NUS and UCU National Demonstration

What will we do?
1. To request, dependent upon travel arrangements with other students’ associations, a maximum of £1,650 from the Students’ Association’s campaigns budget to subsidise the cost of coach travel to the NUS and UCU National Demonstration on 19 November.

What is the background?
1. In July 2016 NUS UK announced that it would be mobilising students for a National Demonstration to march for a fairly funded, liberated education. Students’ associations and unions across the UK are mobilising their campuses for students for the largest student and staff demonstration since 2012.
2. Academic and Support staff who are members University and Colleges Union (UCU) are assisting in co-ordinating the demonstration, and will be marching alongside students.
3. The UK Government is imposing some of the most fundamentally damaging reforms to the Higher Education sector in over two decades, attempting to link tuition fees to the quality of teaching, based more on employability than on teaching, thus changing how both staff and students value their learning.
4. Maintenance grants for students from low-income households, and for nurses who are undertaking degrees to work in the NHS, have been cut completely by the Conservative Government.
5. Further Education has faced consistently significant funding cuts, which is reducing the social mobility of young people.
6. Staff in the Higher Education sector are being forced to rely on temporary contracts, casualised work, and have seen a real terms fall in their incomes.
7. The contribution that overseas students make to our universities and wider civic society is being aggressively undermined, amidst rising xenophobic tendencies since the referendum to leave the European Union.

What beliefs motivate the actions you propose?
1. That education is a public good, and that individual students should not face significant financial burdens by studying at university.
2. That we should be supporting students who obtain places at universities through access courses at Further Education institutions.
3. That the interests and rights of staff and students are mutually reinforcing.
4. That students should visibly and collectively reject hostile attitudes towards overseas students.
5. That the Students’ Association should proudly celebrate its international diverse membership, and affirm its embrace of internationalism.