**SURHUL national conference policy submission:**

**This union notes:**

1. The deadline for NUS National Conference motions in March, and the word limit of 1400 words.

**This union believes:**

1. The motions below are reflective of currently existing SURHUL policy, and should be put on a national level.

**This union resolves:**

1. To send the policies below to NUS National Conference 2014

**Amendment to Priority Motion**

Add:

Conference believes

1. In December youth unemployment was 920,000, 20% of 16-24 year olds.

2. Young people are at the sharp end of mass unemployment created by the capitalist crisis and a management offensive against workers in public and private sectors.

3. Many new jobs will be “precarious”: low-paid, casualised and with few rights.

Conference further believes

1. The general election provides an opportunity for an effective campaign on these issues.

2. We should oppose all cuts to jobs and fight for expanded public services to create socially useful, secure, well-paid jobs.

3. There is plenty of wealth in society, we should tax the rich to create jobs.

4. We should oppose casualisation and job insecurity, including zero hours contracts and unpaid internships.

Conference resolves to

1. Campaign against youth and graduate unemployment and to “Fund decent jobs for all”, developing a manifesto and working with trade union youth sections.

2. Campaign to unionise students who work.

3. Campaign for the Minimum Wage to be raised to the Living Wage, without exemptions.

4. Work with trade unions for the Labour Party to adopt these policies.

**Amendment to Priority Motion**

**Add:**

Conference believes

1. The 2008 bank bailout cost £850 billion.

2. Britain's 1,000 wealthiest individuals own £450 billion

3. The Coalition has cut billions from education, welfare and health spending, while lowering taxes for the rich.

4. According to the Office of National Statistics, UK workers' average real-term hourly earnings have fallen 8.5% since 2009.

Conference further believes

1. This is a government of the rich, acting in the interests of the rich - using the crisis to attack jobs, wages, benefits and public services.

2. NUS believes in democracy - but democracy is limited when wealth and power are in the hands of a few.

3. If the vast wealth of society was socially owned and democratically controlled, not in the hands of a few, society could fund top quality free education, services, jobs and benefits for all in place of grotesque inequality and irrational waste of resources.

4. We should aim for a government which serves the interests of the majority (workers, students, service-users), taxing the rich and expropriating the banks to rebuild public services and create jobs.

Conference resolves

1. To campaign for the TUC policy of “full public ownership of the banking sector and the creation of a publicly owned banking service, democratically and accountably managed” and for taxing the rich, to reverse cuts and fund services, education and jobs.

**Amendment to Priority Motion**

Add:

Resolves 1: Organise a first-term national demonstration themed on these lines.

**Society and Citizenship Zone**

**Amendment to 301**

Add:

Conference resolves

1. Campaign for the Minimum Wage to be raised to the Living Wage and all age and other exemptions abolished.

2. Urge all CMs to pay a living wage and end use of zero hours contracts.

3. Campaign to unionise students who work.

**Amendment to 302**

**Add:**

Conference believes

1. We should be alarmed by the electoral rise of a “respectable” nationalist right, including UKIP.

Conference further believes

1. We must fight the idea there is a problem with immigration. Strain on jobs and services is a result of the government and private sector cuts, seeking to boost profits and the rich's wealth at the expense of all workers.

2. Withdrawal from the EU would not solve these problems but simply create a more independent neo-liberal UK in which nationalism runs riot.

Conference resolves

1. Make opposition to UKIP and the nationalist right a central part of our campaigning in the run up to the general election.

2. Call on the Labour Party to stop pandering to anti-migrant politics.

3. Support freedom of movement and equal rights for all, and taxing the rich to create jobs and expand public services.

**Ordinary motion: Fighting cuts**

Conference believes

1. This year will see another huge wave of cuts in council services, cuts that will disproportionately hit deprived areas and the most oppressed groups in society.

Conference further believes

1. Instead of implementing central government cuts, councils should refuse to do so, defy the government and lead local communities in a campaign to demand the restoration of funding. Such a revolt by even one council would make life very difficult for the Government; a few councils refusing to implement cuts would make the cuts untenable.

Conference resolves

1. To support and encourage student unions to campaign against cuts to local services.

2. To highlight the impact of cuts to local services in our campaigning in the run up to the general election.

3. To call on councils to refuse to implement cuts, and support and work with Councillors Againts the Cuts.

**Ordinary motion: Fighting the far right**

Conference believes

1. While the far right is in disarray, there is no room for complacency.

Conference further believes

1. The conditions which have fed the far rights' growth are still there:

* Widespread hostility to migrants, encouraged by a government and press promoting the idea that immigration is a problem;
* Widespread anti-Muslim racism;
* Huge cuts and perceptions of a struggle for scarce resources;
* A Labour Party which has failed to challenge the Tory narrative on immigration and cuts;

2. While Unite Against Fascism its widely discredited for its lack of democracy, its manoeuvring with regard to local campaigns, the Martin Smith sexual assault scandal and its wider politics, there is a need for a national anti-fascist network.

3. We need an anti-fascist network which

* is genuinely democratic, allowing activists to debate the way forward;
* combines mass mobilisation with willingness to confront the far right;
* fights for demands to the social demagogy of the far right: black and white, all religions and none, British-born and migrant - unite for jobs, homes and services for all.

Conference resolves

1. Mobilise for anti-fascists protests and campaigning.

2. Produce dedicated NUS anti-fascist materials including this perspective.

3. Not affiliate to UAF or any national anti-fascist campaign, but as appropriate work with a variety of local and national campaigns.

**Ordinary motion:** **30 years since the miners' strike**

Conference believes

1. It is 30 years since the National Union of Mineworkers defied the Thatcher government's devastation of working-class communities and the labour movement, in a year long-strike that involved thousands of students, many dozens of student unions and NUS.

2. Student activists showed great creativity in supporting the strike - in many cases student unions involved thousands of students in all kinds of innovative ways.

3. As well as galvanising trade unionists who wanted to resist the Tories' onslaught, the strike generated important movements against oppression, eg the movement of women in the mining communities.

Conference further believes

1. Particularly when a Tory-dominated government is once again devastating our communities, there is a lot to learn and inspiration to be taken from the miners' strike.

Conference resolves

1. Produce an exhibition about the strike and students' activity in supporting it for use in SUs.

**Higher Education Zone**

**Amendment to 202**

Add:

Conference further believes

1. That for an institution to be democratic it should be a place where critical thinking and active dissent is encouraged.

2. The recent arrests, draconian injunctions and suspensions seen in response to campus protests is the reflex of managements who have lost the arguments with students and staff over marketisation, fees, outsourcing and pay.

3. Educational institutions should be run by those who study and work in them, not overpaid and unaccountable managements.

4. Student unions should be empowered to decide when police can come on campus.

Conference resolves

1. Campaign for laws that police cannot enter and operate on university/college campuses/property without permission from both management and the SU.

2. Campaign for managements to pledge - and write into regulations - that they will not call police onto campus without permission from the SU.

3. Create a legal fund to support students facing charges or legal costs as a result of repression.

**Welfare Zone**

Amendment 502

Add:

Conference believes

1. The fight to defend the NHS continues, including important victories like Save Lewisham Hospital and innovative campaigns like the 4:1 Campaign for guaranteed patient-staff ratios.

Conference resolves

1. Organise a national activist event on defending the NHS and the issues implications for student welfare, working with welfare officers, the 4:1 Campaign, the Students for the NHS network and local campaign groups.

2. In the run to the election, campaign with trade unions for Labour to make clear commitments to reverse cuts, privatisation and outsourcing and rebuild the NHS as a comprehensive public service.