

# Annual Meeting & Term 1 Union Meeting

21/11/2024

## Minutes

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024  
**Time:** 18:00 – 20:00  
**Venue:** The Level, City SU  
**Hybrid:** Microsoft Teams

### Attendees:

#### Chairperson:

- Jess Walker NTSU President

#### Vice-Chairperson:

- Jasmyn Smith VP Sport

#### Executive Officers

- Libby Sinclair VP Education
- Olivia Brooks VP Community and Welfare
- Jasmine Gaunt VP Opportunities
- Grace Fox Brackenhurst Officer

#### Campus Officers

- Verity Booth Confetti Officer
- Tony Clarke Mansfield Officer

#### Voting Members

#### External



- James Coe                      Counterculture

#### NTSU Staff

- Ami Gell (AG)                      Voice Manager

#### Absentees:

- Mollie Vadher                      VP Postgraduate

### House Keeping

**Chair** welcomes members to Union Meeting (UM), explains we are not expecting a fire alarm and points attendees towards the toilets.

Chair appoints JS as vice chair

### Apologies

**Chair** explains we have had 1 late apology from the **VP Postgraduate** as a result the **VP Education** will be reading their report and notes that answers on this report will be answered as best they can although recommends

Mollie Vadher                      VP Postgraduate

### Staff Protocol

**Chair** goes through the rules of the staff protocol

Members should not reference any member of NTU or NTU staff by name. they are not in the room and then don't have the right to reply. The **Chair** also notes staff can be referred by title. This rule applies to any report or conversation that takes place during Union Meeting

## Agenda

- **Chairperson** explained the agenda of this meeting as follows: along with the switches to the agenda. These changes have been made due to the attendance of an external presenter that will need to leave the meeting early
  - o Apologies
  - o Staff Protocols
  - o Agenda
  - o Minutes
  - o Reports
  - o Democracy Review
  - o NTSU Impact Report
  - o Finances
  - o Affiliation
  - o Big Ideas
  - o Any Other Business (AOB)
  - o Notices
  - o Future Meetings

**Chair** also reminds to be respectful of members on the stage for both in person and online

## Minutes

Minutes from previous AGM and Term 1 Union Meeting ratified

## Reports

**The Chair** appoints **VP Sport** as **Vice Chair** to read the executive report

### Executive Report

- Reviewed and conducted the Freshers' Team training to ensure all reps are knowledgeable of
  - Bystander Intervention
  - Wellbeing Training; Culture shift to non-drinking activities.



- Consent Training is now mandatory for anyone wanting to be a rep.
- Culture Shift towards nondrinking activity
- In total: 250 freshers reps.
- VP Education and Postgraduate Representative induction sessions training around 800 Course Reps and School Officers across all schools with sessions available on all campuses and online
- NTSU recently attended a partnership day with UoNSU align priorities for the student community in Nottingham

Procedural Motion 5.1.10. to add This Union regrets the decision of the trustees not to ratify the referendum in full and call for a ceasefire in Gaza as an immediate discussion point

**AG** references external that is here and will impact the time we have to discuss the democracy review later in the meeting.

Procedural Motion is passed. The Agenda Point his Union regrets the decision of the trustees not to ratify the referendum in full and call for a ceasefire in Gaza will be added to the agenda after the reports

### **President Report**

- Successfully lobbied the university to reconsider the bereavement policy and its requirement's tendency to re-trigger students due to the requirement of a death certificate

- Visited Confetti London to network with students and staff on campus and witness their first ever graduation ceremony!
- Streamlined student ability to provide NTSU feedback year-round
- Created a tender for NTSU's democracy review and recruited a consultant to review our democratic procedures and their relevance for our students
- Led on a Union response along with the UoNSU to the ['Renters Rights Bill'](#) to ensure student tenants are considered within the bill

**Member Question 1** – What is being done to make sure students are aware of their renter's rights under the new legislation

**NTSU President** points towards the the lack of student friendly language in the legislation. **NTSU President** met with the local MP to bring that to their attention. A document has been put together some information that is more accessible which will be online soon. **NTSU President** also suggests the importance of supporting students understanding the language used in the legislation.

