**Student Council Agenda 27.02.2019 – 2pm – 4pm**

Guests: Claire Carney, Marcus Ross

Staff Support: David Devlin, Sabina Lawrie

1. Welcome

*Chair started the meeting at 14:08. Chair reminded everyone that they have to introduce themselves with Pronouns as per previously passed council policy.*

1. Review and approve minutes from the previous agenda (Paper 1)

*Spelling mistake in Emirates arena, which needs to be addressed. Question on the term of “sick note” in minutes. Spelling mistake in Daniel Hutchinson’s surname. Surname Mark Roberton*

1. Deputy Principals Question Time

*Chair welcomed Claire to the room. Claire introduced herself and stated pronouns, glad to be invited along. Claire role is Associate vice principal of education. Claire supports Professor Ehsan Mesbahi and supports his role by taking over the remit for Learning & Teaching. Claire worked for the QAA in Scotland and brings a fresh perspective on developing our learning and teaching support. Claire was the youngest of six children and the only one to go to University. Claire also informed Council that UWS is about to undergo its ELIR. This is an enhancement led review that encourages development across the University.*

*Questions*

1. *It is to my understanding that UWS has some connection to the Coats Memorial church, which is trying to fundraise for renovations. If the University’s connection is significant, and graduations are held there, has the University contributed any funding to the refurbishment?*
	1. *Claire doesn’t have the answer, but the University has a close relationship with the coats and there are some things going on in the background, but will find out for clarity. Claire invited the student to come forward with further information.*
2. *Regarding the policy that the University has on having examinations over one week, could the University look to change this to have it over two weeks. This would reduce examination stress for students.*
	1. *We continually observe these matters and the structure of the academic year was consider a number of years ago. We are looking into how this structure is working and we’re interested in getting more feedback and we will consider this in our review of the examinations.*
3. *Can we talk about staff pay – Academic pay has reduced, where as manager pay has gone up. What is UWS doing to bring this alignment?*
	1. *This is not my area, and I am not able to comment on it.*
4. *Discretionary funding – Hardship funding for SAUWS has been reduced, will the University fund this again?*
	1. *Hardship funding goes through the student life area and I am not familiar enough with the area to give an answer. There used to be a time that UWS did very well in losing students, but this has been improved and we can do more to support this. Money is a factor, but it is not the only factor that affects a student’s ability to stay on campus. The University does a lot of work in attempting to restore retention.*
5. *On that basis UWS has a 100% attendance requirement and this can have an impact on students with mental health issues. Is this something that can be looked at by students.*
	1. *Claire asked for clarity on the 100% rate, some discussion occurred from the student floor. Chair attempted to clarify. Council advised that the 100% attendance rate is to promote engagement. Claire advised that she will look into this*
6. *There has been a lot of movement around graduation fees, is there any moves for this to be scraped at UWS.*
	1. *I don’t know, its not passed my area – these discussion are taken at executive level.*
7. *Whiteboards – some student reps have noted that the white boards has been removed.*
	1. *I am shocked about the removal of the roller white boards. The University has been actively looking at that, and looking to find out what they want. It is not good enough for the University to continue to use 1980s equipment. We are looking at these and are coming up with suggestions in how to address the boards. Science students feel strongly.*
8. *Attendance – speaking to some of the lectures who have ambiguity over what is authorised and what is unauthorised absence. There is a problem with the card scanners in Lanarkshire, which results in people being incorrectly marked as absent*
	1. *It’s a technical issue, and was made aware of an issue surrounding it in Lanarkshire, will raise this with ITDS director. The University is consistent at being inconsistent, please leave the ambiguity to me and I will address. It was also my understanding that teaching was banned on a Wednesday afternoon, but this is against policy.*
9. *Is there any future plan to enhance the education resources to enable students to get better access to laptops for hire use?*
	1. *I’ll come back to you on that. Claire asked if anyone else had experienced this issue, other students acknowledged that they had. Council advised that we had been promised that this has been sorted out after Christmas.*
10. *Lack of feedback for high performing students – focus seems to be on less well performing students.*
	1. *I have not come across this issue before but I will look into it.*
11. *Could we get a smoking shelter please?*
	1. *As an EX PE teacher you’ve asked completely the wrong person. You’d be best to deal with the director of estates for this.*
12. *The PC’s are very slow in the London campus and no action has been taken. Can this be looked at? This has been going on for three years. It’s not just a network problem, it is the hardware as well.*
	1. *There is a group of questions around IT and I will raise these with ITDS.*

