6. To use the NUS discount card/NUS extra card actively to promote co-operatives, clothing suppliers, fairtrade suppliers and renewable energy.
7. To promote these as well as and as a balance to, the other companies promoted.

MOTION: **704**
Heading: **Reform**

Conference believed:

1. NUS is undergoing major reform.
2. That 2004-5 saw two extra ordinary conferences that passed numerous policies to reform NUS's democratic structures.
3. National Council sanctioned the commissioning of a stakeholders review by MORI to research the membership view on NUS structures, democracy and on the further direction NUS should take.
4. There exists a management team in NUS which has no formal accountability to the NEC.
5. NUS Conferences have repeatedly supported the 'Block of 12'.
6. That the Block of 12 part-time National Executive Committee members is a guarantee of political pluralism, minority representation and accountability, preventing the factions and groupings of opinion that are strongest politically from totally dominating our national union's highest committee.
7. NUS looks to make all democratic structures accessible to all constituent members.
8. National Conference can be intimidating for any first time delegate but especially so if they are alone.
9. Motions passed at NUS Annual conferences are not easily accessible to all CMs.
10. That if the NUS is to survive its current financial crisis it must find new and cost effective processes to undertake the services it provides and campaigns it runs.
11. That the NUS is seeking to move from its central London offices to a new purpose built site.
12. The membership want to see where their money goes.
13. There are four zones of work within NUS and our Liberation work.
14. The NEC has responsibility teams which don't reflect the zones that unions submit text to for Conference.
15. There are numerous budgets for officers, campaigns, responsibility teams and departments
16. Most policy gets submitted and passed in these Zones that sets NUS's work for the next year.
17. NUS has produced a zoned layout for the NEC Report and Plan, which has increased political accountability and transparency of areas of work.
18. There are currently 8 democratic English regions in NUS
19. There is a clear role for Regional Conference to focus on NUS' policy making.
20. The regions do not follow the regional development agency boundaries.

21. A present the role of English regional reps to national council is partly to help implement priority campaigns in that region.

Conference further believes:

1. National Council has also selected a “year of change” steering committee to receive the MORI report and with the NEC strategy group come up with options for change.
2. MORI research identified the need for NUS to be more efficient & more accountable.
3. That annual conference should remain the sovereign policy making and electoral body of the National Union at its current size and length, maintain existing observers’ rights and the current level of services provided to delegates.
4. Whilst much has been achieved NUS’s democratic and governance structures are still outdated and extremely alienating to the majority of our membership.
5. Anything that discourages FE participation at National Conference reduces FE representation with the National Union.
6. That replacing the Block of 12 with officers elected at unrepresentative regional conferences would be totally undemocratic and would mean a much less diverse and representative NEC.
7. Being an NUS delegate does not ensure your active involvement in NUS, except during National Conference.
8. NUS must increase regional structures and involvement.
9. That we should not compromise or fight between regional organisations and involvement and political diversity on our executive body.
10. That in building sustainably, organisations can make significant financial savings through energy efficiency.
11. A sustainably built NUS headquarters could provide a model of best practice to local Unions and Colleges and Universities.
12. Current responsibility teams do not work.
13. Current financial accountability is not acceptable. It is hard to see where money goes and how it is used to enact policy passed at conference.
14. Moving to zoning the NUS areas of work into the zones of conference would create greater financial accountability, more effective policy delivery, reduce overlap with staff work, produce a more effective planning process and allow NEC members to access money for the work that they do.
15. The need for a formal accountable management team of the NEC.
16. Liberation must remain autonomous and not be subsumed into zones.
17. That some members of our National Union are concerned that the current North East Region is not beneficial for representing members to regional government and Regional Development Agencies (RDAs).
18. Some student unions are in regions that do not make any sense i.e. Sheffield being in the East Midlands.
19. To ensure greater participation in NUS’s democracy from constituent members and to allow proper regional discussion of motions submitted, the amendments deadline to conference must be altered in the constitution
20. Following RDA boundaries could mean better democratic representation to Regional Development Agencies.
21. Regions are important entities in themselves because of the rise in student numbers in both FE and HE.

Conference resolves

1. To ensure that political diversity and increased involvement is central to any further reform of NUS.
2. To maintain Block of 12 in its current form and its current powers; oppose its merger into a larger body.

3. NUS should investigate the effectiveness of National Council with the possibility of introducing regional committees.
4. Re-affirm support for NUS Liberation campaigns, defend their autonomy and resources.
5. Seek to make NUS structures more coherent, more effective and more accountable.
6. To mandate the National Secretary to ensure that motions passed at conferences for the past five years are available as one online document.
7. That in commissioning the design of a new building the NUS should investigate fully the options of environmental sustainability and act on them accordingly.
8. To share environmental best practice gained in any new build with local Students' Unions and the wider HE sector.
9. Any FE institution that only has one delegate should be able to send an observer to National Conference to ensure that our members are better supported and represented.
10. To zone NUS's work mirroring zones at conference as subcommittees of the NEC.
11. To add to the constitution as follows:

Add

49 National Executive Committee Sub Committees

- a. The National Executive Committee shall from time to time form sub committees under the direction of the Conference, Council and of its own decision to carry out the day to day mandates, management and work of the National Union.
- b. Their membership shall be determined by the NEC responsibility allocation process.
- c. Byelaws, terms of reference and frequency of meetings for the standing committees shall be determined by the National Executive Committee.
- d. There shall be 5 core sub committees which shall be primarily responsible for carrying out mandates from National Council in the relevant policy zone
 - i The Higher Education Committee
 - ii The Further Education Committee
 - iii The Strong and Active Unions Committee
 - iv The Welfare and Student Rights Committee
 - v The Society & Citizenship Committee
- e. No full time member of the National Executive Committee may be a member of more than 3 core sub committees. No part time member of the National Executive Committee may be a member of more than two core sub committees.
- f. There shall also be a standing sub committee that will manage the National Union's finances and resources on a day to day basis. This shall be called the 'Management Committee' and shall be chaired by the National President and have in membership at least the National Treasurer and the National Secretary.
- g. The relevant sub committee will be responsible for planning and delivering the work of the National Union in that area. It shall also be primarily responsible for that section of the report and plan.
- h. No expenditure may be carried out or incurred by a member of the National Executive Committee without prior agreement by the relevant sub committee.
 - i. To amend the standing orders as follow
 - ii. 103c The deadline for submission of amendments shall be the last Friday in February
 - iii. To create a *North East, Yorks and Humber District* comprised of the *North East Region* and *Yorks and Humber Region* for the purposes of training, campaigning and conferences
 - iv. To amend the constitution as follows
 - v. 48 d Delete all and replace with:
 - vi. There shall be 9 ordinary regions, namely North West, North East, West Midlands, East Midlands, East of England, South West, South East, London and Yorks and Humber
 - vii. (The North East Region and Yorks and Humber Region will work together for training, campaigning and regional conferences and separately for working with regional government.).
 - viii. To amend the constitution as follows
 - ix. 37e Delete all and replace with

- x. Regional representatives to National Council shall be principally expected to assist in the implementation of NUS' priority campaigns within the region and will form a group consisting of themselves, the regional NEC observer, any elected Area Convenor and any other ex officio members as they deem necessary to carry this out. They will also be required to attend all meetings of the Council and produce a written report immediately following National Council.

ZONE: 500 EDUCATION

MOTION: 501
Heading: FURTHER EDUCATION: Vocational Courses

Conference believed:

1. That the Government unhelpfully rejected the proposals in the Tomlinson Review which included a "stage not age" approach to education and would have created a parity of esteem between academic and vocational learning.
2. Access courses are key to widening participations in Higher Education.
3. That adult and vocational learners are currently under-represented in universities.
4. Students on vocational courses have been prevented from getting admitted to Imperial College, London.

Conference further believed:

1. Currently an unfair disadvantage in the way qualifications are viewed by higher education institutions which restricts their access to and choice of HE courses.
2. That this unfairly discriminates against wide sections of the community, specifically those returning to education and those whose practical skills aren't recognised in a traditional classroom environment
3. Students in receipt of EMA are prevented from attending NUS meeting, conferences and student representative activities because of ignorance.
4. The Governments has announced that fees for Access course are set to rise considerably over the next three years.
5. Government reviews of the education system have highlighted the lack of provision and have underlined the importance of alternative routes into higher education for improving diversity and inclusion in the sector.
6. That universities have been too slow in implementing the necessary changes to admission policy to give equal recognition to all.
7. That action is needed to ensure policy changes are implemented to protect the interests of our members.