**Member Question 2** - Have you been to the prevent working group

NTSU President confirms they are part of the Prevent Working Group, the first meeting of which was recently this is also attended by senior members of university staff.

Vice Chair hands back to the Chair

### **VP Sport Report**

- I have started termly 'Sports Council' meetings to gain feedback from committee members and update them on key messages

- Streamlined, reviewed and delivered Sports 'Club Ready' committee training with NTU Sport this provided an opportunity for the **VP Sport** to introduce themselves to committee's
- Introduced 'Club achievement of the Week' and have these on SU screens this has had good feedback as it is a way to get smaller clubs involved in results of the week
- Continued the 'Sports Activities Fund' to provide accessibility to sport

**Member Question 3** - What sort of feedback did you get from Sports Council

**VP Sports** notes, because they are new to the role they are wanting to get an understanding for what Sports Committees want from them and what changes they want to see.

### **VP Education Report**

- Reached out to every academic society sharing the importance of working with relevant courses and academics, promoting extracurricular engagement within schools.
- Working with NTU to make sure the student engagement and attendance policy is clearly written and student friendly.
- Continuous networking with other education officers nationally to share best practice of academic representation systems.
- Planned and organised a volunteer awards evening to celebrate the work of the freshers' team.
- Promoted Course Rep applications and creating societies to students at Confetti London during Freshers' week, whilst working within the Confetti London steering group to improve student experience.

**Member Question 4** – How are you making sure the attendance policy is student friendly

A member of NTU staff reached out to the VP Education about the policy and asked if they could use their experience as a student to help them amend the policy to see if they can make it more accessible. Student will be the one reading the policy, so they need to be able to understand it

**Member Question 5** – What are your plans to introduce incentives and development for course reps

**VP Education** noted this is one of the key things they have been discussing in their networking. They have been seeing what other Unions are providing across their reps across the country along with getting feedback from current reps at NTU in Rep Assemblies.

**Member Question 6** – why no transparency about the HEAR accreditation and how reps can get points as some people have not received the accreditation or have been unable to attend

**VP Education** notes that this is outlined in Rep inductions. If reps are unable to attend, they can send in feedback and show they have engaged with the content. This will be counted towards the accreditation. For those who have not received the accreditation. This may be down to issues with logging attendance. NTSU log attendance at their meetings but rely on the University to give them the names of reps that have engaged in meetings and there have been issues in this communication in the past.

**Member question 7** – it is a shame that course reps are no longer elect reps, I think it think there is something powerful and empowering for students and student reps

**VP Education** this was stated this change was made last year with the belief this was more inclusive. It also helped with sharing the workload of the reps with current students being very time poor.

**Member questions 8** – What does NTU Sport provide in terms of accessibility

**VP Sport** noted there is a sports activities fund which students can apply for. The applications for this have now closed but students if students were not successful, they were offered a payment plan to help with funding. **VP Sport** also mentioned the fact that NTU Sport run Play for Fun sessions along over 60 sports clubs to join

**VP Education** reads **VP Postgraduate** report The chair reminds attendees they will try to answer questions on VP Postgraduates behalf but will

#### **VP Postgraduate Report**

- Collaborated with NTU Global Lounge and presented at the NTU Global Lounge Fair and the International Pathway Partnership Welcome Event.
- Hosted a PGR Welcome Event to foster a sense of community.
- Inducted Confetti London Reps and gathered student insight.
- Planned and initiated the promotion and recruitment for the Postgraduate Interdisciplinary Conference

No questions and comments

#### **VP Oppurtunites Report**

- Planned, coordinated, and hosted Trent's Got Talent 2024! This was worked on with the marketing team and the events team. There were nine acts, and the event was attended by around 300 people.