*Chair thanked Claire for attending. Claire thanked council for having her and would look for an opportunity to have asked students come questions.*

*Claire left the meeting.*

1. Policy Debates and Voting (Paper 2) – 51 Student Reps in Attendance therefore votes needed to pass: 26
	1. Campaign for better work opportunities for International students

*For – Paisley 26 - Lanarkshire 10 - London 1 – Dumfries 0*

*Total: 37*

*Motion is passed.*

* 1. Clearer Non-Academic Misconduct Policy

*For – Paisley 21- Lanarkshire 0 - London 2 – Dumfries 0*

*Total: 23*

*Motion falls.*

* 1. Democratising UWS

*For – Paisley 30 – Lanarkshire 10 - London 0 – Dumfries 0*

*Total: 40*

*Motion passed*

* 1. A Holistic approach to Care Experienced Students no matter their age (NUS Scotland motion – to be ratified)

*For – Paisley 38 - Lanarkshire 10 - London 1 – Dumfries 1*

*Total: 50*

*Motion passed*

* 1. How much time do we have left? I don’t know and at this point I’m too afraid to ask...

*For – Paisley 38 - Lanarkshire 5- London 0 – Dumfries 1*

*Total: 44*

*Motion passed*

* 1. No Cuts to NUS Democracy and Liberation: Motion of no confidence in NUS President Shakira Martin

*For – Paisley 14 - Lanarkshire 6 - London 0 – Dumfries 0*

*Total: 20*

*Motion falls*

* 1. Promoting Accessibility

*For – Paisley 19 - Lanarkshire 8 - London 1 – Dumfries 0*

*Total: 28*

*Motion passed*

*Three students left the council meeting bringing the number of reps to 48, and bringing the number of votes needed to pass a motion to 25.*

* 1. SAUWS should withdraw its support for the National Student Survey

*For – Paisley 4 - Lanarkshire 2 - London 0 – Dumfries 0*

*Total: 6*

*Motion falls*

* 1. Selling humans is not ethical

*For – Paisley 17 - Lanarkshire 1 - London 1 – Dumfries 0*

*Total: 19*

*Motion falls*

* 1. Stop using single use packaging

*For – Paisley 35 - Lanarkshire 9 - London 1 – Dumfries 1*

*Total: 46*

*Motion falls*

1. Update on Lanarkshire Buses

*U2 bus service has been withdrawn. Stagecoach x16 replacing, but services are being reduced and withdrawn based on usage levels.*

1. Update on Corporate Strategy

*The Director of planning and strategy, Marcus Ross, gave a presentation inviting students to feed into the University’s upcoming student plan.*

1. Sabbatical Officer Question Time

*Postponed*

1. Information about the next meeting (28th March)

**Paper 1 – For Approval**

 **Student Council Minutes - 12.12.2018 – 2pm - 4pm**

In attendance:

Guests: Ehsan Mesbahi, Anthony Blackshaw, Jamie McDowell

Staff Support: Sabina Lawrie

1. Minutes from 07.11.2018 meeting approved without issue.
2. Deputy Principals Question Time – Ehsan Mesbahi answered the following questions:

*Q: Given that the university are introducing a 25p charge for single use cups – are there plans to introduce water fountains and filling stations to enable students to bring their own water bottles?*

*A*: The University is reviewing this situation continually, and is always trying to be greener.

*Q: Who are you and what do you do?*

A: Ehsan is the Vice Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor (academic). He began with a research and enterprise focus, and then had all things education added to his remit. He is responsible for delivering Student Success (through Education, Teaching and Learning) alongside his Research and Enterprise work. He also works for academic development.

