

## The Council

Monday 15 June 2015  
7:00pm

<b>Title</b>	Motion: Challenges to Policies Lapsing
<b>Author</b>	Secretary to Council
<b>Purpose</b>	For consideration and approval
<b>URC</b>	15061511

### Policy Extract:

The Standing Orders of the Council provide the following procedure for handling the older 'policies' that are or have been approved in previous years. The purpose of the Policy Lapse procedure is to allow older and possibly defunct policy to expire, but also a chance for Council members to review this policy prior to it expiring – and making a decision on whether to renew the policy for a further three years.

*“At the last scheduled meeting of the full plenary Council, all Policy that is due to lapse at the end of the academic year shall be tabled for discussion at the meeting and shall be circulated to all voting members of the Council with the final agenda paper (at least three days before the meeting).*

*Unless an objection is raised formally prior to the start of the Council meeting, the chair of the meeting shall declare that the Policy circulated will lapse. If an objection is raised, the meeting shall vote either to re-adopt the Policy or to lapse the Policy.”*

The convention is that the Council operates a take it or leave it approach – so no amendments are allowed on these policy lapse motions.

If a member wishes to keep a policy listed below for a further three year, please indicate this to the Chair of the meeting at the start of the Council meeting.

<b>100</b>	<i>These policies are due to expire on 31 July 2015 (first approved or re-approved in the 2011/12 academic year)</i>
<b>101</b>	Kicking McDonald's out of Education!
<b>102</b>	Supporting the London Living Wage

103	Switch off "Sexist Sub.TV!"
104	Course Representative System
105	The principle is equality. The reality is we were one tenth, now three-fifths and still don't have our majority voice heard in NUS!
106	Women and Fixed term jobs
107	Student Strikes, Feeder March and NUS Demo
108	Show Solidarity with Maev McDaid and Sabbaticals being Wheeled Out!
109	No to the National Student Survey!
110	No Confidence in Boris Johnson, the Tory Mayor of London
111	London Living Wage for Senate House Cleaners
112	Foundation Day and Picket Lines
113	Kick Off For Palestine
114	The Master's Pledge
115	Supporting the November 30 <sup>th</sup> Strikes
116	Censure of Sabbatical Officer Jennifer Izaakson
117	Accountable Budgeting and the Budgets Advisory Group
118	Say NO to 0870!
119	Social Space on Campus: Parent & Child Friendly Too!
120	Student Travel (formerly called Student Rights & Welfare Motion in NUS)
121	A Diverse Representation of Disabled Student Parents & Carers

## 101

Kicking McDonald's out of Education! (approved by AGM 2009, amended by Council and retained in June 2011)

### Union Believes:

1. It is sickening that members of the National Union of Students support McDonald's new role in education, supporting their Hamburger Universities which oppress workers, stripping them of their dignity.
2. McDonald's is an unethical company, unworthy of dictating the content of our education, let alone actually having powers to make awards of qualifications.
3. A simple Google search of McDonald's "greasy education" or "greasy S E's" and "McDegrees" delivers a raft of blogs from former and current McDonald's employees who condemn the Hamburger Universities.
4. Employees report that there is no room for critical thinking, analysis or even

secondary sources for what they are being “taught”, it is force fed to them like a cult feeding propaganda to brainwash new recruits.
5. This is something we should oppose – it is the mission of this College to oppose McDonald’s in education.
6. It is also deeply insulting to see the NUS and its commercial arm, NUSL, promote McDonald’s contrary to its ethical policy on NUS Extra, the paid-for discount card brought in in 2006 at a cost of £10 a year.
Union Resolves:
1. Ban promotion of McDonald’s on all Union property, including blacking out the Golden Arches and associated McDonald’s logos on NUS Extra publicity (and any publicity on Union notice boards and Union controlled media).
2. Campaign to have McDonald’s stripped of qualification awarding powers.
3. To give support and solidarity to McDonald’s workers who speak out against Hamburger University “education”.