Conference resolved:

1. Vocational courses given the same status as A-Levels for admissions to university.
2. NUS to lobby the Secretary of State for Education and OFFA to ensure that vocational qualifications are given the same weighting as A-Levels for admissions to university.
3. NUS should demonstrate its commitment to vocational qualifications.
4. To mandate to Vice President Further Education to lobby the Government to implement Tomlinson's proposals and reform the curriculum in FE.
5. To run a campaign that equips officers, the Government and organisations about the rise in fees for Access courses.
6. To mandate the Vice President Education and Vice President Further Education to produce a briefing pack on current NUS policy regarding the admissions process into Higher Education, and to establish an Admissions Working Group that includes officers from a cross section of the FE

and HE sectors, to look at the National Unions Policy on admissions and suggest improvements in time for next Annual Conference.

7. Students should be allowed to study irrespective of where they live.
8. To lobby the DFES issue guidance that ensures that students in receipt of EMAs are not financially disadvantaged when attending NUS meeting and conference and student representative panels.

MOTION: 502
Heading: FURTHER EDUCATION: Funding & E.M.A.

Conference believed:

1. NUS is the national body which represents both FE and HE students.
2. FE students are often without provision for the high cost of travel that they face. Hardship funds are not easily available, and in some cases don't even exist. Government policy for childcare for students with children is inadequate.
3. The costs that FE students face are huge, with the costs of travel, notepads and pens, food during the day, all often having to come out of student's pockets.
4. That welfare cuts like the £380,000 that have taken place at Lambeth College have stopped hundreds of students continuing there courses.
5. That many cuts like these have taken place across all FE colleges without it coming to the attention of the NUS.
6. The Introductions of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) was a progressive step by the Government.
7. That it is the student and not the parent that decides to study therefore it is immoral that the EMA is judged on parental income and not the income of a person who chooses to study.
8. That the current Education Maintenance Allowance system is not providing enough money and is not available to ALL.
9. EMA is only available to those age 16-19 year olds.
10. That there are many students who study in FE that are aged over 19.

Conference further believed:

1. That the current EMA (Education Maintenance Allowance) scheme does not provide enough for college students to get by on.
2. Students are forced to work to earn more in their free time. If a FE student follows government recommendations, and is on maximum EMA, they receive £60 for a 50 hour week.
3. For NUS to halt the current trend of disaffiliation in the FE sector, we should be actively campaigning for FE as well as HE students' rights.
4. The minimum wage for most FE students is £3.00 an hour, poverty pay.
5. FE students who want to go to university have to work now to lessen crippling future debts.

Conference resolved:

1. To investigate the full loss of child care, travel and hardship welfare across all colleges
2. Plan now to prepare to a campaign from the beginning of the first term across all FE colleges to win back the money stolen from welfare.

MOTION: 503
Heading: HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING: Fighting for Free Education

Conference believed:

1. Under funding has created a crisis in HE, leading to course and campus closure, halls privatisation and HE's looking to private companies, including arms manufacturers, for research funding.
2. The Labour Government, transforming education into a commodity, and placing the burden of costs onto individual students, preventing access to poorer students.
3. Student debt is at record levels and will soar with the introduction of top-up fees next year
4. Students are increasingly forced to take jobs, to the detriment of their studies, with the poorest students most affected.
5. Debts disproportionately affect women and Black people because of pay discrimination in later life, and those who later work in the public sector.
6. Student debt has rocketed because of government attempts to fund higher education on the cheap by transferring university costs away from the state and onto individuals and their families.
7. This has been a disaster. As well as record debt, 100s of government under-funding of universities has led to course and departmental closures, international students facing increasing charges and the selling off of halls of residences – putting private profit before students' welfare.
8. Tuition fees, topup fees, and student debt have meant that Higher Education is becoming a privilege for the few who can afford it.
9. More variability and a massive hike in fees will price more and more young people out of higher education.
10. Vice-Chancellors are lobbying for lifting of £3,000 cap in 2009.
11. Education should be a right for all students from nursery to university.
12. That unfortunately the NUS leadership has failed to capitalise on students' anger and channel this into an effective mass campaign to defend free quality education. However it is not too late to begin.
13. With continued underfunding it is almost certain that the cap of £3000 will be lifted sooner rather than later.
14. In high quality state-funded education.
15. Under funding has created a crisis in HE, leading to course/campus closures, halls privatisation and private companies, including arms manufacturers, funding HE research.
16. Vice-Chancellors are lobbying for the lifting of the £3,000 cap.
17. We strongly oppose the introduction of University fees of up to £3000 from September 2006 brought in by the Labour Government.
18. The return of grants for HE Students of up to £2700 is good, although it does not go far enough.
19. That widening participation is a good thing and we need to get more students from non-traditional backgrounds into higher education.
20. That top up fees will come into England in 2006 and Wales in 2007
21. NUS policy is opposed to the introduction of fees and means testing and remains opposed to all forms of tuition fees
22. During the debates that led to the introduction of the Higher Education Act 2004 vice chancellors lobbied for a higher cap than £3000
23. In November a report in the Times Higher stated that debt is already an issue and will continue to be so under the new funding system from 2006.
24. PGCE Students' exemption from fees will be removed in 2006
25. 22% of newly-qualified teachers leave the profession within 3 years of qualifying
26. Half of the teaching profession is set to retire within the next 15 years
27. That West Midlands Area NUS has been running a campaign 2005-06 against the introduction of fees for PGCE courses.
28. That roughly one third of UK Government funding for science, engineering and technology research comes from the Ministry of Defence.
29. That research into AIDS and cancer treatments require charitable funding.
30. That military expenditure means that many of the best scientists can only find funding for research within military organisations.

Conference further believed:

1. Under-funding will see the continuation of poorly resourced institutions and under-paid staff and undermining the quality of education.
2. When we acted collectively, we brought the Government within just three votes of defeat - the biggest backbench rebellion since 1945.
3. Top-up fees will deter potential students from attending University, as the level of debt students will face in order to gain a degree will be intimidating to those from low income backgrounds.
4. Proper state-funding is required to bring an end to student debt, and to ensure access based on ability to learn not pay.
5. NUS remains opposed to all forms of tuition fees.
6. As commercialisation is introduced to education NUS must make education funding a priority.
7. Students from the lowest two socio-economic groups have a 20% chance of going to university while those from the top two have an 80% chance.
8. Research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that students from poorer backgrounds are not only less likely to get to university – but they graduate with the most debt and go into lower paid first jobs.
9. Taxation and benefits are most effective when they are means tested and those who need the most get the most.
10. It is an outrage that students from the richest backgrounds are 25 times more likely to go to one of the top universities than those from the poorest backgrounds.
11. Flat rate grants wouldn't work, as giving the same level of funding to the super rich as to those from the poorest backgrounds is clearly unfair and wasteful. Public money can be spent more wisely than on grants for the richest in society who do not need them.
12. NUS's current policy of grants for all would cost over £35 billion a year. This is more than the entire annual cost of secondary education.
13. Not every student needs a grant - pertinent examples include Jemima Khan, Prince William and Kevin Sinfield, the Captain of the Leeds Rhinos, all of whom could comfortably survive at University without grants from the public purse.
14. The current means testing system is massively flawed and one must be created that is equitable for all.
15. In the year where marketisation is introduced to education NUS must make education funding a priority
16. Vice Chancellors are lobbying the Secretary of State for Education to lift the £3000 cap on top up fees now
17. If the cap is lifted beyond £3000 yet more prospective students will be deterred from entering higher education.
18. That access to consistent, high-quality, publicly-funded education for everyone across the country is of vital importance to the future of the FE and HE sectors
19. That the introduction of fees for PGCE courses will only dissuade potential teachers from joining the profession, worsening the existing problems
20. That action must be taken immediately to ensure that PGCE students' exemption from fees is restored
21. That success in this campaign could be used to further the case against fees across the board.
22. That tertiary education institutions are very effective at generating regional and national economic growth, and accordingly, should be better funded.