- Revamped society assembly, including features like voting on ideas, getting feedback, and networking activities the first one took place in October and had positive engagement through assemblies that took place on City, Clifton and Brackenhurst
- Gained feedback from society committees to work out committees' priorities along with their expectations which I'm working with the wider Opportunities Team and Exec to implement - e.g. building on the Rep Development Program from last year
- Went on a trip to cheer on students taking part in the Budapest Marathon with Choose a Challenge a company which we partner with worked to support Choose a Challenge and has become a challenge leader themselves

#### **Member Questions 9** – What is your plan for society prizes

**VP Opportunities** explained that this would be around reward and recognition. Committee members are volunteer roles, and they do lots of work over the year and they Deserve something to recognise this whether it be treats or development opportunities. It is something that the **VP Opportunities** will be using the feedback from society assembly to implement now Trent's Got Talent has been held.

#### **Member Question 10** – How do you encourage and support mature students with societies and events

**VP Opportunities** stated that they hope that all mature students know they can get involved with societies and pointed towards the post grad society as a recommendation for mature postgraduates. **VP Opportunities** also notes there is more that can be done to outreach to mature students and it something that they can potentially work on with the **VP Postgraduate** moving forward

#### **VP Community and Welfare Report**

- Created an evergreen housing guide for students and distributed it at the Housing Fair to help students understand their housing rights
- Participated in the Reclaim the Night working group, led by the Nottingham Women's Centre, facilitating its conclusion outside the NTSU building.. Around 100 students and local residents took part.
- Recruited and interviewed 7 Male Mental Health Champions, leading them to facilitate a Male Mental Health talking circle with NTU Arts later in November to help normalize the conversation around male mental health
- Featured in two student journalist interviews on student safety and consent, sharing insights from my role.
- Collaborated with the SU on Black History Month events across Mansfield and City campuses. Supported the facilitation of Show Racism the Red Card events on City, Clifton, Brackenhurst and Mansfield

**Member Question 11** – How can you get involved with the Male Mental Health Champions, is this something we will have to wait till next year to be part of the program?

**VP Community and Welfare** responded the roles are still available and points towards the relevant email

### **Brackenhurst Officer**

- I captained the Brackenhurst freshers' team to make sure that students were welcomed to NTU in a safe and positive way. This included taking students from Brackenhurst over freshers' week and making sure all the events were promoted
- I sat in on the ARES summer graduations as part of the academic processions and celebrated the success of our new graduates. I am to sit in on December graduation ceremonies as a continuation of this.
- I attended my first 'Brack Chats' meeting. This meeting includes members of NTU staff from across Brackenhurst including the dean and deputy dean of

ARES. I gave insight into students' experience on campus and will be attending these meetings monthly going forward. Meetings with the Deputy Dean of ARES have been encouraging with them being keen to work with NTSU moving forward

- I have launched the Big Brack Survey which last took place in 2020. The objective of the survey is gathering information directly from students on topics such as what the students' union means to them and feedback on the new academic facilities on campus. Along with questions about Learning and Teaching experiences on campus

**Members Questions 12** – Is there potential for a quieter version of freshers fair or is there one already?

**NTSU Presidents** notes we do have an accessibility hour for the freshers' fairs which is the first hour, but it could defiantly something that is advertised more

### **Confetti Officer Report**

- Working with the Confetti School Officer and NTSU opportunities team to organize fortnightly events. These events are due to start nin December
- Working with NTU support services to introduce pop up mental health stations, particularly around exams seasons in March and April. The aim so to have Confetti Mental Health Champions in place to go along with this
- Introducing and working on a Confetti skill sharing workshop during industry week where students can share their 'confetti' skills with other students e.g. a musical instrument, coding and tech, sound and lighting etc for those interested. If anyon is interested in taking part to this get in contact with the **Confetti Officer**

**Members Questions 13** – What is the reason for trying to secure a 24/7 study space

The **Confetti Officer** That NTU offer Boots Library as a 24/7 study space, but a lot of Confetti Students live quite far from the library, and it can be a long walk. A 24/7 space would make life a lot easier for Confetti Students