## 102

Supporting the London Living Wage (approved by AGM 2009, amended by Council and retained June 2011)

Union Believes:

1. The Union has officially supported the London Living Wage as determined by the Low Pay Unit of the Mayor’s Office since 2006.
2. The Union has paid all of its staff the LLW from this year, and the Trustees have voted to back-date payments to staff to ensure the new rates are payable when announced by the Mayor.
3. Queen Mary College has declared itself a “Living Wage Campus”, which has brought it much acclaim in the local east end community, including extremely positive media coverage in local newspapers.
4. Sadly, Queen Mary Students’ Union fails to commit to sign up to part of the Living Wage Campus, which is a disgrace on an organisation which is constituted to promote equality and fairness.
5. Indeed, ULU, the University of London Union also fails to pay its staff the LLW, and in

2007 the then Trustees through the former Finance Committee killed off student representatives' demands to bring in a LLW rate.
6. Birkbeck College calculates that it would cost £250k a year to bring in the LLW for all contracted staff, which is equivalent to the Master's Salary.
Union Resolves:
1. Continue to support and campaign for the LLW across Birkbeck and the University of London campuses.
2. To authorise the Trustees to require ULU to pay its staff in the Birkbeck Bar the LLW to ensure that Union controlled areas are all covered by our LLW commitment.

## 103

Switch off "Sexist Sub.TV!" (approved by EGM June 2008, amended by Council and retained June 2011)

Union Notes:

1. The Union has a ten year contract with Sub.TV, a commercial subsidiary of Sub.Zone Plc, who has many dealings with the NUS' retail consortium, NUS Services Ltd (which is 75% owned by affiliates of the NUS, which includes Birkbeck College Students' Union.
2. Often, pornographic images, and images objectifying or humiliating women and occasionally men, are broadcast through Sub.TV's screens in the Birkbeck Bar. Sub.TV claim to be able to reach 35% of the 18-23 year olds in education – it is time they stopped forcing the more mature student from watching their trashy, sleazy and sexist media.

Union Resolves:

1. To act to ensure that the Birkbeck College environment is free from sexism and the objectification of women and men.
2. To not allow the broadcasting of Sub.TV's own sexist content on the students' unions premises and controlled areas.
3. To complain to the Directors of Sub.TV and its parent company about the unfit content being broadcast through its media.
4. To complain to the Directors of NUS Services Limited (the NUS's own commercial

arm), that they must act to ensure that partner companies of NUSSL fit within the spirit of democratically decided policy at local students' unions.
5. To demand that NUSSL Directors abide by NUS Policy, which has been passed by both Annual Conference and by Liberation Conferences (e.g. Women's Conference).
Union Further Resolves:
1. To monitor all organisations' publicity and marketing companies which advertise or promote products within the Union's areas or media, to ensure it is not objectifying or sexist.
2. To stop the mainstreaming of misogyny by switching off sexist Sub.TV as soon as possible.

## 104

Course Representative System (approved by the Council through the Executive Committee in 2008/9, amended by the Council and retained June 2011)
Council Believes:
1. The current Course Rep system is patchy across the College, with some departments and schools actively opposing the creation of formal course representation.
2. It is the policy of the Academic Board to have Course Reps.
3. It is a requirement under the Quality Assurance Agency to have independent student representation on courses.
4. Much work has been put in the last year to build and develop the Course Rep system.
5. There is need for more resources in the Course Rep system, including the acquisition of online relationship management software to enable the SU Council and the Course Reps and staff to easily communicate, collate and deliver better student experience for Birkbeck students.
Council Resolves:
1. To prioritise the development and support of course reps.
2. To promote the course rep system to our members.
3. To integrate in line with Council policy, the course rep system into the Union's

structures properly.