Conference resolved:

1. NUS opposes top-up fees and calls for a living grant for all students.
2. NUS opposes cuts in education public funding and privatisation of education, and will organise actions against any plans of selling off parts of our institutions.
3. NUS will support all HE staff struggling against job cuts, for better pay and working conditions and for decent public funding into our institutions.
4. Launch an active campaign to 'defend our education' in line with the policy above, and opposing student debt, course closures, attempts to remove the £3,000 cap on fees and excessive

international students charges. It should seek to win the argument on how the government could progressively fund the expansion of higher education.

5. Oppose full or part-privatisation of university accommodation, with a national 'Our Halls are Not for Sale' campaign.
6. Deliver a national campaign to demand free education, incorporating opposition to fees, privatisation, course closures and halls sell-offs with a vision of a publicly funded education system.
7. This campaign, involving teaching and trade unions, should include, supporting International days of action against privatisation of education, and continue local and regional actions throughout the year.
8. Actively campaign against tuition fees in all their forms.
9. Hold a first term national demonstration in London to keep the issue of education funding at the top of the national agenda and a national campus day of action.
10. Organise nationally co-ordinated local action throughout the year to ensure that pressure is put on Vice-Chancellors and MPs.
11. Produce detailed information for student officers outlining the precise details of the new funding system, highlighting NUS views on how education should be funded, empowering student officers with strong arguments to take the fight to their Vice-Chancellors, MPs and decision-makers.
12. To campaign for grants and bursaries to be targeted to those who need them most.
13. To campaign for a fair means testing system with a higher basic grant.
14. To campaign for a local grant appeals system for students.
15. Deliver an education funding priority campaign.
16. Meet the Secretary of State for Education demanding that lifting the cap will not pre-empt the review
17. Continue to keep the 2010 coalition as an integral part of the priority campaign
18. Work with trade unions, NGOs, and pressure groups to achieve the campaign objectives.
19. To commend the work of WMANUS and its member Unions on fighting against the introduction of fees for PGCE courses
20. To ensure that campaigning against fees for PGCE courses is emphasised in a comprehensive, vibrant priority campaign against all fees for Higher Education courses.
21. To mandate the President and the VP Education to lobby the Government for increased funding for other forms of research by decreasing funding for military and arms projects.
22. To mandate the President and the VP Education to lobby the Government to invest in tertiary education rather than private companies when conducting its own research.
23. To mandate the President and the VP Education to lobby the Government to prevent companies patenting the outcomes of Government funded research.
24. To mandate the President and the VP Education to lobby the Government to decrease the proportion of other forms of research and development funding which goes into arms and warfare and to increase funding of other forms of research, especially those which are beneficial to global society e.g. medical research and renewable energy technologies.
25. To support disinvestment campaigns to kick arms manufacturers out of HE institutions.

MOTION: 504

Heading: HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING: Long Term policy to fight fees

Conference believed:

1. That the increased burden of fees for home students of up to £3,000 per year will reduce the number of applicants to higher education.
2. That the "review" in 2009-10 on 'raising the cap' is likely to be a sham exercise by the Government and may lead to an introduction of a fully free market in Higher Education.
3. Long-term policy is required to effectively steer the review in a positive direction.

4. Students' unions at both Universities and Further Education colleges should work together, building up networks at local, regional and national levels.
5. New students entering Higher Education are less aware of the implications of fees on university admissions, especially those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.
6. Some VC have already begun their campaign to lift the cap on tuition fees.
7. Marketing of educations is not desirable and will have a detrimental effect on all students.

Conference further believed:

1. If we do not act now, the fees debate will be lost forever and the era of fee-free Higher Education will be consigned to history.
2. Co-operation in our response to the fees situation will strengthen our lobbying power.
3. Current and new students should be informed of the impact of the current government policy and 'raising the cap' on fees.

Conference resolved:

1. To put in place a long-term (five year) strategy to lobby against any 'lifting of the cap' and coordinate CMs to lobby or work with their CVs to do the same.

MOTION: 505

Heading: INEQUALITY: Tackling Inequality in Education

Conference believed:

1. All prejudice in education must be rooted out..
2. Workplace discrimination means student debt disproportionately affects women and Black students. Women graduates earn 15% less than men. Black graduates are three times more likely to be unemployed than white counterparts.
3. Disabled students expected debt levels are 37% higher than average.
4. Many LGBT students lose financial support from hostile parents.

Conference further believed:

1. Recent figures showing more Black Caribbean students at London Met. University than the entire Russell Group are scandalous.
2. The Equal Opportunities Commission reports that education and training choices are highly gender segregated, restricting women's opportunities.
3. Curricula should reflect the positive contributions of all communities. The establishment of LGBT History Month is very positive.
4. The proposed closure of Middlesex University's Black history course - one of the few in the country- is concerning.
5. NUS' 'mark my words' campaign seeks to end biased under-marking.
6. Prayer room facilities are inadequate on many campuses.
7. International students face unfair fees, visa charges and reductions to appeal rights.

NUS Conference resolved:

1. Work with NUS Liberation campaigns to ensure that the specific effects of the governments' funding policy on their members, and tackling institutional discrimination in education, are central to NUS' education campaigning.
2. Support the International Student Campaign to defend its student's rights.
3. Continue NUS' 'mark my words' campaign.
4. Support LGBT and Black History Months campus events.
5. Support FOSIS' campaign for proper campus prayer facilities; work with UJS, FOSIS, BOSS, NHSF and others against exams and deadlines clashing with religious holidays.

MOTION: 506

Heading: INEQUALITY: Part-time Student Inequalities

Conference believed:

1. Offering people the opportunity to study part-time enables more people to access further and higher education.
2. The number of students studying part time has increased and will continue to do so.
3. Students who study part-time face inequalities in accessing their education such as access to welfare, library, student support services and their Students' Unions.
4. Unlike full-time undergrads part-time undergrads will have to pay their fees up front with the introduction of variable fees.
5. Many part-time students are unable to participate fully within their Institutions and Students' Unions.

Conference further believed:

1. Part-time students are often under represented within their Institutions and Students' Unions – unable to attend course, faculty, University or Students' Union meetings as these are often scheduled around full-time students' timetables or traditional office opening times.
2. Part-time students are under represented within NUS.
3. Students' Unions struggle to support the needs of part-time students.
4. Institutions, Students' Unions and NUS need to adapt so that all students part-time or full-time can equally be represented, participate and access the same support services for further and higher education.

Conference resolved:

1. NUS will research into what part time students want and need from their Students' Unions and NUS.
2. NUS will campaign for students' unions and institutions to make sure their services are accessible to all students no matter their duration or mode of study.
3. NUS will campaign for all students to be able to access Students' Union democracy by being fully able to participate.
4. NUS will support and encourage SU's to lobby institutions to timetable course and faculty committees at times that student representatives can attend and to implement flexible fee payment schemes for part-time students.
5. NUS will promote and share good practice in supporting and representing part-time students.
6. NUS to promote and share good practice in supporting and representing part-time students.

Summation

University of Teeside (1 min)

MOTION: 507

Heading: INEQUALITY: Plagiarism

Conference believed:

1. Cases of plagiarism are reportedly on the increase at universities and colleges across the UK.
2. Many students are not aware of exactly what constitutes plagiarism, and institutions have not been as pro-active as they could be in educating students and preventing plagiarism.
3. A disproportionately large number of plagiarism cases within institutions relate to international students.
4. New detection software is leading to a dramatic increase in the numbers of internet-related plagiarism discoveries.

Conference further believed:

1. Learning and assessment methods in the UK can be very different to those used in other countries.
2. Many international students who are studying and submitting work in a way that would be usual in their home country are finding themselves subject to disciplinary action for plagiarism.
3. NUS must not condone plagiarism in any way.
4. Institutions need to work harder to prevent plagiarism occurring.
5. Providing students with information on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid plagiarising work would be a positive step in preventing the increase in plagiarism.