*Q: Why are exams being held in Robertson Sports hall, which is a place we’ve never been, where we have to get buses out to exams and wait outside in the cold for a long time? This adds to the stress for students.*

A: The University is aware that anything before an exam can be disturbing – they try to balance timetables and make things as easy as possible for students. ACTION: Ehsan will follow up on this issue.

*Q: An Adult Nursing exam got cancelled yesterday – why did it happen and why was there no paper back up? The new date is after leave – will leave also be rescheduled also?*

A: Although Ehsan knew there was a moodle problem yesterday he doesn’t know about this particular case. The course was: Foundations of Life and Social Science for 1st year adult and mental health nursing students – the issues was across all campuses. It is noted that students feel there should have been a paper back up copy. ACTION: Ehsan will follow up on this particular case.

*Q: It emerged at an MCS education forum meeting that librarians were concerned that there is not the funding to buy the books we need – a large portion of course mates use Glasgow/Strathclyde libraries, and many books are in the wrong places for our course as they are at different campuses. What is being done about this?*

*Another student from digital marketing added that they have to buy lots of books, and that staff tell students that the books they need can’t be found in the library.*

A: We regularly make sure library stock is appropriate and relevant. No planning cuts recently. If it is decreasing it’s across the whole institution, rather than any particular cut. However what students are saying is concerning – there are processes to make sure students have access – in the module descriptor there is a part about the resources needed. We don’t approve a new programme without the books – and this should be checked – so something here is failing. These may be old modules but it looks like in places our checks and balances have failed. There are processes – where students can put in requests for particular journals or individual papers you need there is a university service to get the copy – if we are not subscribed you should be able to get them.

*Q: Is it only L10 L11 for getting access to those services? There are also problems with students not accessing certain software if they are not on site.*

A: The licenses are not the issue but an adequate technical platform is needed, however, there may be the facility to run those programmes remotely. If you access remotely with a dummy connection you can use the software – ACTION: Ehsan will follow this up to see if there is remote accessibility and if we have that facility.

*Q: At Lanarkshire there was a situation where students’ needed to be on two campuses within 30 minutes – just wanted to bring it to someones attention. Lecture 9-10 in Lanarkshire, and then a group who had a tutorial in Emerits in 10.30. It was raised with the course who then acted on this, but the rescheduling was also a mess.*

A: This shouldn’t happen. Lectures should finish 5 mins before and start 5 mins late so that there is a gap. It is not acceptable practice and will definitely follow up – and trigger a general sick note to all colleagues – this is absolutely inappropriate. The preference is of course that everything is nicely arranged and isn’t changed. It was the introduction to coaching lecture and then introduction to sports science at the Emirates Arena – two different modules. ACTION: Ehsan will follow this up and trigger a general sick note to all colleagues.

*Q: Within Financial accounting – report and essays and class tests have been due within days of each other multiple times. How is the scheduling of report dates organised? Can something be planned further out to give at least a week between submission dates?*

A: The message is that organisation and module planning need to be improved. The suggestion is if this happens to immediately inform programme leader and deans to make sure you’re heard. As a university we need to bring a blanket approach to make sure practices are not continued. But yes for it to happen twice it may be systemic.

*Q: A lot of companies use SAGE and SAM but this is not taught in financial accounting. A lot of students are looking to pay for a certificate – and the licence is £500. Wondering if it was something to introduce back into the module for financial accounting.*

A: The intention and request is for annual monitoring to catch these things. ACTION: Ehsan will follow up this particular case.

Ehsan finished by saying that the university can only do work if you tell us what the problems are – we are always listening and trying to sort out problems. Some stuff doesn’t get to their office so please tell them what is happening. And please offer a few solutions too!