# 105

The principle is equality. The reality is we were one tenth, now three-fifths and still don't have our majority voice heard in NUS! (approved by the Council in 2008/9 and retained by the Council June 2011)

## Council Believes:

1. NUS Reform has scrapped the derisory one-tenth proportion part-time students counted for under the old constitution, compared with full-time students.
2. Research has shown the disabled students, women, parents, carers and mature students are more likely to return to education later in life or for a "second chance", and this has been recognised, for instance, by the Government exempting disabled students from their regressive policy to withdraw funding from Equivalent or Lower Qualifications.
3. The largest population of returners to education, do so on a part-time basis, and thus the part-time sector attracts more mature students.

## Council Further Believes:

1. NUS Reform missed the opportunity to equalise the voices of part-time students with full-time students. This negatively disproportionately impacts on disabled students studying part-time in the FE sector – and some HE colleges, such as Birkbeck.
2. Equality of representation is a necessity, not just an aspiration.
3. The NEC must not pander to the large HE SUs at the expense of the enforced silence of the majority of NUS' membership.
4. SUs with large budgets, full-time officers and dedicated staff will always have a loud say within NUS, as they can afford to send more reps, to more events, more of the time.

## Council Resolves:

1. To campaign for further NUS Reform to give equality between full-time and part-time students within NUS' student numbers calculation.
2. To lobby the NEC to recognise that equality of representation will give a greater

voice to the majority of our diverse membership, namely part-time student, and by extension a greater representation of disabled students.

## 106

Women and Fixed term jobs (approved by the Council through the Women's Committee in 2008/9, amended by the Council and retained in June 2011)

Council believes:

1. Analysis carried out as part of the gender duty shows that there are many more women than men in fixed term jobs.
2. People in fixed term jobs are lower paid, receive less training and benefits and have lower levels of job satisfaction than those in permanent jobs. They are also less likely to report problems at work and they can't make long term plans.
3. Employees in continuous fixed term jobs for more than 4 years automatically convert to permanent employment, but employers routinely ignore this, as is the employer requirement to give reasons for not renewing a fixed term contract.
4. Keeping women on successive fixed term contracts also means that they can't access promotions and pay progression, but also usually get much lower maternity pay than their permanent colleagues.
5. Fixed term contracts are a huge issue to postgraduate and student staff in academia. Nearly half of academic staff and 75% of university researchers are on fixed term contracts.

Council resolves:

1. To highlight those organizations that have more women than men on fixed term contracts are breaching the gender duty.
2. To campaign against the way that women are disproportionately disadvantaged by fixed term contracts.
3. To run a campaign highlighting the role of fixed contracts on academic student staff and postgraduate employment.

## 107

Student Strikes, Feeder March and NUS Demo (approved by the Council January 2012)	
<u>Union Notes:</u>	
1.	The UCU has called its next day of industrial action over pensions on March 1st
2.	The NUS has called a national lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 7th March 2012 against changes in fees, education cuts, and the debt regime
3.	Further, NUS has called a week of action from March 12-16th and for a national student walk-out this term.
<u>Union Further notes:</u>	
1.	The 52,000 strong national demonstration called by UCU and NUS in November 2010 was the largest education demonstration to date.
<u>Union Believes:</u>	
1.	The fight over pensions is central to the fight against the HE White Paper as both seek to drive down labour costs. Private providers, for example, have warned Willetts that the HE market is inaccessible due to the current public sector pensions scheme
2.	The lobby is an important opportunity to show students' continued opposition to the government in the face of the indefinite postponement of the HE Bill
3.	The call for a national student walk-out represents a real shift from NUS in regards to the tactics it employs.
<u>Union Further Believes:</u>	
1.	We are strongest when the official unions such as NUS and UCU alongside the unofficial networks such as CoR, EAN, NCAFC, No Confidence, Campaign for Public University mobilize and act together.
<u>Union Resolves:</u>	
1.	To join others in calling for student strikes on the respective days of industrial action taken by UCU other unions.
2.	To welcome NUS's call for a national lobby and support the call for a feeder march on the day of the national NUS lobby, and work together to ensure that maximum turnout for the day.
3.	To welcome NUS's call for a week of action and help to co-ordinate in local university/colleges general union meetings and student assemblies and meetings to discuss what the most effective strategy and tactics for that week are.
4.	To support the call for NUS to name a day for a national autumn demonstration now. If NUS doesn't follow that call, to work together with those networks to maximize the turnout for such a mobilization.