Conference resolved:

1. NUS to run a campaign around the issues of plagiarism, providing information to students on avoiding plagiarism in their work.
 2. As part of this campaign to research existing best practice by Universities and Students Unions in combating plagiarism with a view toward producing a guide of effective methods of educating students about and combating plagiarism.
 3. This campaign should be particularly directed towards supporting international students.
 4. NUS to lobby institutions and decision-makers to implement strategies to combat the increases in plagiarism and become aware of the different styles of learning in use across different parts of the world.
 5. Whilst not condoning plagiarism to encourage students unions to continue to support, advise and represent students facing disciplinary action due to allegations of plagiarism.
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MOTION: 508

Heading: INEQUALITY: Equality in Marking

Conference believed:

1. Every Student should be offered the same method of marking regardless of course or institution.
2. Currently there is no standardised time frame for marking of work.
3. Currently late submissions are dealt with differently across both institutions and the country.
4. Many institutions still do not offer anonymous marking,
5. There are discrepancies in the current UK classification system.

Conference further believed:

1. Degree classification needs to be standardised across the country.
2. Students are being disadvantaged by the current discrepancies in Higher Education.
3. There is strong evidence that where anonymous marking is not in place, certain groups of students are disadvantaged.

Conference resolved:

1. To launch an equality in education campaign.
 2. To lobby Universities UK to review current procedures of their members and to reach service level agreements with UUK on these issues.
 3. For the Vice President Education to create a tool-kit to help unions win on these issues in their own institutions.
-

MOTION: 509

Heading: ACCESS: Fair Access, OFFA & Bursaries

Conference believed:

1. The government has changed the means testing boundaries for 2006-7 student support packages but has not increased the number of students getting grants or means tested additions.
2. Vice Chancellors have lobbied OFFA successfully to re-submit their OFFA Agreements to protect themselves against increased costs.
3. Lord Hannay, a university Pro Chancellor, called OFFA “sensible” for allowing HEIs to re-submit agreements.
4. The student movement is unsure about how to lobby Vice Chancellors from using the re-negotiation as an opportunity to cut costs.
5. OFFA is currently not effective at increasing wider participation and needs to prove its ability to protect access in higher education.
6. OFFA is currently weak, ineffective and needs to prove it really can protect access and its role in higher education.
7. The government has changed the means testing boundaries for 2006-7 student support packages but has not increased the number of students getting grants or means tested additions.

Conference further believed:

1. Bursaries are crucial to widening access HEIs should increase levels.
2. Student Unions must be consulted about OFFA agreements and that short notice re-negotiations are unreasonable.
3. Institutions must spend all of their bursary budgets on bursaries and widening access.
4. OFFA should enforce the spending of at least all money budgeted for bursaries and fine HEIs that use re-negotiation to prioritise economy over participation.
5. that is HEIs believe the access agency ‘sensible’ then NUS must be concerned about its ability to force change in establishment practices and get our poorest students into education.
6. Institutions should have to spend all of their originally budgeted bursary money.
7. Bursaries should never be compromised and spending on bursaries by HEI should increase.
8. OFFA should never again allow HEIs to re-submit their OFFA Agreement in short notice and without formal consultation of the student union.

Conference resolved:

1. To lobby OFFA to issue new guidance which ensures that HEIs are certain of OFFA’s commitment to ensuring that bursary money is sent to students that need it.
2. To work with CMs to produce a report to the Minister for State for Higher Education that shows where institutions have saved money on bursaries due to these changes and ensure it is submitted in the review of the 2006 arrangement.
3. To lobby the government for increase OFFA’s powers. It must be able to enforce wider access on campuses and make it a requirement that the recognised student union is consulted both by the institution and OFFA on any changes to OFFA Agreements.
4. To lobby UUK to ensure that HEIs spend all of their bursary budgets on bursaries.
5. To produce a briefing to help CMs to lobby their institutions to ensure that budgeted limits are kept to and bursary payments are not used to offset costs made elsewhere in HEIs.
6. To provide guidance for those who sit on scholarship boards on lobbying for fairer and better bursary arrangements in future OFFA Agreements.
7. To lobby OFFA to issue new guidance and ensure HEIs spend budgeted levels of bursary payments.
8. To lobby the government for OFFA to have greater powers, to be able to enforce access on campuses and for it to be mandatory that the students’ union are consulted by the HEI and OFFA on changes to OFFA Agreements.
9. To produce a briefing to help CMs to lobby their institutions to ensure that budgeted limits are kept to and bursary payments increase.
10. To lobby UUK to ensure that HEIs spend their budgeted amount on bursaries.

MOTION: 510
Heading: ACCESS: Post Qualification Admissions

Conference believed:

1. Higher Education (HE) applicants and institutions could benefit from PQA.
2. The DfES have produced two unsatisfactory PQA systems, which neither favour HE institutions nor students.
3. The dropout rate amongst students who go through clearing is significantly higher than those who don't.
4. Any proposal to change the applications process should attempt to reduce the numbers of students using "Clearing" (currently 9%).
5. That the current UCAS arrangements while not ideal have the advantages of being understood and take place over a feasible time frame.
6. In addition to increase funding, new initiatives are needed to address the issue of widening participation.
7. A-Level grades are not an adequate prediction for academic performances at university.

Conference further believed:

1. The DfES Option A, which involves an informal "registration" phrase, followed by an "application" phase would result in an unregulated system of informal applications that would make planning course viability extremely difficult for institutions.
2. Option A, is expected to operate in an unfeasibly short time period between applicants receiving their results and the start of term. In effect placing the majority of students in a "Clearing" scenario, creating unnecessary levels of stress and uncertainty.
3. The DfES' Option B, which is again a two-phase process, is workable but unfair. A system that allocates the majority of places based on predicted grades, and only a small minority on actual grades is not addressing the problem as identified by the government.
4. Option B will also lead to able candidates being rejected because of the need to reserve a quota of places for post qualification applicants.
5. The options as presented by the DfES represent an unhelpful fudge.
6. For PQA to work effectively there has to be a much greater time frame between A-Level (and equivalent) results and the start of term.
7. If a serious and viable PQA option was presented, the NUS should support its implementation.
8. Entrants to university should be selected on their potential to achieve, not only on their existing achievements.
9. If HEIs adopted such thinking and reflected it in their admissions policies, the under-representation of students from non-traditional backgrounds at some HEIs, and the over-representation at others will be diminished.
10. A PQA system would improve widening participation rates.

Conference resolved:

1. To ensure the student voice is heard within the DfEs.
2. To join as many institutions and lobby the DfES and ask it to reconsider the PQA options it presented.
3. For the Vice President Education to communicate the NUS' reservations about these PQA proposals to other relevant bodies, while emphasising our in principle support to PQA.
4. That a viable PQA structure should form part of the NUS' 2020 Vision.
5. To support CMs to lobby their institutions for visible and publicised policies on variable admissions.
6. VP Education to contribute to developing a PQA system and support CMs in lobbying for its acceptance.

MOTION: 801

Heading: Accommodation

Conference believed:

1. Students are being forced to choose between affordable and safe accommodation.
2. Students are compromised when they live in private accommodation, having to pay more, often losing their deposits and having to wait a long time for repairs to take place.
3. NUS produced a comprehensive Accommodation Charter in 2004-5;
4. NUS lobbied successfully for amendments to the 2004 Housing Act winning for students third party deposit schemes; mandatory licensing of large HMOs and selective and alternative licensing that can be locally applied to student housing;
5. NUS research showed that:
 - 23% of students live with vermin;
 - 75% of students live with damp;
 - 20% of students lose their deposits needlessly;
6. Increasingly, HE and FE Institutions are using third parties to provide student accommodation.
7. Many students rent property that is not accredited by their institution or local accreditation schemes.
8. Students this year have been singled out as a social group, and have had their housing rights infringed upon.
9. The student accommodation market in the UK continues to be beset by problems.
10. NUS have been working with MMSU and UMSU towards piloting a student union co-operative in Manchester.
11. The first stage feasibility report stated the project was feasible.
12. The project was originally meant to be built in 2007, but has been set back a year.
13. A trial may be taking place in Manchester in 2006-07.

Conference further believed:

1. Students deserve the right to choose where they live and study free from discriminations.
2. Decent student accommodations and accessible healthcare should be a right not a privilege.
3. The local implementations of the Housing Act locally should be a priority of NUS.
4. Co-operative housing offers an alternative model for student housing, potentially revolutionising the student accommodation market.
5. This is an exciting, massive, time-consuming project, which needs to be prioritised by NUS in order to stand a decent chance of getting off the ground.
6. Next year is crucial for the project.
7. All student unions have a role to play in the pilot, and can benefit from its findings.