**Member Question 14** – a lot of the freshers at Confetti still feel like they don't know about the opportunities and events, do you have any plans on how you can spread the word so they can get involved

The **Confetti Officer noted** the importance of this question. They didn't have time over the summer this should be in place for freshers next year. They will email Confetti Students shortly to introduce who they are, a bit about their role and information about their social media platforms where will be posting information about NTSU events. They will also be lobbying Confetti staff for new screens with advertisement of NTSU events although notes sometimes it is a challenge to get responses

### **Mansfield Officer Report**

- Attended Mansfield Student Experience Core Group and Sub-group meetings specifically looking at nonacademic opportunities for Mansfield students
- Attended Mansfield Standards and Quality Sub-Committee looking at the academic side of the campus ensuring is at the highest possible quality
- Co-facilitated two Mansfield Breakfast Club events
- Remained visible for Mansfield students to approach with ideas and feedback.

**Member Questions 15** – How would you support society committee's around getting to these campuses regarding the **Mansfield Officer's** Big Idea

The **Mansfield Officer** noted that this was meant for Mansfield, Confetti and Brackenhurst, they wanted to put on a mini fresher fair and noted that they would

have hoped to provide funding for societies to get to these campuses. The **Mansfield Officer** also noted that this idea fell at Student Council.

**Member Question 16** – Is the Mansfield campus part of Vision West Notts Collage

**The Mansfield Officer** responds there is no relation to the college although the building is rented from them.

**Member Question 17**– how society committee can engage with Mansfield students and how can we reach out if we want to get more involved on campus

The **Mansfield Officer** suggests coming to the campus and speak to the students. The busy days are Tuesday and Thursday between 12 and 2. It is a very diverse campus. People assume it has a lot of mature students. There is no student accommodation at Mansfield so they don't always know what is available. Societies don't have to run the same as they do in City but if they go and hand out flyers or sit on the information desk the **Mansfield Officer** is sure there will be some students that are interested.

**Member Question 18** – Would you be the best person to

The **Mansfield Officer** responds they can reach out to them, going on to say they still believe that Mansfield is the forgotten campus. NTSU is trying to increase engagement at the campus, but it needs buy in from students.

**The Chair** reminds **Members** not to refer to staff by name

**Member Question 19**– is there a productive way forward that doesn't put a financial strain on societies that will still allow them to be part of that community

The Mansfield Officer notes that they understand the point and agrees everything is moving online although they have concerns about students from satellite

campuses engaging online, with this engagement being challenging in the past believing that certainly Mansfield students respond better to face to face engaging.

## Procedural Motion: Discussion On: The Decision of The Board of Trustees Not to Ratify the Complete Results of The Referendum to Call a Ceasefire in Gaza

**The Chair** references the procedural motion asking members to be mindful that there may be people online and in person that may have been affected by the conflict.

**CH** introduces himself to the members in attendance, notes that last year members of NTSU passed a referendum requesting that NTSU call for a ceasefire in Gaza. This was a motion written to show support and concern for those affected by the conflict. A Students' Union can be a powerful organisation when they take a collective stance. the motion that was passed in the referendum said NTSU should call for a ceasefire the **Trustee Board** did not ratify this. SU's can take public stance as long as they don't fund it and as long as it relates to its members. NTSU has members that are affected by the conflict and several several other unions have done called for a ceasefire. This shows the trustee board did not have to veto this. **CH** states they would like use as a student collective to make the trustee board are aware that the students regret the decision not ratify the results of the referendum in full.

