



Edinburgh University Students' Association's affiliations, February 2018

There is a need under the Education Act 1994 to review all ongoing affiliations each year. The details are as extracted below:

“When a student union is affiliated to any external organisation there are to be procedures for the review of affiliations under which the current list of affiliations is submitted for approval by members annually or more frequently, and at such intervals of not more than a year as the governing body may determine, a requisition may be made by such proportion of members (not exceeding 5 per cent) as the governing body may determine, that the question of continued affiliation to any particular organisation be decided upon by a secret ballot in which all members are entitled to vote.”

Our agreed process for undertaking this review is that the Student Council (as a meeting open to members) and the Trustee Board jointly review the affiliations annually. The Trustee Board has a requirement under charities law to ensure that the Students' Association is sound and viable and so it jointly approves the list of affiliations to ensure that no affiliations pose a legal or financial threat.

The Students' Association currently has policy which affiliates it to the following groups. Student Council must vote on whether to continue to affiliate to each of these organisations or not.

If both bodies reject an affiliation then it will cease. If only one body rejects an affiliation then the status quo will remain, however students could call for a referendum under the normal procedures should they disagree with the outcome of the review.

The information below is provided to help Student Council make an informed decision. The detail about each organisation is taken from their websites and there is added context where applicable.

Affiliations

1. National Union of Students (NUS), Referendum 2004 (last reviewed at Student Council 2017)

Affiliation fee: £54,619 for 2017/18

<http://www.nus.org.uk/>

“The National Union of Students (NUS) is a voluntary membership organisation which makes a real difference to the lives of students and its member students' unions. We are a confederation of 600 students' unions amounting to more than 95 percent of all higher and further education unions in the UK. Through our member students' unions, we represent



the interests of more than seven million students. NUS champions students to shape the future of education – and create a better world. We promote, defend and extend student rights. We fight discrimination, isolation and injustice. Through practical information and national action, we make sure students can thrive. We support and strengthen students and their unions. We are informed – developing research that influences national policy. We are active – taking on all the issues that affect students' lives now and in future. We know students.”

“NUS works to champion the commercial success of Students Unions by negotiating purchasing deals with suppliers, and a host of additional benefits for its members. Our ethical and environmental work delivers a greener supply chain, greener unions through new environmental projects, and best practice schemes such as Sound Ethical Choice and Green Impact. To support our members we operate a dedicated customer service centre that provides training and advice on matters such as alcohol policy, negotiating fairer PPL fees, and energy management. We provide bespoke market analysis and insight, and an extensive programme of membership events. Our members also benefit from a programme of constructive engagement with suppliers over ethical/environmental issues and from our central billing facility, which saves considerable administration resource within unions.”

Context: The Students' Association benefits £303,774¹ annually from affiliation with NUS. This is mainly through retail and licensed trade purchasing deals associated with NUS Services, the commercial arm of NUS. In addition to this the Students' Association benefits from resources, training events and support available for student officers, students and staff. Through its membership the Students' Association is also able to shape the policy of NUS via delegations of students to national conferences. The Students' Association sends eight delegates to NUS UK annual conference and fourteen to NUS Scotland annual conference.

2. Conflict-free Campus Initiative, Student Council 2017

Affiliation fee: none

<https://enoughproject.org/get-involved/cfci>

“The Conflict-Free Campus Initiative (CFCI) is a joint initiative of the Enough Project and STAND – the student-led movement to end mass atrocities. By encouraging school officials and stakeholders, both of whom are large purchasers of electronics and powerful spokespersons, to commit to measures that pressure electronics companies to responsibly invest in Congo's minerals sector, students are voicing the demand for conflict-free products from Congo. The goal of this movement is to support peace, accountability, and prosperity in Congo. In order for that to happen, companies must invest responsibly in Congo's mining sector, not resort to sourcing their minerals elsewhere. With companies like Intel, Apple, Motorola, and others leading the way, we've seen a significant increase in corporate

¹ 2015/16 (most recent figures)



commitments to supporting the development of economic opportunity in the region. But we must continue to call for additional mining reforms and for investment in livelihood projects for Congolese mining communities who are impacted by market shifts and in-region reforms.”

3. National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts (NCAFC), Student Council 2013 (last reviewed at Student Council 2017)

Affiliation fee: £1

<http://anticuts.com/>

“The National Campaign Against Fees & Cuts is a network of student and education worker activists, founded at a convention at University College London in February 2010. Since then, the NCAFC has helped activists on campuses up and down the country organise radical direct action against tuition fees, education cuts and wider cuts to public services. The NCAFC has played an integral role in the movement that developed from November 10th 2010 following the occupation of Millbank Tower, calling several national days of action that mobilised hundreds of thousands of students. In November 2011, we organised a national demonstration against the government’s higher education white paper, bringing 10,000 students to the streets of London. In November 2014, we led the mobilisation of another demonstration of 10,000 students, marching for free education.”

Context: The Students’ Association has organised student attendance at some NCAFC demonstrations in the past.

4. Stop Climate Chaos, Student Council 2011 (last reviewed at Student Council 2017)

Affiliation fee: None

<http://www.stopclimatechaos.org/>

“Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is a diverse coalition of 60 organisations in Scotland campaigning together on climate change. Our members include environment, faith and international development organisations, trade and student unions and community groups. SCCS is working to ensure Scotland plays its fair part in tackling climate change and that the commitments set out in the Scottish Climate Change Act are achieved, including targets to reduce emissions by 42% by 2020 and 80% by 2050.”

5. Votes at 16 Coalition, Student Council 2012 (last reviewed at Student Council 2017)

Affiliation fee: none

<http://www.votesat16.org/>

“The Votes at 16 Coalition campaigns for 16 and 17 year olds to be able to vote in all UK public elections. We are made up of leading youth and democracy organisations from across the UK.”



Context: 16 and 17 year olds can now vote in Scottish local and Scottish Parliament elections.

6. Right to Education Campaign, General Meeting 2005 (last reviewed at Student Council 2017)

Affiliation fee: none

<http://right2edu.birzeit.edu/>

“The Right to Education Campaign is a grassroots Palestinian movement that seeks to document, research and raise awareness about the issues facing Palestinian students, teachers and academic institutions under Israeli military occupation. Demanding unimpeded access for all Palestinians to their academic institutions, the Right to Education Campaign opposes Israel’s illegal occupation and attacks on Palestinian educational rights. The campaign also seeks to build an international movement in support of Palestinian students, teachers and educational institutions.”

Context: In the past few years at the Students’ Association Right to Education Week has consisted of several events organised by the Students for Justice in Palestine society in conjunction with visits from students from Birzeit.

7. Friends of Birzeit University (FOBZU), General Meeting 2005 (last reviewed at Student Council 2017)

Affiliation fee: £15 annual membership

<http://www.fobzu.org/welcome-fobzu>

“Friends of Birzeit University’ supports the right to education and its role in the wider development of Palestinian society. Fobzu is engaged in advocacy for academic freedom. Working with decision makers, the media and the general public, we raise awareness about the obstacles to education under occupation and campaign for Palestinian rights to be upheld.”

Context: General Meeting policy also twins the Students’ Association with Birzeit University.