# 108

Show Solidarity with Maev McDaid and Sabbaticals being Wheeled Out! (approved by the Council January 2012)

Council Believes:

1. Maev McDaid, President of Liverpool Guild of Students, faced an unfair, prejudiced and prejudged hearing last week over her behaviour towards another sabbatical officer.
2. In November 2010, Ms McDaid had a heated political disagreement with the said officer.
3. The complaint against Ms McDaid is discriminatory and in breach of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Further Believes:

1. Such illegitimate and unfounded allegations are being made against several sabbaticals in the across the country.
2. The complaints panel consists of two members; one sabbatical officer and a lay trustee.
3. The panel member(s) have orchestrated and agreed the outcome before the panel had met and without taking Ms McDaid's representations into account.

Council Resolves:

1. To show solidarity with the President of Liverpool Guild of Students and other sabbaticals in similar situations.
2. To send letters of support to the sabbaticals getting victimised by the Right wing.

# 109

No to the National Student Survey! (approved by the Council January 2012)

Union notes:

1. That the National Student Survey (NSS) is a key element of neoliberal proposals (such as those in the 2011 Universities White Paper) to transform higher education into a marketable commodity
2. That the NSS naturalises the idea of students as 'customers' and staff as 'service

providers' and further embeds a culture of 'measuring' and 'ranking' inside HE
3. That institutions are increasingly using the NSS as a performance management tool with no obvious pedagogic benefits
4. That, as the former head of the Higher Education Academy put it in the THES, the NSS is a 'pseudoscientific tool purporting to be reliable on the spurious psychologicistic grounds that there is some statistical congruence between the responses on a small group of agree-disagree questions around a common topic'.
<u>Union Resolves:</u>
5. To oppose the NSS and to investigate the possibility of running a boycott campaign throughout the University with the support of local Unions.
6. To work with UCU branches in developing a campaign of opposition to the NSS nationally.
7. To work with other student unions and student groups to call for a boycott of the NSS

## 110

No Confidence in Boris Johnson, the Tory Mayor of London (approved by the Council January 2012)

Union believes:

1. Earlier this month Boris Johnson revealed how out of touch he is by suggesting soaring youth unemployment was caused by "*{not} enough young people who have the skills and self-esteem to take what jobs there are – and there are too many young people who lack both.*"
2. For Tory Boris Johnson, unemployment is the fault of an individual's lack of "*energy and appetite for work*" rather than a result of the Tories' cuts to public services and jobs.
3. In reality there are 234,000 Londoners fighting for just 33,000 jobs – that is more than seven people chasing every job vacancy.
4. The Tory Mayor of London's extortionate tube and bus fare hikes are hurting London students who are already struggling to make ends meet.
5. Boris Johnson's recent fare hike of 5.6% is yet another unnecessary, socially regressive attack on students' living standards by the Tories.
6. Now the cost of a single bus fare is £1.35 with an oyster card, yet when Boris came into power it was only 90p – making this a 50% increase over 4 years and also making London one of the most expensive cities to travel around in the world.

This union resolves:

1.	To issue a public statement stating that the University of London Union has no confidence in Boris Johnson, the Tory Mayor of London.
2.	To demand Boris Johnson apologise to London's unemployed youth for failing to acknowledge that the Tories' job cuts are causing soaring unemployment.
3.	To write to Boris Johnson inviting him to a public meeting at the University of London Union, so that he has the chance to explain himself to London's students.