Conference resolved:

1. To re-affirm NUS policy against the provision of PFI and private halls.
2. Mandate VP Welfare to lobby institutions to ensure that contracts with third-party providers of student accommodation go beyond financial terms to take into account welfare issues and ensure student representation and consultation when the agreements are being made.
3. Mandate VP Welfare to increase the awareness of the importance of accredited property.
4. Mandate VP Welfare to lobby local governments to better regulate property accreditation schemes.
5. To work with UNISON, the representatives of nurses and other low paid public workers; and the Refugee Council to provide a briefing for CMs to lobby local authorities about rolling out the relevant parts of the Housing Act with special reference to Third Party Deposit Schemes and licensing.

6. NUS to provide, alongside the Accommodation Charter, a guide on how to get Halls managers to sign up to its implementation
7. To mandate the whole NEC to proactively engage with and support the project.
8. To prioritise the co-operative housing pilot in 2006-07, the most crucial year for the project so far.
9. To continue working closely with the student unions of Manchester in getting this project off the ground.
10. To inform student unions around the country about the pilots' progress and how they can support it.
11. To reaffirm our commitment to the co-operative housing model.
12. for the VP Welfare to continue campaigning around accommodations and all aspects of health in relation to this student rights campaign.

MOTION: 802

Heading: Support For Students

Conference believed:

1. With the introduction of variable tuition fees from 2006, Higher Education Institutions will see an increase in the number of students choosing to stay and live at home whilst studying at University.
2. Further Education students' unions are often under funded, undervalued and subsequently under-resourced.
3. Further Education institutions often have the broadest student demographics.
4. Many students studying in Further Education are Mature Students, and students with caring responsibilities.
5. That the Citizens Advice Bureaux is free, local and accessible to many students.
6. That our campuses are not always safe, and non-students as well as other students often show a lack of respect to students.
7. The Student Support system is failing to support students.
8. A Student Loan is not sufficient for an independent student to live on.
9. Students who are single parents are at a further financial disadvantage.
10. The Government is failing to support non traditional students whilst they are at University.
11. Further benefits/grants which will be available from Universities will still not be adequate to fully fund the students who need it.
12. Far too few children who enter care go on to enter Higher Education (HE).
13. Children in care and students permanently estranged from their parents often have their educational expectations unnecessarily and systematically lowered.
14. These children have to overcome disproportionate obstacles to access HE.
15. Many children find their own informal care arrangements, whilst this is advantageous to them at the time it can lead to difficulties when applying for financial assistance in HE.
16. Students who enter HE from care backgrounds and estranged students are the most likely to be without emotional, social and financial support networks.
17. The support and knowledge of circumstances that exist in Further Education ceases to exist in HE.
18. Due to difficulties in capturing data about care leavers and estranged children, few HEI'S have support strategy in place.
19. The issues outlined are responsible for a lower than desirable retentions rate amongst estranged students and those from care background.

Conference further believed:

1. That all students should be able to apply for benefits subjects to a means test.

2. Student safety on campus is a critical issue. We must defend students officers and staff in particular from intimidation.
3. A large proportion of students feel marginalized from Universities simply because they live off campus or not in close proximity to the campus.
4. Many Public transport systems cannot support the needs of students. It cannot accommodate different timetables, and is not able to cope with student demands.
5. Universities that do not accept students into University accommodation force students to use expensive, unreliable and sometimes unreachable public and private transport.
6. It is unacceptable that FE students have no access to direct advice services due to institutional under-funding.
7. NUS must continue to campaign to bodies such as the AOC, the government and individual institutions for increased funding for student services.
8. NUS must jointly campaign with organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau to ensure a greater awareness of services to FE students.
9. Universities and Privates Halls of Residence providers should be encouraged to offer 52-week tenancies.
10. The Care Leavers Grant offered by the Student Loans Company (SLC) should be available to those students from formal as well as informal care.
11. Care Leavers and Estranged Students should be considered a high priority group when administering the Access to learner Fund.
12. It is unnecessarily distressing for students to prove to the SLC permanent estrangements from their natural parents on an annual basis.

Conference resolved:

1. NUS Should lobby the Government on behalf of independent students.
2. A national campaign should be set up to raise awareness of existing financial help for students in financial hardship.
3. NUS should coordinate the work done on various campuses to share good practice at local, regional and national level.
4. The Welfare Officer should campaign for better support for single parent students.
5. To encourage the development of non-resident societies as a means of connecting with nonresident students.
6. To apply pressure on Universities and local Governments to review and improve the public transport offered to students.
7. To lobby the AOC highlighting the discrepancies and a commitment to prioritise this issue.
8. For the Vice-President Further Education to contact the CAB and other free statutory bodies to pursue a joint campaign
9. To produce an awareness campaign promoting local, free and accessible advice services.
10. To support efforts to reduce violence and intimidation of students.
11. To support efforts to reduce low levels of anti social behaviour against students.
12. To mandate the Vice President Welfare to lobby the SCL to amend their regulations and practices that currently disadvantage care leavers and those estranged from their parents.
13. To establish links with support groups and campaigning organisations dedicated to improving the circumstances and conditions for children in care, care leavers and estranged children, such as Bryn Melyn Group Foundation.
14. To instruct the National Union to conduct research into issues affecting care leavers and estranged children in HE.
15. To ask Universities and Universities UK to work alongside Students Unions to develop packages of support for care leavers and estranged students to access. This support might include things like special holidays arrangements, additional bursaries, mentoring and coaching.
16. To provide Union Officers with a campaign pack that will enable them to effectively advocate changes on these issues within their own institutions.

MOTION: 803**Heading: Sexual Health****Conference believed:**

1. The dramatic increase in reported instances of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in the last decade is of particular worry to the student community.
2. It is also concerning that the number of people under twenty-five with Chlamydia is now approximately half a million.
3. There continues to be a stigma attached to attending Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics which means that many students with STIs continue to have sex without proper protection, unaware that they are infected.
4. That there is a vital need for students to be able to quickly and easily access GUM clinics and other sexual healthcare services.
5. That rates of transmission of HIV / AIDS are increasing at a dramatic rate.
6. 60,000 people are living with HIV / AIDS in the UK, of this number, experts estimate that one third of those living with HIV / AIDS do not know they are infected presenting a risk to themselves and their sexual partners.
7. In sub-Saharan Africa, HIV / AIDS disproportionately affects women with 57% of those infected being women.
8. That the rate of increase of infection rates is higher amongst the heterosexual population.
9. In 2003, there were 6,675 new cases of HIV / AIDS in the UK, double the number of diagnoses in 1998.
10. In the UK, twice as many men are infected with HIV / AIDS than women.
11. HIV / AIDS is the fastest growing serious health condition in the UK.
12. That currently the contraceptive pill is available free on prescription, but condoms are not
13. That when taken properly the contraceptive pill offers 99% protection against pregnancy but no protection against Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
14. That when used properly male condoms offer 98% protection against pregnancy and also protection against STIs and HIV/AIDS
15. That condoms are available free from clinics such as the Brook Clinic and through certain schemes such as C-Card, but not universally in the same manner as the contraceptive pill
16. That STIs are on the increase in the UK. Particularly sharp increases have been reported in the numbers of cases of Chlamydia, gonorrhoea and genital warts.
17. Condoms are currently the only technology that prevents the transmission of HIV.
18. Microbicides are being developed that can reduce transmission of STIs when applied vaginally or rectally.
19. The development of safe, effective and affordable microbicides is being hampered by insufficient funding.
20. Although there are currently no safe and effective Microbicide products on the market, there are several trials that have reached the final testing stage.

Conference further believed:

1. Students wishing to visit a GUM clinic can currently find it difficult to get an appointment.
2. The pledges made by the government to deliver a national Chlamydia screening programme by 2007 and a maximum 48 hour waiting time for an initial GUM Clinic appointment by 2008 will particularly benefit students, but current waiting times in some areas demand more immediate action.
3. The increased funding for sexual health services promised to health authorities is not ringfenced and many have already stated they will be using the extra funding for other services and not sexual health.

