The Students’ Union at Newcastle University

GENERAL MEETING POLICY

Policy due for re-affirmation/lapse, December 2014
Ordinary motions approved by the General Meeting shall be policy of the Students’ Union.

Three years after the date of adoption of a policy, Steering Committee shall table a business motion to the General Meeting, provided it’s quorate, if not Students’ Union Council, providing for the lapse of that policy.

Unless an objection to the lapse is upheld by a simple majority, the policy shall cease to be policy of the Students’ Union.
Students’ Union Council Notes:

1. That the National Student Survey (NSS) was carried out for the first time in February 2005 by IPSOS UK and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

2. That the NSS is a way for final year students to give feedback on their University experience.

3. That the results of the first National Student Survey were published in the summer of 2005 and received by University Teaching and Learning Committee at the Newcastle University.

4. That the NSS will be repeated in February each year.

5. That several Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), aided by their students’ unions, boycotted the national student survey.

6. That several of these HEIs plan to boycott the survey again in 2006.

Students’ Union Council Believes:

1. That participation in the National Student Survey is a valid and valuable method of giving feedback.

2. That the response of the Newcastle University to the results of the National Student Survey has been positive.

3. That the Newcastle University takes feedback seriously and will take action to change situations deemed unworkable by students.

4. That representatives of the Newcastle University have worked in co-ordination with representatives of the Students’ Union to respond appropriately to the results of the NSS.

5. That the complaints from other institutions centred around the methods of the survey and the way in which it was carried out.

6. That in it’s first year of running, the NSS cannot be expected to be perfect and only through working with HEFCE and IPSOS can we improve it.

Students’ Union Council Resolves:

1. That the Students’ Union shall support the Newcastle University in facilitating the National Student Survey.

2. That it shall be the duty of the education officer and the communications Officer, in co-ordination with the other officers of the Students’ Union, to ensure that the students of the Newcastle University participate in the NSS.

3. That it shall be the duty of the students of the Newcastle University to participate fully and honestly in the National Student Survey and that the Students’ Union shall aid them in carrying out this duty.

4. That boycotting the NSS is counter-productive and serves no purpose.
GREEN UNIVERSITY
December 2005, re-affirmed December 2008, re-affirmed December 2011

Students’ Union Council Notes:

1. The University plans to become ‘Carbon Neutral’.

2. The University already sources 100% of its energy from renewable sources.

3. All new buildings and refurbishments of current buildings in the University are already undertaken in as environmentally sensitive a manner as possible, with the inclusion of such features as motion-sensitive lighting.

4. The University has commissioned a number of audits of various aspects of its environmental performance, and endeavoured to act upon their findings.

5. Bradford University has recently declared itself an ‘ecoversity’, undertaking proactive work on factors such as carbon management, travel planning, biodiversity and landscaping, resource management, waste management, education for sustainable development and achieving environmental management standard ISO14001.

6. HEFCE (The Higher Education Funding Council for England) is urging universities to become more sustainable: “Our vision is that, within the next 10 years, the higher education sector in England will be recognised as a major contributor to society's efforts to achieve sustainability - through the skills and knowledge that its graduates learn and put into practice, and through its own strategies and operations”

7. That the University plans to employ additional staff to help environmental performance in specific areas within the next three months.

8. People and Planet has identified four key goals that are required to achieve Green University status:
   1. The active, public support of senior University management;
   2. Full-time staff dedicated to environmental management;
   3. A written, publicly available environmental policy;
   4. A comprehensive review to investigate all the environmental impacts of the institution.

9. That the University has already met item 3.

Students’ Union Council Believes:

1. Environmental change (such as climate change) is a significant threat to mankind

2. The University is making admirable progress towards environmental betterment, but can still go further

3. That although University staff overseeing the environmental performance of the University have indicated a desire for an increase in environmental performance, they are already overstretched

Students’ Union Council Resolves:

1. That the Students’ Union shall lobby University management to achieve the four goals as set out above

2. That the Ethics and Environment Officer and President be specifically mandated to do this

1 Source: http://www.hefce.ac.uk
**WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS**  
December 2005, re-affirmed December 2008, re-affirmed December 2011

**Students’ Union Council Notes:**

1. There are over 50 sports clubs at the Newcastle University.
2. There are over 90 societies at the Newcastle University.
3. A high number of Newcastle University’s clubs and societies meet on a Wednesday afternoon.

**Students’ Union Council Believes:**

1. Wednesday afternoons are a valuable time, when students can socialise and participate in activities with other students.
2. The need for personal and social development at University is as important as academic development.
3. In some cases, Wednesday afternoon is the only opportunity they have to interact with students outside their course.

**Students’ Union Council Resolves:**

1. The Students’ Union will continue to ensure that Wednesday afternoons are kept free of academic activities for the benefit of all students.
2. That the Students’ Union will put pressure on the University to look more closely at the ‘student experience’ so as to improve and enrich that experience for all its student members.
This Meeting Notes:

1. SCAN has been a full sub Council of the Students’ Union since 1973.
2. SCAN is led by a student volunteer management committee elected at its Annual General Meeting.
3. SCAN’s Mission is to “To match the needs of the local community with the skills and enthusiasm of Newcastle University Student Volunteers”.
4. In 2003 SCAN had its Students’ Union grant cut completely.
5. £100k per annum is self generated by SCAN for student services provision.
6. We are currently one of the principal Student Community Action groups in the country with a membership of 1,253 students.
7. SCAN was offered Students’ Union office space free gratis as a student service department with a further offer of space required for future expansion.
8. SCAN paid for all associated costs (c£30,000) for office renovation plus abortive work carried out on Bookshop.
9. SCAN offers all student societies members the opportunity to gain MV accreditation for voluntary work, and was instrumental in developing the Students’ Union Volunteering Module.
10. SCAN works extremely hard to promote a positive image of students and the Students’ Union.
11. SCAN assists the Students’ Union’ aim of promoting participation by students in their local communities.

This Meeting Believes:

1. The SCAN/Students' Union relationship has suffered due to Students' Union imposed financial cuts.
2. Due to the lack of service support and not being treated equally as a Students’ Union Student Services department SCAN Staff morale is continually being affected.

This Meeting Resolves:

1. A sustained commitment to SCAN to provide current or equivalent office space free gratis for twenty years and where possible make additional space necessary to accommodate student service expansion.
2. To ring fence subvention financial support for SCAN as a non commercial student service.
3. To recognise SCAN as a valued Student Services department.

Proposed: Tom Armitage on behalf of the SCAN Committee
Seconded: Alistair Robson

Accepted at Union EGM held on Thursday 1st Dec. 2005
To be re-affirmed or otherwise at Council in December 2025