1. Policy Debates and Voting (Paper 4) 34 in attendance so 18 votes required to pass.
	1. *Policies due to Lapse*
		1. *Auctions in Aid of Charity and SAUWS Student Groups* ***Lapsed 20/34 votes for lapsing***
		2. *Condemn the Actions of Some at NUS Demo –* ***Lapsed 32/34 votes for lapsing***
		3. *Poppy Scotland Appeal –* ***Stands – 10/34 votes for lapsing***
		4. *Right 2 Education Campaign –* ***Stands – 5/34 votes for lapsing***
		5. *Votes at 16 – Stands –* ***0/34 votes for lapsing***
	2. *New policies*
		1. *Gym funding should not fall –* ***Passes - 25/34 voted to pass***
		2. *Holistic Support for Care Experienced Students –* ***Passes 26/34 Voted to Pass***
		3. *Sign Off with Pronouns: Make Sharing Pronouns Common Practice* ***– Passes 22/34 voted to pass***
		4. *Speak to Everyone – Use Gender-Inclusive Language –* ***19/34 Voted to Pass***
		5. *Staff Should be Available to Students When Timetabled –* ***27/34 Voted to Pass***
		6. *Vegan Food Options –* ***32/34 Voted to Pass***
2. Review and approve new officer By Law (Paper 5) – Approved
3. *Election of School Officers (Note, three students had to leave early)
CEPS – Mark Robertson stood uncontested and was voted in with 30/31 Votes*

*B+E – Jakub Stefankiewicz stood uncontested and was voted in with 30/31 Votes*

*Education – Magdelena Preissler stood uncontested and was voted in with 31/31 Votes*

*HLS – Nicola Orr and Ethan Wilson stood, Ethan Wilson was elected with 29/31 Votes*

*MCS – Dan Hutchinson stood uncontested and was elected with 30/31 Votes*

1. Sabbatical Officer Question Time

*Q: Is there an update on the bus situation in Lanarkshire?*

A: SAUWS staff have been meeting with the bus company. ACTION: Sabina to get update from colleagues and share with council.

**Paper 2 – Policies for Discussion and Voting**

*2.a Campaign for better work opportunities for international students*

SAUWS to support the ‘Post Study Work Visa’ campaign to enable non-EU students (and potentially EU students as well if Brexit happens) who want to work in the UK to do so once they have graduated. SAUWS should also support the ‘Post Study Work Visa Now’ campaign which was recently started by several Scottish students' associations.

## Why you think it is important

International students pay staggering amounts of money in tuition fees, visa costs, and NHS bills and as such are being treated like cash cows. The current salary requirement to stay in the UK on a Tier 2 Visa is anywhere between £21,000 to £41,000 depending on the type of job, the current average starting salary for new graduates in Scotland is £21,000, some of which are as little as £17,000. At UWS we have 2,560 non-EU students and 1,268 EU students, with the uncertainty around Brexit, current EU students may also be affected in the future meaning we are potentially losing all this talent and expertise year on year.

## Is there anything else you think we should know?

Most of the students affected by the rules around Post Study Visas are being forced to go home unjustly despite having built their lives in their city of study, and despite making the UK culturally, socially, intellectually and financially stronger. It is a disgrace that international graduates are otherwise forced to leave or otherwise deported. In addition, since the abolishment of Post Study Visas (Fresh Talent Scheme) in 2012, the Scottish Government has continuously supported post-study work visa schemes and highlighted the need for a specific post-study work pathway for international students in Scotland.

*2.b Clearer Non-Academic Misconduct Policy*

To include specific mention of Racist, Sexist, Homophobic, Transphobic, and Disablist comments as examples of Non-Academic Misconduct.

## Why you think it is important

I think that the policy is just in need of a refresh. Most students know that these comments are not acceptable but it could be helpful to some to be more specific.

## Is there anything else you think we should know?

It might be useful to consider the Equality Act 2010 which lists all protected characteristics but some may not be relevant to this context.

