



Council

Date of meeting:	3 December 2015
Title of Paper:	Report back from Students Committee
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	Brendan Garry, Chair of Students Committee
Is a decision required? Yes No	

1. The Students Committee met on Thursday 17 September 2015.

Taking Committee Plans Forward

2. There was a discussion around proposed changes to mentorship and standards in supporting learning and assessment.
3. It was suggested that by doing an audit of skills and interests at the start of the year, work can be tailored to the strengths and interests of committee members as a way of increasing engagement in the work of the committee.
4. The committee agreed to produce an end of year report of around two pages to celebrate the work of the committee and to demonstrate impact.

NUS Council and National Conference 2015-6 Arrangements

5. Sylvia Duval reported that she had attended the most recent meeting of the National Union of Students' National Executive Council and noted that the organisation was doing work around the upcoming trade union

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bill, as well as a campaign called Cut the Costs, focused on saving maintenance grants for students. Sylvia also reported that NUS are working on engaging with more postgraduates and working on a campaign around the postgraduate loans cap.

6. Graeme Stokes and Sylvia Duval agreed to be the leads for attending future NEC meetings and the NUS National Conference in April 2016.

Congress 2015 and planning for 2016

7. Jane Clarke led a discussion on Congress 2015 and plans for 2016. The feedback on the event was generally positive, although the committee asked if some of the time in the students programme could be dedicated to the work of SIOs and student committee members.
8. It was suggested that student committee members link with their member of Council to organise students to get to Congress. The committee agreed that the student programme should take place on the Monday and Tuesday across Congress (as two half-days.)
9. The committee agreed that the main theme of the student programme will be “what can the RCN do for you?” with the aim of launching the elections process and the annual report at the same time to maximise participation.
10. There was very positive feedback for the emotional resilience workshop and the committee asked that this was repeated in some form next year.

Student Bursaries

11. There was a discussion on student bursaries. The policy position and the context of the current Comprehensive Spending Review that was taking place were laid out. RCN has been working with other organisations to produce a letter asking the government to consult with them over any proposals.
12. The committee had a discussion about maintenance grants and how third year students in England were receiving less money in maintenance grants.

ENSA Annual General Meeting

13. Dean Flanagan, the president of ENSA, led a presentation about the ENSA AGM and talked the committee through current discussions and the plans for the week ahead.

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14. Dean Flanagan asked if a member of the students committee could give an overview of nursing in the UK and if a tour of the RCN could be arranged.

Evaluation of Communications work

15. The committee received a presentation which evaluated the Nurses Day campaign and covered the planning process and gave the committee ideas on how best to maximise their communications with members. Following the departure from the committee of two members who were focused on producing the majority of the social media content, the committee agreed that they would take over the pages, as well as passing communications to the Governance team to be passed onto Communications to incorporate into their communications plan.

Country and Regional Updates

16. Graeme Stokes noted that he would write up his attendance at the NMC revalidation workshop as he felt it would be of benefit to the committee. Katie Douglas noted that Scotland was hosting an event for student nurses and newly-qualified nurses in November.
17. We next meet in February 2016.