4. It is vital for the National Union to continue to take a lead on making all students aware of the importance of practising safe sex.
5. That new Nucleic Acidic Testing (NAT) testing can detect HIV antibodies in the bloodstream within nine days of infection.
6. That the American Government are deciding whether to allow home testing kits to be sold in chemists in the United States.
7. That experts argue that home testing would lead to an increase in suicide rates because people do not have the same access to counselling and advice from home.
8. That the British Government has announced a massive aid package that will see many more receiving treatment for HIV / AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa.
9. Many students do not get tested for STIs because the services are not readily available.
10. That people should be encouraged to protect themselves against STIs and HIV/AIDS
11. That having condoms available on prescription would encourage people to use them as well as the contraceptive pill
12. That condoms should be available on prescription in the same way as the contraceptive pill.
13. That many people are unable to use condoms or do not have the power to insist on condom use every time they have sex.
14. The development of a method that prevents transmission of HIV and other STIs, such as microbicides that could be controlled by women will save millions of lives every year.
15. Microbicide research is dependent on funding from charities and government grants, including funding from DfID, as pharmaceutical companies are not significantly investing in this area of research.
16. That continued research and investment is necessary to ensure life-saving microbicides will become available to the public

Conference resolved:

1. To demand that the government deliver on the sexual health pledges contained in the Choosing Health White Paper.
2. To call for ringfencing of the funding being provided to local health authorities and demand money set aside for sexual health services is spent on sexual health services.
3. To mandate the Vice-President Welfare to take a lead in raising student awareness of the importance of practising safe sex.
4. To work with the Terence Higgins Trust and other organisations to reduce the stigma of HIV/AIDS.
5. To challenge the perception that HIV / AIDS is a “gay disease”.
6. To campaign for antiretroviral drugs to be available to people with HIV / AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and across the world.
7. To lobby the Government to ensure that HIV testing is widely and freely available.
8. To lobby the Government to introduce the NAT test to GUM clinics across the UK.
9. Mandate VP Welfare to lobby the government for better access to GU medicine for students.
10. Mandate VP Welfare to lobby the NHS and government to increase funding for student health centers.
11. To mandate the VP Welfare to lobby the government to make condoms available free on prescription in the same way as the contraceptive pill.
12. To support the UK Campaign for Microbicides.
13. To mandate the VP Welfare to ensure calls for increased funding and support for microbicide development are included in NUS sexual health campaigns.
14. To lobby DfID to continue its support of research into microbicides.

MOTION: 804
Heading: Anti Racism

Conference believed:

1. Racism continues to rise, endangering the welfare of all Black and Jewish students.
2. The past year has seen young people and students as the victims and perpetrators of racism, underlining the urgent need for student unions to challenge racism.
3. The murder of A-level student Anthony Walker in 2005 was a brutal racist crime. Recent figures show Arabs 13 times, African Caribbean's ten times and Jewish people three times more likely to suffer racist attacks than white Europeans. Every such attack must be condemned. Student unions should take steps to prevent them.
4. Racist scapegoating of Muslims in the aftermath of the London bombings includes unsubstantiated, inflammatory claims in the Glees report, including calls for quotas on ethnic minority students at universities; proposed closures of campus Islamic Societies and preventing Muslim students from distributing the Quran.
5. Students of all faiths (and none), cultures and racial backgrounds have the right to organise through student societies without fear.
6. New asylum and immigration legislation proposes to further reduce rights, including International students' rights to appeal visa refusals. Student asylum seekers, including Courage Idiabonya and Flores Sukula, face deportation.
7. It is an attack on entire communities and must be opposed.
8. Students have the right to live peacefully in a tolerant, diverse society, free from racism and terrorism.
9. UCLH Trust has drafted a uniform policy following the concerns raised by nursing students that the uniform policy of 2004 does not accommodate for their Islamic dress in accordance with their religious requirements.
10. Respecting a student's race or religion is vital to ensuring their welfare on campus.
11. The NUS should be a progressive, inclusive body
12. Religious festival diaries are sent to all CMs.
13. Religious festivals often coincide with term dates.
14. Despite policy established at conference, few CMs are compliant with the Race Relations amendments act.
15. Students of all religions should be able to partake completely in university or college life.
16. All students should feel comfortable in their union and university buildings regardless of religion.
17. The constitution of the NUS part 3b defines a primary aim as being 'To promote and maintain the educational, social, cultural and general interest of students'
18. Those timetabling academic activities, should be made aware of religious obligations, and design calendars and timetable activities accordingly.
19. In the climate of fear generated by the 'war on terror', we have seen the governments introduce 'anti-terror' legislations, and attacks such as the Glees report, which have resulted in an increase in racism, islamophobia and a restriction of civil liberties.
20. Some institutions are violating students' right to organise, to express political views or to criticise college policies.
21. Stifling of political expression has occurred for example, Matthew Boulton College expelled two students for distributing newsletters opposing the Iraq invasion and their college's ban on religious societies. This expulsion has undermined their studies and opportunity to apply to university.
22. Lancaster University successfully pressed charges of 'aggravated trespass' against six students and graduates - the 'George Fox Six' - who protested against a university event involving arms dealers.
23. Imperial College's new dress code bans students 'from wearing clothing which obscures the face such as a veil.' This undermines freedom to practice religion and is wrong. Islamic societies have faced suspicion, unjust threats of closure and had legitimate activities curtailed.
24. Education must be the basis of any campaign tackling discrimination or prejudice.
25. Racial and religious tension usually stems from baseless Stereotypes.

26. It is the responsibility of all Unions under the Race Relation Amendment Act to ensure good relations exist on their campus.

Conference further believed:

1. The British National Party (BNP) is a fascist organisation that has achieved recent success by acting as a 'respectable' political force.
2. The BNP stand in the same tradition as Hitler and Mussolini. Their chairman, Nick Griffin, describes the holocaust as a "myth". They only participate in democracy in order to destroy it. Griffin stated: "*when the crunch comes, power is about force not rational debate*".
3. The BNP actively implement a policy of fascist violence wherever active. After the election of BNP councillors in Burnley, racist attacks soared by 500%. The Panorama documentary 'Secret Agent' showed leading BNP members glorifying and inciting racist and homophobic violence.
4. The BNP called for 2 national mobilisations in November 2005. A planned national demonstration in Keighley was cancelled following a police ban and mobilization by UAF for a national counter demo.
5. Racism currently provides the BNP with its cutting edge. BNP leader Nick Griffin was captured on a BBC documentary last year saying Britain is a "multiracial hellhole, horrifically that student Stephen Lawrence was "killed by another black" and that Islam is "a vicious, wicked faith"
6. Anti-fascists must challenge the hate on which the BNP feeds. Campaigning against the BNP must unite all threatened by fascism – the trade unions, Black communities, Muslim, Jewish and all faith communities, lesbian and gay organisations, disabled people, the anti-racist movement and all democrats.
7. Recently NUS has taken positive steps to challenge racism, including its response to the London bombings against terrorism and racism; its opposition to Glee's report; ongoing support for Unite Against Fascism campaign to stop the BNP; support for anti-racist *Rise Student week* organised by Student Assembly Against Racism, Mayor of London and NUS Black Students' Campaign.
8. The actions of Ruth Kelly and security services are leading to a fear being created amongst Muslim students with regards to their ability to discuss political issues, particularly Foreign Policy government.
9. Recent Anti Terror Legislation has created an atmosphere of fear amongst Muslim students voicing their political opinions on campus.
10. The assertions of Professor Glee that extremists are operating on campus and pose a threat to national security are dramatic statements that hold no true reality.
11. Religious Jewish students are unable to attend activities on Friday evenings and Saturdays.
12. Religious students should not be penalised academically for their faith.
13. Provisions should be made such that religious students are able to take exams and submit work on days other than festivals on which they are unable to do so.
14. Many religions have specific dietary requirements and are unable to eat food available on campuses.
15. Student should never have to choose between their religion and studies.
16. Improved Equal Opportunities training should be compulsory for all academics and union officers.
17. The scheduling of NUS or Union events (including Freshers fairs) on religious occasions is extremely undesirable.
18. Diversity in race, religion and culture is something to be celebrated by more than anti-racism campaigns
19. Religious students are often academically disadvantaged by absence during festivals.
20. These clampdowns take place in a wider context of attacks on civil liberties.
21. Recently proposed 'anti-terror legislation' is misguided, and risks undermining the fight against terrorism by criminalising whole communities whose co-operation is indispensable to preventing attacks.