## 111

London Living Wage for Senate House Cleaners (approved by the Council January 2012)	
<u>Council notes:</u>	
1.	That the majority of London campuses now pay their cleaners London living wage, often after long campaigns by cleaners and students in solidarity
2.	That even Tory Mayor Boris Johnson has supported the London living wage
3.	That Senate House cleaners are still paid less than the London living wage
<u>Council believes:</u>	
1.	That the London living wage is the realistic minimum wage for workers living in London
2.	That the cleaners deserve no less than the London living wage as without them our campuses would soon be unusable
<u>Council resolves:</u>	
1.	To campaign to the University for the Senate House cleaners to receive London living wage, and reconfirm Senate policy of 2009/10 and 2010/11 to fully support and campaign for the LLW throughout the University

## 112

Foundation Day and Picket Lines (approved by the Council January 2012)	
<u>Council Notes:</u>	
1.	That the University of London held its annual Foundation Day for 2011 on November 30th, attended by UoL Chancellor Princess Anne, a number of eminent individuals to be

awarded honorary degrees, and student guests
2. November 30 was the day of co-ordinated strike action on pensions by several major unions including UCU, and Foundation Day was therefore held behind official picket lines
3. ULU Senate has policy in support of the November 30 strikes
4. Although an annual celebration, Foundation Day is in fact in remembrance of the foundation of the University on November 28th, not 30th, 1836
<u>Council believes:</u>
1. That ULU was correct to support our lecturers and other workers in the strike
2. That official picket lines should be respected
3. That this event should have been rescheduled in order not to be politicised by being held behind the picket lines of a long known major strike
<u>Council resolves:</u>
1. To inform the management of the University of London of our displeasure at their strike breaking in continuing with Foundation Day.
2. To continue to support lecturers and support staff in their struggles.

## 113

Kick Off For Palestine (approved by the Council in November 2011)
<u>Council notes</u>
1. The ongoing siege of Gaza, loosened but not yet lifted by the Egyptian revolution
2. The vindictive cutting off of US funds to UNESCO following their admission of Palestine to full membership
3. The speeding up of settlement construction by Israel to further punish the Palestinian statehood bid
4. The new "Kick Off for Palestine" initiative launched by Viva Palestina in the wake of the UNESCO vote to bring aid and support to Gaza, intending to raise £250,000 over the next few months to build three sports stadia and playing fields there
<u>Council believes</u>
1. That "Kick Off For Palestine" is an excellent initiative
2. That the student movement should continue to show support for Palestinian human rights and the besieged people of Gaza

Council resolves
1. To publicise and promote “Kick Off For Palestine”, encouraging our members to donate at <a href="http://www.vivapalestina.org/home.htm">http://www.vivapalestina.org/home.htm</a> and, if involved in sports, to raise the initiative with clubs and teammates
2. To encourage student unions with more sporting involvement than our own to get on board with the initiative

## 114

The Master’s Pledge (approved by the Council in November 2011)
Union Believes:
1. That the government’s higher education white paper, released over the summer, has been roundly denounced by voices across the student movement, including NUS.
2. That academics and unions have vigorously opposed the white paper – including with a detailed Alternative White Paper
3. That Vice Chancellors have also quietly voiced concerns about the white paper
4. That prior to the 2010 general election, NUS launched a Pledge, which was signed by many parliamentary candidates – most notably the Lib Dems – promising to vote against any increase in tuition fees.
5. That on November 9 <sup>th</sup> the education march brought many thousands of students the streets of London under the banner of defeating the white paper.
Union Further Believes:
1. That the higher education white paper, along with fees and cuts and the dismantling of sectors of FE funding, constitutes a fundamental threat to education as a public service.
2. That because of the broadness, and the seriousness, of opposition to it, the white paper is politically weak and vulnerable to being derailed before it is put before a parliamentary vote.
3. That because much of the white paper may be implemented without a parliamentary vote, the student movement must struggle against it immediately, and in an ongoing and concerted way.
4. That the issues of funding instability, research concentration and the scale of the market vision make the white paper vulnerable to rebellion from Vice Chancellors.
5. That were Vice Chancellors to come out against the white paper and refuse to implement it, this would have a serious impact on the feasibility of the project.