**The Chair** thanks **CH** and notes NTSU did provide a referendum update goes on to read a statement from the charity commission

*"Trustees cannot in good faith approve a motion which is outside of the charitable purpose and the powers of the student's union as a charity"*

This is also detailed in the NUS guidance referenced in the motion. This means that while students and student groups can call for an end to the conflict it is the view of the Charity Commission it is not compatible with the charitable purpose of a Students' Union

**CH** questions NTSU's decision to call for a ceasefire in Ukraine

**The Chair** notes the validity of **CH's** argument and noted the Trustee Board did receive legal advice and noted that decision to call for a Peace in Ukraine was made by a **Board of Trustees** made up of different members NTSU did everything within their charitable purpose to support those effected by conflict but they could not support that specific line in the motion.

**CH** that this was guidance that was given by the Charity Commission and now law and sometimes it is important to take a stance regardless of the guidance from the Charity Commission.

**The Chair** agrees but notes that the Charity Commission are NTSU's regulators and as a Charity it is important to follow their guidance as is lawful to do so

**CH** noted that if NTSU are investigated by the Charity Commission they need to show they have followed their processes correctly there would be no issue. Other Unions have been investigated by the Charity Commission and there have been no issues as long as the Union showed strong processes.

**Member Question 20** – Please can you clarify the difference between calling for a ceasefire in Ukraine and calling for a ceasefire in Gaza

**The Chair** clarifies this was a different officer team. The Chair noted in hindsight maybe NTSU should not have made a statement calling for a ceasefire and reiterates that the call for a ceasefire could not be ratified as it falls out of NTSU's

charitable aims. That does not stop NTSU from providing support for students who are affected by the conflict, and this is something that is being done within our charitable purpose.

**The Chair** asks **CH** to repeat the statement which they are wanting to vote on

*"This Union regrets the decision of the trustees not to ratify the referendum in full and to call for a ceasefire in Gaza."*

**Vote passes with a clear majority**

## Democracy Review

**The Chair** introduces **JC** to the stage and points towards the documents available on the website surrounding the democracy review

**JC** notes they have been spending considerable time speaking to members of NTSU and have noted some prevailing ideas that have emerged

Firstly, **JC** notes the challenges of being a student in 2024 noting many students have part time jobs alongside their studies with many students having to miss lectures due to other commitments

NTSU member have Multiple views and identities, and the challenge of the Union is how to bring these identities together and represent them effectively

**JC** notes that in getting feedback he noted 3 key points

- A democracy should be impactful and tread more lightly on student lives. Members should know what their Union is doing



- A democracy that is based around campus and academic identities noting the differences between students in Brackenhurst and students studying on Confetti London
- Giving NTSU Officers time and structure to engage with members

**JC** goes on to explain students are not going to turn up to a single place to discuss ideas. Meetings such as Union Meeting are valuable but are inaccessible for students with responsibilities. Feedback suggests that Officers meeting their members in places they are already organised will be more impactful and it is best to identify where students are coming together.

Provide better funding and support for groups that already exist. If students are taking on a role to organise students of different identities we should be supporting this more effectively. JC cites LGBT society as a good example of a student group this could benefit.

Use more digital engagement to feedback to the Union. Digital democratic movements are popping up globally and NTSU can do more to reach members digitally when they can't in person.

Finally, officers need to be mandated to do work students care about currently officers are organised into portfolios. JC proposes every officer run for president with their own manifesto. Members would vote for the candidate based on what they stood on. Whoever wins most votes gets president and however many officers below get Vice President

**JC** notes this could lead to greater variety of elections, a greater variety of interests, rather than having a set of portfolio elections, you have one election for an entire officer team.

The Chair invites attendees to ask questions

**Member Questions 21** – How is the system going to work getting someone in a position they are uncomfortable or inexperienced being in

**JC** clarifies there will be an opportunity to turn down the role as president if someone does not want the role. **JC** goes on to note that they are more interested in those people who might not stand who now may think they have a role to go for. Noting someone may not have thought they could win President could win and then choose to do it.

**Member Question 22** – system is currently separated into categories; would the duties of each role be delegated to all the Vice Presidents

**JC** responds the officers would be elected on what they say in their manifestos. **JC** notes there is a question about manifesto points that won't win a popular vote. There are things that officers currently must do now that would never be on an officer's manifesto. Who works on this would have to be worked out by the team post-election. **JC** notes another benefit is that officers can do little bits of each current portfolio depends on what interests them. This is something that can't be done easily in the current format.