22. The climate of fear has been used in an attempt to justify the Iraq war, and to divert attentions from the fact that the war, not religion, was the real cause of the events on 7th July 2005.
23. The governments' reviewer of anti-terror legislation - Lord Carlisle - recently reversed his support for ID cards warning they're of limited value in preventing terrorism. An LSE study estimates introducing ID cards would cost £15bn.
24. Religious awareness weeks have proved popular, informative and helpful in breaking down stereotypes on a number of campuses.
25. Diversity in race, religion and culture is something to be celebrated by more than anti racism campaigns.

Conference resolved:

1. Continue supporting Unite Against Fascism to maximise student anti-BNP opposition at May's local elections and support and build for UAF mobilisations and activities.
2. Expose the true nature of the BNP and use all legal means to combat any incitement of racial hatred or violence.
3. Support *Rise Student Week* and Student Assembly Against Racism.
4. Defend student asylum seekers facing deportation and international students' visa appeal rights
5. Encourage student unions to become Hate Crime Reporting Centres
6. Work with the 'United Communities' coalition - to oppose attacks on civil liberties.
7. To work with Liberty, the civil liberties organisation, and others to actively campaign against attempts to increase the time to detention without charge.
8. To protect academic freedom and oppose any legislation that could threaten this.
9. Support FOSIS, alongside the student pressure group RIGHTS to seek amendment of the revised uniform policy to accommodate Islamic dress.
10. Oppose any further uniform policies by universities, Trust or hospitals that excludes the Jilbab (Islamic dress) or Hijab (headscarf).
11. That there will be an anti-racism stream to this campaign, defending rights of students facing intimidations, violence and fascism, and campaigning for religious provisions.
12. That NUS should lobby to ensure Fresher's fairs are not held exclusively on Saturdays
13. That NUS should offer training to university teachers, lectures and union officers and staff to ensure awareness of religious obligations that must be considered to enable inclusiveness
14. To lobby universities to provide programs for alternative examination dates, for those unable to sit exams due to religious obligations.
15. That NUS should lobby unions to provide food suitable for diets based on religion including Kosher and Halal.
16. To work with campus religious societies and Chaplains to ensure that religious students are not academically penalised for their observance
17. To ensure union events and activities are as accessible as possible to all students by taking into account dates of religious festivals.
18. That NUS should lobby unions to provide comfortable alcohol-free areas.
19. Defend students' right to peacefully protest.
20. Support the 'George Fox Six' and the 'Matthew Boulton Two'. Oppose Imperial's ban on the veil.
21. Oppose ID cards, and anti-terror legislation that stigmatises communities.
22. To condemn the Gless reports and all other racists, Islam phobic and undemocratic measures, and to support campaigns against them.
23. To condemn the Government for creating an atmosphere of fear amongst Muslim students
24. To ensure an NUS commitment to an annual Interfaith conference.
25. To engage constituent members in interfaith dialogue and provide suggestions for interfaith initiatives at National training events.
26. To encourage constituent members to run religious awareness weeks or similar.
27. To consult the national faith student organisations on how best to address issues of tension.

MOTION: 601

Heading: Holocaust Memorial Day

Conference believed:

1. Britain's annual Holocaust Memorial Day is on the 27th January. The UN General Assembly voted to make this day International Holocaust Memorial Day.
2. The aims of Holocaust Memorial day including "Recognise that the Holocaust was a tragically defining episode of the 20th century, a crisis for European civilisation and a universal catastrophe for humanity".
3. Awareness is diminishing about the Holocaust amongst students and younger people.
4. The UN's recent designation of 27th of January as International Holocaust Memorial day.
5. NUS currently applies its "No Platform" Policy to Holocaust deniers.
6. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the President of Iran, in December 2005, described the Holocaust as a "myth".
7. Iranian ministers confirmed that the views of President Ahmadinejad "on the holocaust" are not personal opinions, nor isolated statements but they express the view of the government".
8. The Iranian Government has announced "A conference on the Holocaust to assess its scale by scientific means".
9. That our approach to Iraq, opposing both US/UK imperialism and repressive local movements, should inform our attitude to Iran.
10. That the Iranian regime is a massive threat to its own people and to other in the Middle East, as was shown by its execution of a numbers of young gay men in July and November 2005, and by the Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmedinejad's November 2005 call for Israel to be "wiped off the earth".
11. That we should combine oppositions to a US military attack or economic sanctions against Iran with support for democratic, labour movement and women's opposition to the regime.

Conference further believed:

1. Iran's new stance on the Holocaust has received widespread international condemnation, including from Kofi Annan.
2. Many known holocaust deniers from around the world are rumoured to be speaking at the Iranian conference.
3. It is a dangerous and worrying precedent when a world leader denies the holocaust.

Conference resolved:

1. To fund a national campaign in support of Holocaust Memorial Days both nationally, and to support the activities of Holocaust Memorial Days in Constituent Members.
2. To affirm commitment to the National Holocaust Memorial Day
3. To ensure HMD is part of the NUS educational cycle,
4. That every NUS NEC member should attend an HMD event

MOTION: 602

Heading: Trade Unions

Conference believed:

1. That despite our continued solidarity with the trade union movement, many students are still unaware of their rights as workers and the positive role that trade unions play in campaigning for social justice.

2. Research shows that the majority of students have to work part-time to supplement their student loans .
3. That even more FE students have to work longer hours, in lower paid employment in order to continue with their studies.
4. That often this means that these students are subjected to poor working conditions, low pay and manipulation.
5. The take up rates for trade union membership in young people is decreasing year on year.
6. NUS must be fundamentally about supporting and defending student's rights both in Education and beyond.
7. Trade unions are best placed to advise and support students in the workplace.
8. The student movement shares the same values and core principles as the trade union movement.

Conference further believed:

1. That many students are constantly subjected to homophobia, sexism, racism and disablism in the work place.
2. Many Students Unions often don't have the expertise or the capacity to deal with such cases especially in FE.
3. That apart from the CAB there are very few places for students to turn to in such cases.
4. Student Officers need the arguments and support to promote Trade Union membership in their unions.
5. That two part time members of the block have taken on the responsibility of developing a students rights at work charter, detailing case studies, advice and campaign ideas.
6. That this must continue to develop and not fall off the NEC agenda.
7. That the STUC is currently trialling a non-membership card at certain HE's in Scotland offering students legal advice.

Conference resolved:

1. To build a strategic plan, jointly with the TUC in order to raise Trade Union membership in young people.
2. To roll out a campaign that both encourages trade union membership take up to students but one that also helps officer's contact their local trade union officials.
3. Ensure both high profile and cost effective campaigning on this issue.
4. To work with the TUC in order to set up a similar scheme to the STUC'S membership card scheme in Scotland.
5. To campaign and lobby MPs, the government and the low pay commission to introduce equal wages for all ages.

MOTION: 603

Heading: Fair Trade

Conference believed:

1. That producers in developing countries suffer from financial instability often as a direct result of unjust international trade rules and the volatile global market.
2. That the Fairtrade mark guarantees farmers in developing countries a fair and stable price for their products.
3. Sweatshop labour, including forced overtime, excessive hours and child-labour must be ended in the UK and abroad.
4. Workers in sweatshops should be free to organise their own, independent trade unions.
5. There should be a labour mark on garments sold in the UK, so that we can have a guarantee that they were produced by workers who were free to organise and set decent standards in their workplace.

6. Workers in every country should have positive legal rights including the right to join a free trade union and to take industrial action.
7. That sales of Fairtrade products in a multitude of student unions have been a commercial success.
8. NUSSL currently deals with suppliers of Fairtrade tea and coffee.

Conference further believed:

1. NUS is in a good position to encourage unions to switch to Fairtrade especially for areas like hot beverages where there are no commercial impediments.
2. Even with lobbying their own institutions, Student Unions often fail to convince their colleges and universities to adopt Fairtrade products.
3. Campaigning for Fair Trade Universities will make a significant statement about the strength of student opinion in support Trade Justice in conjunction with a wider campaign about the impact of current UK policy on the developing world.