*2.c Democratising UWS*

SAUWS will continue its work on democratising UWS by lobbying to further extend the proportion of trade union members and students elected onto university committees, such as senate and court. As noted below there are many committees all at various levels with no student representation at all. Powerful university committees such as audit and risk committee, the salary committee, the remuneration committee, the vice chancellors executive group, university leadership team and the leadership forum have no student representatives as members. To note that the new higher education governance act sets out the bare minimum standards of democracy in higher education and its up to bodies such as SAUWS along with trade unions to strengthen democracy inside UWS further. Therefore the aims of this campaign is to: Significantly increase the proportion of students and trade union members to committees such as court and senate above the requirements of the Higher Education Governance act. More student and trade union representatives should have the opportunity to chair important committees when appropriate. Implement student representation on the following but not limited to audit and risk committee, the salary committee, the remuneration committee, the vice chancellors executive group, university leadership team and the leadership forum. As usual SAUWS must act as a critical friend and lobby senate and court in a respectable way to secure the three aims above however failing to do this has a negative impact on the student voice itself. If university management honours the partnership it has with both workers and students then it should no doubt have members who are representatives of students and trade unions on powerful committees. However if the university decides not to honour the importance of the voice of students then the student association should resort to stronger methods of campaigning such as direct action (occupations, walkouts, etc...)

## Why you think it is important

Universities are a force for social good which benefits Scotland and beyond. This is why it is important to have proper scrutiny, transparency and accountability of University committees, the work of these committees have a direct impact on your student learning experience. The work of committees also drastically shapes work conditions from employed staff. Bad working conditions, such as staff having their salaries frozen as management's spike, lay offs, and an ever increasing workload has a knock on effect to the student experience. Therefore listening to and working closely with both recognised and unrecognised UWS trade unions is key in democratising UWS to secure an improved student experience and improved working conditions. UWS will be changing how it appoints students, workers, management and others onto committees and their composition due to the creation of the HE Governance Scotland act a couple of years ago. UWS management were against the development of the bill however student unions and trade unions around the country backed it due to its aspects of democratisation. As the university was publicly against the creation of this law, this suggests that UWS may only be willing to make the bare minimum changes to stay in a positive legal area whilst still giving University management huge amounts of unchecked control. Students and workers should have more representation in committees were there is none at the present moment like court sub committees such as the salary committee or remuneration committee. The student association is not allowed to sit on the salary committee and remuneration committee despite the vice chancellor being on a salary of over £227000 and is asking for even more whilst overseeing cuts to staff. Unlike other court sub committees there is no student representation on the audit and risk committee, the salary committee or the remuneration committee. Additionally there are senate committees that have no student representation as well. These are but are not limited to vice chancellors executive group, the collaborative forum, school plagarism panels, subject panels, progression and award boards, school ethic committees, school international forum and school leadership team and although there is a presence from SAUWS representatives at university leadership team and at leadership forum meeting they are not full members.

## Is there anything else you think we should know?

https://www.uws.ac.uk/media/3833/uws\_court\_handbook-17-18.pdf https://www.uws.ac.uk/media/3547/university-senate-committees-2017-18.pdf http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2016/15/contents/enacted https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/2017/07/26/university-vice-chancellor-paid-227000-claims-cant-do-job-properly/

*2.d A Holistic approach to Care Experienced Students no matter their age (NUS Scotland motion – to be ratified)*

Conference Notes - Only 4% of Care Experienced school leavers go on to university. Care experienced college students are significantly less likely to complete their course than their peers. Many students are forced to curtail studies not because of ability but due to financial circumstances. -For a student to be classified as Care Experienced they must self-declare, meaning there are potentially many students who do not realise they are Care Experienced or the support they are therefore entitled to. -The Scottish Government has introduced additional bursary support for Care Experienced students, but that this is only available to students up to the age of 26. -The Scottish Funding Council and partners in the sector have set a national ambition to achieve parity in outcomes for Care Experienced school-leavers and their peers by 2021. Conference Believes -That extra support is required to ensure that Care Experienced students can cope with their studies, and ensure that all are able to complete them. -That it is the responsibility of institutions to ensure that their students are aware of all the support that is available. Expecting people to find it for themselves is not working. -That the impact of care-experience does not have an age-limit. Conference Resolves -To encourage all universities and colleges to establish peer support groups for Care Experienced students. -To call for a proactive, year-round approach to informing students of the support available to them. This should include support outwith term-time. -To call for a holistic and institutional-wide approach to widening access and support for care experienced individuals that ensures continuity of support -To lobby the Scottish Government and the SFC to make sure this approach is embedded in Outcome Agreements. -To campaign and lobby the Scottish Government to extend support to all Care Experienced students, no matter their age.