6. That the student movement should not be afraid of confronting institutions' managements on the issue of HE funding and the white paper should they refuse to recognise the overwhelming strength of negative feeling amongst students, academics and the wider public.
7. That although The Pledge was not on its own an adequate response to the threat of rising fees in 2010-11, it was useful as a tool for forcing decision-makers to take public (and morally accountable) stances.
8. That the demonstration on November 9 was a success, and proved that there is still a serious and mobilised presence of students willing to fight for education as a public service.
Union Resolves:
1. To derail the white paper and reverse what elements of marketisation and privatisation already exist in education
2. To launch a Master's pledge, asking him to publicly condemn the white paper and attempts to marketise and privatise education
3. To ask the Master to undertake to refuse to implement the white paper and its associated measures
4. To support lobbying and non-violent direct action around the Master's pledge, and similar projects

## 115

Supporting the November 30 <sup>th</sup> Strikes (approved by the Council in November 2011)
This Union notes:
1. Education as we know it is under one of the biggest attacks this country has ever seen. Students are facing crippling debt in order to be educated, courses and departments are closing, and the government is planning to privatise our higher education.
2. Lecturers and university staff are expected to work an average of 55 hours a week and perform many duties that are beyond their contractual duties in order to keep universities running. They do this because they want their students to succeed, students are important to them, and they know the value of education. University staff understand that the cuts to the USS (University Superannuation Scheme) are part of the coalition's plan to restructure education.
3. Both students and lecturers have the power to stop the coalition and management from

making these changes, and that it is important and necessary for us to link our campaigns. We have seen this already: the UCU (University and College Union) have frequently supported local and national student demonstrations and campaigns.
4. That the recent UCU ballots (66 other institutions UK-wide) revealed that 96% were against changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS); around 80% <sup>[7]</sup> voted for sustained action short of a strike, and around 60% <sup>[3]</sup> voted for strike action nationally. This action started on October 10 <sup>th</sup> , with strikes to occur on November 30 <sup>th</sup> and beyond.
5. That the proposed new pension arrangement could cost current lecturers £130,000 and new lecturers £369,000 over the course of their retirement, and that the ballot for strike action took place because of the government's refusal to offer fair negotiations with the UCU.
<b>This Union believes:</b>
1. That pensions are deferred pay, not an added benefit of employment.
2. That the proposed new pension arrangements will affect the quality of staff attracted to the academic professions.
3. That although industrial action is likely to affect students in the short term, in fighting for their pensions the UCU is fighting for the long-term health of a profession of which students are the primary beneficiaries. Students therefore have a large stake in this dispute.
4. That the threat to the working conditions of academic staff is part of a wider picture of cuts to education funding.
<b>This Union resolves:</b>
1. To give full political support to the UCU and the strike on November 30 <sup>th</sup> .
2. To inform its members about the pensions dispute and encourage them to support academic staff involved in that dispute, both on the website and on posters around campus and inside the Students' Union.
3. To lobby the National Union of Students to support the UCU nationally in this industrial action.
4. To support any planned protests or picket lines on campus.
5. To release a public statement on the website and on posters around campus and inside the Students' Union to publicise this support.
6. To display a banner from the Birkbeck Bar Balcony supporting the strike.

