

COUNCIL MEETING NO. 4

2ND DECEMBER 2008, 6.00 P.M.

Chair: J Pryor

Present: H Allcutt, J Barth, S Birkwood, K Davies, M Fright, M Gerner, R Gillett, I Gillespy, S Goldstein, D Harris, C Hirst, J Holloway, T Jacko, R Jacobs, A James, C Jenkinson, D Joseph, A Khan, J Killip, D Lee, K Little, R Neudegg, R Pinfold, E Randall, E Reyland, D Sewell, D Sheldon, S Wamaita, J Witts, O Worth, J Wyatt, A Yazdi.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted for absence from S Ajoodan-Poor, S Ali, J Kudren, G Mahalla, S Malik, F McGough, J Myers, A Seres, A Speke, A Taylor, S Taylor, R Tidy, N Heppenstall, C Livingstone; and for leaving early from J Killip.

RESIGNATION

Ayesha Rafiq had submitted her resignation from the post of General Member.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING NO. 1, 19TH NOVEMBER 2008

Motion 1 - The Change We Need (to Union Council)

The Women’s Officer referred to the vote on this motion, which had been declared as carried. It later transpired that there had been an error in the interpretation of the count.

R Jacobs “Council overturns the Chair’s ruling on this motion”

R Jacobs “There be a division list”

Carried

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTIONS	
Helen Allcutt	-	Josh Barth	Tomas Jacko
Robbie Gillett		Susannah Birkwood	Alex James
Ruthie Jacobs		Karen Davies	Chris Jenkinson
Ahmed Khan		Mark Dunwell	Deborah Joseph
Jennie Killip		Alex Dwek	K Little
Dan Lee		Matt Fright	R Neudegg
Emily Randall		Marina Gerner	R Pinfold
Ellie Reyland		Ian Gillespy	D Sheldon

Dave Sewell
Sissy Wamaitha

Sean Goldstein
Deborah Harris
Caroline Hirst
Jason Holloway

J Witts
O Worth
J Wyatt

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Vote on Motion **10 : 0 :23**
Defeated

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO. 3, 11TH NOVEMBER 2008

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE MEETING NO. 13, 5TH NOVEMBER 2008

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 4, 31ST OCTOBER 2008

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 5, 6TH NOVEMBER 2008

Minutes Accepted

MINUTES OF SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 6, 13TH NOVEMBER 2008

Minutes Accepted

CUMULATIVE WEEKLY INCOME REPORT: 23.11.08

Report Accepted

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL: 2.12.08

Report Accepted

CAMPAIGNS OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL: 2.12.08

Report Accepted

STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL: 2.12.08

Report Accepted

WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL: 2.12.08

Report Accepted

WOMEN'S OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL: 2.12.08

Report Accepted

MEDICAL & HUMAN SCIENCES FACULTY OFFICER'S REPORT TO COUNCIL: 2.12.08

Report Accepted

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It was noted yet again that several Executive Officers had not submitted reports. There were also comments that some of the reports were too brief. In future they should be more detailed to ensure Executive members' accountability to Council.

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION -
GENERAL MEETINGS: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT ANYWAY**

Proposer: Jennie Killip
Seconder: Frankie McGough

THIS COUNCIL NOTES

1. The General Meeting on 19/11/08 was quorate.
2. The General Meeting on 19/11/08 was declared inquorate by 11 seats after 2 motions had been discussed.
3. There were seven motions to be discussed at the General Meeting on 19/11/08.
4. The Chair of the General Meeting was voted in only eight days before the meeting.

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES

1. Students frequently leave General Meetings after one motion.
2. Students expect General Meetings to run smoothly.
3. It should be the responsibility of all Executive members to promote the General Meeting.
4. When Executive members leave after one motion without apologies, other students leave.
5. Many students do not understand how policy is made at General Meetings and no training is given on this.
6. The Chair of the meeting should encourage people to get involved and stay beyond one motion.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To mandate all Executive members to promote General Meetings, even if they are not proposing or seconding a motion.

2. To mandate all Executive members to attend General meetings and submit apologies formally if they wish to leave the meeting early.
3. To mandate the General Secretary to:-
 - Ensure counting staff are present at the beginning of the meeting.
 - Ensure enough agendas are printed before the meeting.
4. For the Chair to provide a brief introduction to the policy making procedures of the General Meeting at the start of the meeting.
5. For the Chair to invite people to remain in the room to listen to and participate in all the motions.