## Why you think it is important

Only 4% of Care Experienced school leavers go on to university. Care experienced college students are significantly less likely to complete their course than their peers. Many students are forced to curtail studies, not because of ability but due to financial circumstances. Hence extra support is required to ensure that Care Experienced students can cope with their studies, and ensure that all are able to complete them.

*2.e How much time do we have left? I don’t know and at this point I’m too afraid to ask...*

It's exam season at UWS but after due to lack of funds for the upkeep of rooms many students will sit their exams in deteriorating university rooms. These rooms may have damage, a lack of seating, damaged or a lack of pc and sound but also many rooms lack clocks to tell the time. SAUWS sabbaticals should identify university cost of the upkeep of rooms and bring this information back to student council to debate this further and fight for higher level of funding to maintain existing spaces. SAUWS should ensure that it is an exam condition requirement to have a clock in the room to allow participants to add the time.

## Why you think it is important

Although the University has put in a lot of money in recreating new university spaces and campuses, staff have claimed that funds for existing spaces such as lecture or seminar rooms is low and we should look to see what the current levels of funding are, how they differ from different years and different institutions. In addition to this most devices aren't allowed in exam spaces including certain watches such as electronic watches. Producing the money to display clocks to be available in exam spaces would be a tiny cost to UWS, lowers the chances of disruption in exam spaces and would help student stress.

*2.f No Cuts to NUS Democracy and Liberation: Motion of no confidence in NUS President Shakira Martin*

This Student Union Resolves: 1. To call a vote of no confidence in NUS President Shakira Martin. 2. To campaign at any extraordinary or national conference for no cuts to be made to NUS democracy, liberation and campaigns, and for a democratic, representative and campaigning NUS that can be a real voice for students. 3. To support candidates running for NUS Officer positions (such as but not limited to NUS presidential candidates) fighting for no cuts to democracy, liberation and representation, and fighting for a truly democratic and campaigning NUS.

## Why you think it is important

This Student Union Notes: 1. In a letter released on 1 November, NUS President Shakira Martin and NUS Acting Chief Executive Peter Robertson announced that NUS is facing a £3 million deficit “in this and in future years”. 2. The letter states that “radical reforms to [NUS’s] corporate and democratic structures” will be put forwards “to drastically simplify and modernise NUS”. This process is called NUS Turnaround. 3. These reforms will be presented to delegates at NUS Conference 2019. This Student Union Believes: 1. Any attempts to undermine democracy, representation and campaigns go against what NUS is for. NUS is nothing if it is not democratic, representative and campaigning. 2. The current NUS leadership have done little to nothing to challenge the privatisation and marketisation wrecking further and higher education and the living conditions of its members. NUS should be leading outward facing campaigns to improve students’ living conditions, fight for liberation and transform our education and wider society. We need an NUS that can be a real voice for students, that links up our activism and campaigns and spreads them across the country. 3. Students have had no say in the NUS Turnaround decision-making process - the reforms will be presented at National Conference for delegates to rubber stamp. These are political, not technical, decisions - it is unacceptable that unelected and unaccountable student union CEOs and NUS management have had decision making power. 4. A leaked official report from ‘NUS Strategic Conversation’, where SU CEOs, Presidents and NUS staff met on 27-28 November, gives a clearer idea of what the reforms will be. The report will form the basis of discussions held by the “Turnaround Board”, made up of NUS and student union staff plus a minority of selected NUS Officers. It looks like the number of elected officers will be cut significantly and like this will likely start with scrapping the liberation officers and nations officers (Officers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland). 5. Previous years’ NUS accounts show that the financial problems are likely to have come from commercial mismanagement of the NUS Extra discount card, not overspending on campaigning, conferences or officer pay. There was a sharp rise in what appears in the 2017 accounts as “cost of sales”. 6. We have no confidence in the leadership of NUS.