**Member Question 23** – Will the Campus Officer roles be removed?

**JC** notes they are still unsure what to do with these roles and is still waiting to speak to the **Brackenhurst Officer** and the **Confetti Officer**

**Member Question 24** – Would course reps also be elected or is this only for officers?

**JC** believed if there were lots of people volunteering to be course reps, I don't see the need to change this. There has been no feedback in the focus groups complaining that reps volunteered rather than being elected

**Member Question 25** – Do you think this change will benefit incumbent candidates or will it be easier for new candidates to get involved

**JC** states this should be harder for an incumbent, in the current system if a candidate re-stands, they only must beat the people in their election this would not be the case with the new system. Looking at other Unions that adopted this there are very few occasions that where a Vice President has moved up to be President. There will likely be candidates that did not want to stand in an election against an incumbent for a particular role choosing instead to run for a role they are not as interested in. This will not be the case in the changed system.

**Member Question 26** – A Liberations Officer Role would be important and get some representation this would not be guaranteed if students were each running on their own portfolios, could there be a possibility of a liberations role alongside this system?

**JC** thanks the student for their feedback and points towards the student groups that already exist, and questions reiterates his point about greater support for these student groups rather than being artificially created by the Union

**Member Question 27**– notes NTSU has a diverse membership, and it is quite disheartening to see such a lack of diversity in the Officer team. How can Students find out how to vote and get involved?

**JC** notes that questions on the logistics of the elections themselves are more of a NTSU staff member question. Although on the wider point about diversity in Unions where this system is in place has led to more diverse officer teams. Candidates need less votes to get elected meaning they student groups such as EDI groups will hold a greater say.

**Member Question 28** – How can you make sure a suitable candidate is elected on a non-portfolio basis?

**JC** responds that under the current NTSU says, here are the roles and asks students to vote for whoever aligns with their wants in each role. With the proposed system it is empowering candidates to say what they want from their Union and empowering members to vote for the candidate that most aligns to them. This would be rather than students saying this is what they are interested in whilst being constrained by roles.

**Member Question 29** – Can you get elected to an officer position from a school officer or course rep position

**JC** notes there are well trodden routes to become an officer. In a single election you can organise in smaller groups of people to be elected

**Member Question 30** – It is a shame NTSU went to a private company rather than asking students. Secondly as part of this review NTSU abolished EDI networks whose chairs attended Student Council. These were dedicated student groups to represent students from an equality and diversity background. It is atrocious part of NTSU's democracy was abolished in the name of democracy. Finally, there have been some interesting points raised about students working we shouldn't just believe these changes will solve it. We need a Union and officers that are going to take on these political challenges.

**JC** notes their thanks for the feedback, they state they were not present for the decision around the EDI networks so cannot discuss that. In terms of speaking to students, students were consulted as part of the initial feedback process. On the grounds of this coming from students, this came from the officers who were elected by the members. The point about students working, during the feedback process there were various of student identities and not all of them can come to spaces such as Union Meeting. This proposal aims to strike a balance between what is engagement with students who can't come to these spaces and what

democratic spaces should exist. **JC** notes that he believes that some of this achieves this.

**Member Question 31** – How would this process increase the amount of people from an EDI background will have the opportunity to be Officers

**JC** agrees that this is an issue, and this is one of the aspects of the review they are still looking for feedback in there are a lot of approaches different unions have taken and it one of the aspects of the review we are wanting to get feedback on

**The Chair** thanks **JC** for his contribution and notes that questions can be passed onto him via email

## NTSU Impact Report

**The Chair** notes that the impact report was attached to the Union Meeting information and will be taken as read

This will be posted online once it ratified by Union Meeting and asks members for any objections

