NUS delegates and policy mandates: motion discussed at Student Council on 22nd March 2018

What we will do:

1. To require that the elected NUS delegates for each conference choose from amongst themselves one to act as the Delegation Leader, who acts to look out for the welfare and safeguarding of delegates as well as ensuring clear communication for the effective operation of the delegation at conference
2. To mandate this Delegation Leader to ensure that all EUSA delegates are aware of the motions on which EUSA has policy
3. To require that The Association be represented at any compositing meetings by the delegation leader or, failing that, an individual chosen by the Association Executive

Background to this:

1. That previous policy requiring delegates to NUS conferences to vote in-line with EUSA policy has lapsed
2. That the role of delegation leader is largely an administrative and welfare role, looking after first time delegates and ensuring delegates are aware of and follow mandates
3. Both policy mandates and the role of delegation leader have worked exactly as intended as existing EUSA policy for the last four years, without complaint

Beliefs and motivating actions:

1. It is important that delegates are able to represent the views of the students who elected them
2. While delegates are elected in campus wide elections their manifestos cannot cover every possible motion likely to be brought to a conference
3. That how delegates vote and behave at conference represents the students who voted for them and therefore there should be democratic oversight over how they vote
4. That it is important that the role of Delegation Leader is carried out - it would be detrimental to delegate welfare and delegation coordination if there was no-one in a position to assist delegates in a new, confusing and potentially overwhelming environment
5. That it is important that policy mandates carried out - it would be detrimental to student-led deliberative democracy, engagement with The Association, and a total destruction of the long-standing democratic link between Student Council and NUS conference to not advocate for our policy within NUS
6. That we should send as many delegates as possible to NUS UK and NUS Scotland conferences to ensure that the views of our members are advocated as best they can be.