Conference resolved:

1. To support moves made by NUSSL towards becoming 100% Fairtrade for hot beverages.
2. To push for sweatshop-labour free clothing for all students' union garments and encourage societies and associations within students' unions to do like wise.
3. To mandate the NEC to create and distribute a pack to all Constituent Members including:
4. Information on the benefits of Fairtrade
5. Information on suppliers of Fairtrade available through NUSSL
6. Information on the commercial impact of switching to Fairtrade based on the experiences unions where Fairtrade is the default option for hot beverages.
7. Detail on the experiences of existing Fairtrade Universities.
8. To promote Fairtrade as part of Freshers Fayre stalls run by NUS
9. As part of NUS Environment Conference, to hold an event providing information on how and why to switch to 100% Fairtrade for hot beverages.
10. To work with universities wanting to become Fairtrade and provide a robust follow-up programme, including support and advice to help them achieve Fairtrade status.
11. To investigate further practical applications of engaging students actively with the Trade Justice movement more broadly and to development more active participatory involvement with the Trade Justice movement.

MOTION: **604**
Heading: **Coca Cola**

Conference believed:

1. The allegations against Coca Cola are serious.
2. 'Constructive engagement' should be constructive in regards to its results as well as its methods. NUSSL's policy of constructive engagement has so far failed to produce adequate results with regards to Coca Cola
3. A restructuring of the constructive engagement process is needed and that any such process should pro-actively engage with all concerned parties in a democratic and transparent manner.
4. A possible Coca Cola boycott has Colombia on NUS' agenda.
5. Colombian students, academic staff, trade unionists and others face violent oppression by right wing paramilitary death squads and their allies in the armed forces.
6. The principle of international solidarity means the plight of Colombian student activists, trade unionists and civil society matters.
7. Our movement has a duty to highlight international issues and call for action.

8. A thriving trade union movement, student community and civil society are essential aspects of any civilised democracy, not a barrier to it.
9. Colombia has suffered more than forty years of internal armed conflict.
10. More trade unionists are murdered in Colombia than the rest of the world combined.
11. The Colombian government is complicit in the violent oppression of its people.
12. Colombian armed forces have the worst human rights record in Latin America.
13. Colombian government should sign up to, and observe, the fundamental principles of the International Labour Organisation.
14. Our Government's provision of military aid to Colombia must stop.
15. JFC works to support the Colombian people through trade unions and the student union, in their struggle for fundamental rights, peace with social justice and a politically negotiated solution to the armed conflict.
16. NUS' affiliation to Justice for Colombia (JFC) is welcomed.
17. Banning Coke from campus on inconclusive evidence, when 8,000 jobs in Colombia depend on the company remaining there, would have a questionable impact. Our movement can and must do better.
18. Coca Cola workers in Colombia are represented by thirteen trade unions.
19. Sinaltrainal, a Colombian trade union, has called for a global boycott of Coca Cola.
20. That boycott call is not supported by the other twelve trade unions, the CUT – the Colombian TUC, or Justice for Colombia, the coalition of British organisations working in support of the Colombian people and trade union movement.
21. Nor is it supported by Amicus, TGWU, GMB, TUC – who represent Coke workers in the UK, or by the global International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations, who represent some 150,000 unionised Coke workers globally.
22. NUS and student unions should not be misled into thinking the call for a Coke boycott is straightforward or united.
23. It is a basic right that countries should be able to govern their own affairs and democratically elect their own leaders, free from foreign interference.
24. Action against the severe poverty in the under-developed world is a priority and is an issue on which large numbers of students have campaigned.
25. The UN's Millennium Development Goals are important targets in poverty reduction.
26. Universal and free public services, including in education, are affordable across the world and should be a basic right.

Conference further believed:

1. The efficiency of NUSSL's 'Constructive Engagement' should be reviewed on regular basis.
2. The public should be made aware of the progression of the negotiations.
3. That it is important for organisations representing student interests to seek to improve and develop the practises of companies who supply student unions.
4. That NUS services has an important role to play in this respect.
5. Colombia has suffered more than forty years of internal armed conflict.
6. Many groups, have acknowledged links between Colombian government forces and illegal paramilitary groups at national and local level.
7. More than 250 cross party MPs signed EDM 355 calling for respect for trade union and human rights and an end to UK military aid to Colombia.
8. That whilst in the past boycotts have had impact, recent experiences would suggest that constructive engagement is a more effective method for positively changing the behaviour and actions of multinational companies.
9. NUS Services has had a policy of positively engaging companies for over 10 years.
10. In that time the positive engagement policy has had a number of successes, including:
11. Within 3 months of evidence coming to light that Coors had in the past funded homophobic think tanks, a public apology was received along with evidence this was no longer happening.

- i. Lobbying of GlaxoSmithKline forced them into releasing the global patents for antiretroviral AIDS drugs.
 - ii. Continued lobbying of Pepsi secured a pullout from Burma
 - iii. Two years of pressuring Coca-Cola has seen them appoint a global head of labour relations and establish a regular dialogue with the International Union of Food workers (which represents the majority of Coca-Cola employees worldwide).
NUS Services has also helped shape their global water project and is helping shape a global human rights policy.
- 12. Enormous social change has taken place in Venezuela in recent years, with the government funding wide-ranging social programmes.
- 13. Previously, despite Venezuela's oil wealth over 80% of the population lived below the poverty line without access to basic services.
- 14. In Venezuela there have been dramatic increases in democratic participation, especially by indigenous people, women and the poor, including in eight national elections and referenda since Hugo Chavez's election as President in 1998.
- 15. A new constitution enshrines the right to publicly funded free education including at university.
- 16. Through literacy drives, over 1.2m Venezuelans have been taught to read and write since 1998, virtually abolishing illiteracy. Two-thirds of the beneficiaries are women.
- 17. More than 70% of the Venezuelan population for the first time now have access to free healthcare and medicines.
- 18. Venezuela is set to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals three years ahead of schedule - many countries are decades behind.
- 19. A Women's' Development Bank (Banmujer) has been set up to increase economic opportunities for women.
- 20. The Venezuelan government, through 'Operation Miracle' is funding up to 1,500 free eye operations daily for poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean. Over six million are expected to be treated over the next decade.
- 21. Figures linked to the United States administration have called for intervention into Venezuela. George Bush's political ally, Pat Robertson called for President Chavez's assassination and kidnapping in August 2005. A briefly successful military coup against Chavez in 2002 reportedly had US backing.
- 22. This year's Trades Union Congress annual conference unanimously voted to welcome the social achievements of Venezuela in recent years and for solidarity against US intervention.

Conference resolved:

- 1. To support continuing the policy of NUS Services Ltd in pursuing constructive engagement.
- 2. To pursue a policy of constructive engagement with social movements in Colombia and India.
- 3. NUSSL's 'constructive engagement' process must prioritise engagement with communities and groups directly affected.
- 4. Any vote in support of NUSSL's constructive engagement process with Coca Cola should be a vote for a constructive engagement process under these terms.
- 5. To call for a restructuring of engagement processes to ensure transparency of negotiations and to effect genuine positive change within multinationals.
- 6. NUSSL should look to independent investigations for confirmation and results regarding the allegations against Coca Cola.
- 7. That a public report should be published at each key stage of the negotiations.
- 8. NUSSL must grant dispensation for any product on ethical grounds to any union whose general meeting demands one.
- 9. To make Colombia a major international campaign for NUS next year.
- 10. Organise a national speaking tour of JFC speakers next term, with campus unions and Amicus, TGWU and GMB – representing Coca Cola workers in the UK. Send letters of support to the Colombian student union and all trade union groups in Colombia via the CUT.
- 11. To mandate the NUS to exercise its voting rights in NUSSL in accordance with resolutions.

12. To continue constructive dialogue with Coca Cola and all unions who represent its workers.
13. Organise a national speaking tour of JFC speakers next term, with campus unions and Amicus, TGWU and GMB – representing Coca Cola workers in the UK. Send letters of support to the Colombian student union and all trade union groups in Colombia via the CUT.
14. Not to boycott Coca Cola.
15. Oppose US military intervention in Venezuela.
16. Work with British trade unions and Venezuela Information Centre to provide student unions with information about education and healthcare achievements in Venezuela.
17. Send a message of support to the Venezuelan Education Ministry commending the provision of free education and steps taken to eradicate illiteracy.