## Is there anything else you think we should know?

\*If this motion passes in 25 student unions, an extraordinary conference will be called where it will be debated - this is the chance to allow students to present and vote for alternative vision for NUS - to demand no cuts to democracy, liberation and representation, for a fighting, truly democratic and campaigning NUS!\* https://thetab.com/uk/2018/11/02/exclusive-leaked-letter-reveals-nus-is-facing-financial-difficulty-and-3m-deficit-this-year-85369 https://studentleftnetwork.com/whatsgoingon/

*2.g Promoting Accessibility*

To encourage all students and staff at meetings and events (for example student council) to use BSL applause.

## Why you think it is important

This move allows access for those with accessibility difficulties.

*2.h SAUWS should withdraw its support for the National Student Survey*

The Students Association will withdraw its support of the National Student Survey (NSS), stop collaborating with University management in promoting it, and work with trade unions to promote a student boycott of the NSS at UWS.

## Why you think it is important

For the next trimester UWS students are going to be asked repeatedly to fill in the National Student Survey. Students who fill in the survey will receive a 'free' coffee but will be charged 25p if they don't have a cup or you can get some bottled water instead. While this is tempting? Below are reasons why UWS students shouldn't fill in this survey and why you should back this policy. University management presents the NSS as a tool to listen and apply student feedback however this simply isn't true. The NSS was not created as a feedback tool or a tool of quality enhancement. Ever since its implementation student activists have lobbied to change the NSS to treat students less like consumers, however changes to higher education by the tory government and executive university management have made the NSS less staff and student friendly since its creation. NSS scores have been used in the past at UWS to raise tuition fees of rest of UK (RUK) students and non-EU students studying here. The UWS Principal has said on numerous occasions that raising the tuition fees of non-EU and RUK students will raise NSS satisfaction scores and our own league table results, we believe he is wrong. From this we can see the NSS treats us more like customers than students which damages the quality of all of our learning (for both students who do and don't pay tuition fees). The NSS is used to ignore more reliable forms of feedback and disempowers staff and students. As well as raising tuition fees the NSS is also used to legitimise the cutting our courses, shutting down whole departments and sacking UWS staff. UWS creates "transformative" committees each year who's remit is to cut as much staff and resources as possible rather than investing in already stretched staff and courses that are struggling. Academic trade unions like UCU have promoted to boycott the NSS as well as student unions around the country. This make sense as university management uses the NSS results to stretch staff to breaking point even forcing them to take sick leave. Improving working conditions for UWS staff is key to improving learning conditions for students. Therefore when staff and staff resources get cut students lose out too. Large amounts of money is spent on promoting the NSS survey. UWS believes that if more students fill in the NSS their scores and league table results will be higher. Past NSS scores show this isn't true. In fact this is money that would be better spent on staff and resources rather than advertising. In short the NSS is a marketing tool not a feedback tool, NSS legitimises the cutting of courses, used to sack and stretch staff rather than investing in them, it worsens learning conditions and even has been used to raise tuition fees at UWS. There's better forms of feedback like talking to student reps, sabbatical officers or SU staff and even engaging in other surveys where the research is properly used to improve our learning experience. Collaborating with staff to make UWS management accountable or taking matters into your own hands by carrying out your own research, creating your own campaign and direct actions will be much more influential than filling in the NSS survey.

## Is there anything else you think we should know?

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/8432/Why-boycott-the-NSS-leaflet/pdf/Boycott_NSS_flyer_Dec16.pdf>

*2.i Selling humans is not ethical*

To ban the student association or any associated bodies from selling or auctioning people whether for profit or charity.

## Why you think it is important

Individuals should not be sold for a profit.

*2.j Stop using single use packaging*The students association will be mandated to not use single use materials for packaging food products.

## Why you think it is important

The IPCC report released last year has informed us that we have until 2030 to prevent irreversible climate breakdown, we must take action now.