## 116

Censure of Sabbatical Officer Jennifer Izaakson (approved by the Council in July 2012)	
This Union notes:	
1.	No reports had been submitted, no timesheets ever submitted and no apologies sent to the Council meeting by elected Sabbatical and paid member Jennifer Izaakson.
2.	Jennifer gave an oral report to the January 2012 meeting of the Council, but timesheets to the Chair of Council were still lacking following being chased up.
3.	Jennifer had never attended any meetings of the Trustee Board since election at the by-election in November 2011.
4.	It is the Chair of Council's duty to bring to the attention to the Council the performance and accountability of paid elected members.
5.	The Council has power in the Bye-Laws and set out in Sabbatical Contracts of Employment, sanctions that can be applied to paid elected members, including withholding of pay and removal from office. Additionally the Code of Practice for Trustees set out sanctions that can be applied along with the appropriate procedure.
6.	That Jennifer has been elected as Editor of London Student for 2012/13.
Council resolves:	
1.	To censure Jennifer Izaakson formally, with the Chair of Council writing to her with the Council's grievances
2.	To withhold one month's pay from Jennifer Izaakson (£434), representing the 7 hours per week.
3.	To inform her of her right to appeal to a Tribunal of Council or to the Trustee Board.

## 117

Accountable Budgeting and the Budgets Advisory Group (approved by the AGM in 2009 and retained by Council July 2012 at the November 2012 meeting)	
Union Believes:	
1.	The Union's annual budget is submitted to the College's Finance & General Purposes Committee at its Summer Term meeting each year.
2.	The Bye-Laws require all Clubs & Societies to submit a first estimate budget and annual plan by 31 March.



3. The Council has decided to establish a Budgets Advisory Group (BAG), comprising three elected members of the Council chaired by the Chair of Council, with the Treasurer acting as the secretary to the committee.
4. The role of the BAG is to steer the budget of the Union to reflect the mission of the Union, the policy priorities of the members and ensure funding for ongoing and core welfare support services and campaigning.
5. In addition, the allocations made to Clubs and Societies are determined by the Council/Executive after being decided by the Subsidy Level Advisory Group (SLAG).
6. Critically, our members must have a say in our budget as it is collectively our money, looked after by our elected Trustees and directed politically by our elected Representatives' Council.
Union Resolves:
1. To order the BAG to make its penultimate report to all members, prior to signing off by the Council and the Trustees, and to enable all members to easily comment, contribute and have a say in budget priorities.
2. That any budget approved by the Trustees and the Council for a financial year, and any alternations made during that financial year, shall include a Membership Benefit Test, with key indicators of impact, value and accountability.

## 118

Say NO to 0870! (approved by the Council in January 2009 and retained by the Council in July 2012 at the meeting in November 2012)

1. Many students regularly have to dial '08' numbers to get hold of their Bank, the Student Loans Company, their LEA, Government Departments, NHS Direct and even in some cases their College, University or SU/NUS!
2. From mobile phones the rates are significantly higher than from a landline, with even Freephone numbers being charged at around 35 pence per minute.
3. Students, both young and old, rely on mobile communication, which is especially necessary for student parents, carers, disabled students and single students, especially women, moving around.
4. OfCom's most recent reports, published in early 2009, have again failed short of proper regulation of '08' numbers, simply requiring '08' organisations to have tiny writing and lightning-speed statements once a number is advertised stating its cost per minute.
5. This is particularly depressing with the rise in all '01' or '02' numbers being inclusive in