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6. To ensure the Chair receives proper training on how to conduct General Meetings constitutionally.

Carried

PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION - GENERAL MEETING REFORM

Proposer: Ali Yazdi
Secunder: Alex James

THIS COUNCIL NOTES

1. Quorum for General Meetings is <1% of our Union's membership.
2. The last time >3% turned up members were turned away due to lack of space.
3. Members feel intimidated, police complaints have been lodged, stemming from the hostile atmosphere generated at some of these meetings.
4. Voting is not anonymous.
5. Students with caring responsibilities, distance learners, students off campus, the thousands of students doing sports or with a job on a Wednesday afternoon are excluded from setting the direction of their own Union.
6. Important motions have not been debated due to loss of quorum at meetings that can go on for hours.

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES

1. The current system is inaccessible to the vast majority of our membership.
2. There should be an opportunity for students to vote online to set the policy of our Union.
3. A referenda-based model, similar to the model at Leeds University Union, would maintain important discussion and debate but also enable thousands more students to be engaged.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To mandate the Executive to draft and submit an amendment to the Constitution, for the next General Meeting, encompassing the above changes.

Carried

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION - TO CALL ON NUS TO CONVENE AN EXTRAORDINARY CONFERENCE

Proposer: Alex James
Secunder: Alex Dwek

THIS COUNCIL NOTES

1. The NUS constitution states;

A request for an Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference must state the topic to be discussed at the meeting, together with the name of the Constituent Member on whose behalf the Conference is proposed.

A request must be signed by the principle elected officer of each of the Constituent Members making the request. Such signatures shall not be recognised unless each has been affixed on the instructions of the governing body of that Constituent Member, or follow a procedure approved by that governing body and is accompanied by a copy of the relevant minutes of the body issuing the instruction.

The National Executive shall convene the Extraordinary Conference within seven weeks after receipt of all the 25 requests and not less than two weeks after the day on which notice of the Conference would in the normal course of post be received by Constituent Members.

No business shall be conducted at an Extraordinary Conference except the discussion of the topic stated in the request or requests for which the meeting was convened.

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES

1. Throughout last year, NUS was engaged in a review of its Governance which we contributed to.
2. Following Annual Conference NUS directly contacted our delegates and our outgoing and incoming officers to seek feedback on the review and to get thoughts on where to go next with the proposals.

3. The NUS NEC has now met and the proposals are better than ever, guaranteeing a more open, democratic, relevant and effective NUS.
4. On 12th November students' unions took the first step in taking back their national union, with over 80% of students voting in favour of the Reform proposals.
5. Any substantial Constitutional change of this type must pass through two consecutive Conferences, with two thirds majorities.
6. If NUS reforms before Annual Conference in March, we have the opportunity to implement the changes in our time, and directly take ownership of a new NUS.
7. NUS urgently needs reform and we cannot wait until Summer 2010 to have the new structure in place.
8. That our Union with 24 others has the ability to call an Extraordinary Conference on reforming NUS.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. To write a letter enclosing this motion and minutes of this meeting to be sent to the National Secretary of NUS, calling for an Extraordinary Conference to be convened on subject of 'NUS Reform'.

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2. Send a delegation to the Extraordinary Conference who are informed about the proposals.

“Remove ‘This Council Resolves - 2. To support the proposed reforms of NUS’”

Carried

“Remove ‘This Council Believes - 1. Throughout last year, NUS was engaged in a review of its Governance which we contributed to’”

Defeated

**Vote on Motion
with Amendment**

Carried

**PRIVATE MEMBER’S MOTION -
A DECENT WEBSITE**

Proposer: Jason Holloway
 Secunder: Alex James

THIS COUNCIL NOTES

1. That much time and effort has been invested into a new Union website, created by our Postgraduate & Mature Students’ Officer.

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES

1. That our current Union website is an embarrassment.
2. That the transition to the new website needs to be made now.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES

1. That the transition to the new Union website developed by our Postgraduate & Mature Students' Officer be made within the next four working days.
2. To mandate Officers whose content is not currently available on the new website to rectify this by the end of term at the very latest.

Carried

CONFERENCE MOTIONS

It was pointed out that when the Students' Union had policy under a particular zone, this needed to be submitted to NUS.

C Jenkinson "An email be sent to Council members with a ballot form to vote on which Union policies be sent to NUS Conference within each zone"

Carried

MEETING INQUORATE : 8.15 P.M.