No questions or comments

## Finances

**Chair** provides financial update

Slide 1

- We received £2 million in our block grant for the year ended 31 July 2024
- Our trading activities generated £4.6 million sales revenue
- We received £41k from bank interests
- Our total income for 2023/24 was £6.7 million

Slide 2

- This represents the trading gross profit margin generated at each campus (we do not trade at Confetti or Mansfield)
- All this money is re-invested into services and activities for students

Slide 3

- Total revenue generated by Retail Shops totalled £1.5 million
- Total revenue generated by Bars totalled £1.3 million

Slide 4

- The block grant pays for our core union membership functions – Advice & support, student voice, communications etc.
- Our total expenditure in 2023/24 was £6.6 million

Slide 5

- Capital expenditure in the year totaled £293k
- This includes Clifton SPAR, security radios, and new ovens at City and Clifton for our Stone Willy menu
- 4 new coffee machines at Brackenhurst and Clifton
- Lightspeed till hardware to improve speed & service in our venues

Slide 6

- Society accounts are held in our balance sheet as restricted funds
- income from self-generated activities and membership totaled £275k
- NTSU distributed £37k in funding allocations
- Expenditure totaled £311k

Slide 7

- Our “free reserves” reflects the money that we currently have available to spend/ pay for things.
- This year we have £1.1 million in reserves, which is between our minimum and target levels.

- The “cashflow” refers to the amount this has increased or decreased by. The year ended 31 July 2024 reported a net cash inflow of £87k.

#### Slide 8

- The balance sheet shows the value of everything NTSU owns, including vehicles, buildings and equipment.
- Anything we own loses value over the course of its life in a process called “depreciation”, calculated based on how long it is expected to be in use.
- Designated £200k for future capital investment
- Achieved a surplus of £62k for the year ended 31 July 2024

**Member Question 32** – It is shocking how much Money the SU has considering the lack of financial support that is offered to students.

**The Chair** apologises for the members poor experience and takes their feedback on board. They go onto note NTSU can provide support for students to fill out the hardship fund although they do have to take the universities lead when it comes to housing as this is not something NTSU’s services can facilitate

**Member Question 33** – Is it possible to have a breakdown of NTSU’s finances posted on the website

**The Chair** responds that this is possible as much as the finical regulations of the union will allow. There are a few things that cannot be published to protect NTSU from risk of fraud. The Chair notes that they will raise the point to the **Board of Trustees** when their financial subcommittee next meet. The Chair also notes that NTSU’s accounts are available online.

## Affiliation

- Built into our budget is an affiliation to the National Union of Students (United Kingdom). NTSU is currently paying £37,500.00 annually.
- NUS UK leads national campaigning and representative work, which supports the work of our officers here at NTSU.
- Please note that, from 2020, NUS will officially split into two organisations: NUS UK and NUS Charity, making our access to NUS Charity's services and resources available regardless of NTSU's affiliation with NUS UK.
- Please also note that NTSU's access to NUS Services LTD (NUSSL), a purchasing group, would not be affected regardless of the affiliation between NTSU and NUS UK. However, such access and trading through NUSSL does allow NTSU to get a better deal than regular trading groups, thus providing more value for money.

#### **Member Questions 34 – What is going on with NUS democracy**

**The Chair** notes this is a valid question although unfortunately they are not part of NUS in that capacity. As far as they are aware they are still working on their democracy. This campaign is available on their website along with their current priorities being: transport, tuition fees, trans rights and international student rights

### **Big Ideas (Discussion and Voting)**

**The Chair** explains the big idea process

Any member can submit a Big Idea through the NTSU website, this will then be taken to Student Council where it is voted on.

If it received over 75% of the votes at council, it is passed

If it receives 50 – 74% of the votes, then the idea is referred to Union Meeting

If it has less than 50% of the vote of then the idea falls



**The Chair** explains they can also chair action an idea to Union Meeting if Council feel more student voice is needed

**Facilitate a women's hour at the gym**

No comments or questions

Big idea passed VP sport will take this to Sport

DRAFT