most domestic landline packages, yet fewer vital organisations advertise their STD number, only their money-making '08' number.
6. OfCom has a proud history it seems of pandering to organisations and business which drain vital money from our unsuspecting members.
7. Urgent action needs to be taken by the Committee to support our members when bombarded with more and more expensive '08' numbers, particularly now with the recession deepening, more organisations will be looking to covertly pick-pocket our members.
8. The recession's effects have already seen a 40% rise in 'change of circumstance' forms being lodged at Birkbeck – action is needed now, not later to save us money.
Council Resolves:
1. For NUS to promote widely the website <a href="http://www.saynoto0870.com">www.saynoto0870.com</a>
2. For NUS to Lobby all education-sector and advice partners (SUs, Colleges, LEAs, funding councils, Government Departments and others as identified by the Committee, including NUS HQ) to advertise equally their STD Code number alongside their '08' number, and preferably instead of.
3. Lobby the Government to introduce Secondary Legislation to prohibit Public Bodies (as defined by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (2002 in Scotland)) from solely advertising '08' numbers for their services and offices to the public.
4. Campaign for Freephone numbers to be free from mobile phones.
5. In all NUS campaigning and advice/event materials, to only advertise non '08' numbers, unless it is a Freephone number, in which case in addition with equal prominence.
Council Further Resolves to mandate the NUS:
1. Simple tips saving money for students are available from 'Martin's Money Tips' on <a href="http://www.moneysavingexpert.com">www.moneysavingexpert.com</a> , a simple resource which shall be incorporated into the Committee's work, and the best tips regularly sent to SUs in the 'NUS Update' and other media.
2. Appoint the NUS NEC Welfare Zone as the 'money saving Tsars' for students for 2009/10, with target to save students collectively £75million in the next year (£10 a head for students) based on simple, effective communication of Tsarist Tips to save money!
3. Ensure an ethical policy is observed when publicising or promoting a saving – e.g. no Nestlé/SubTV/McDonalds/Coke etc, as determined by the NEC in line with NUS Conference Policy and all Liberation Campaign Policy.
4. Publish the amount estimated saved to our membership in a manner determined by the NEC.

## 119

Social Space on Campus: Parent & Child Friendly Too! (approved by the Council through delegation to the Welfare & Rights Select Committee and retained by Council July 2012)

Council Believes:

1. Being located in Bloomsbury and at Stratford, in east London, Birkbeck College students and staff, and indeed visitors need social space to relax, socialise, network, chill and chat between lectures, events and tutorials.
2. The Bloomsbury campus is particular short of social space, offering the Birkbeck Bar (a licensed premise), the Union's Clubs & Societies Room, the Costa Coffee area known as "the café on the square", a small common room in Gordon Square and currently a small lobby in the Department of Computing in Senate House North Block. On the fifth floor of the Malet Street extension, there is also the Eatery.
3. Social space at the Stratford campus is non-existent and with the development of the partnership with the University of East London to acquire preferential brown field land from Newham Borough Council, the proposed building will be space managed by bidding for space, and yet again, social communal space will lose out, as will our members.
4. Year on year, the Union is asked to fight for extra space for student-organised study classes, faith and meditation space, parent-child friendly space and recently, disability-friendly space (after the creation of our new Special Committee for Disabled Students).
5. If we do not act now and build a comprehensive space plan for our members' needs, we will let down the next generation of students at Birkbeck.

Council Resolves:

1. For the Executive Committee, as lead by the Council, to develop a detailed space report, which shall include proposals for all areas to be disability friendly and parent-child friendly, which shall include extra group study space and multi-faith space.
2. The space report shall cover current Birkbeck Estates (including Stratford) and central University-run or freehold, including ULU.

## 120

Student Travel (approved by the Council in December 2008 and retained in July 2012 by the Council following some deletions, and re-named from "Student Rights and Welfare Motion in NUS")

**Council Resolves:**

1. To campaign, along with ULU, to extend the Transport for London student discount to day travelcards and single tickets.
2. To ensure this student discount is fully available to part-time students in receipt of hardship funding and all student parents.
3. To campaign that this discount is extended in some form to students studying outside of London universities and colleges, who travel to and within London as part of their education or research.

## 121

A Diverse Representation of Disabled Student Parents & Carers (approved by the Council through the Disabled Members Committee in November 2008 and retained in July 2012 by Council)

**Council Resolves:**

1. To demand evidence of how and where the NUS national conference policy on promoting a diverse representation of student parents, including disabled parents, trans and black students is being promoted.
2. Campaign for a caring responsibilities representative in every union.