

Miscellaneous Policy

Date Approved: 6 February 2016
Date Last Amended: 10 March 2016

1. Alcohol

That no alcoholic substances should be promoted at a NUSA function or event.

2. Annual Report

That in November/December, the Vice President compile an annual NUSA Report to be made available to all NUSA members and the wider community. This publication will include written reports from all office bearers, the Administrator and Finance Officer, as well as financial statements.

3. Breast Feeding

NUSA fully supports the rights of mothers to breast-feed their children wherever they wish to do so and will actively campaign to change the current perceptions that hinder women from exercising this right. NUSA will also continue to lobby the University to provide a parenting room on campus.

4. Car Parking

Newcastle University Students' Association is opposed to parking fees as this ,user-pays system is another way that students are being asked to subsidise their higher education. However, NUSA is fully supportive of public transport and EQUITABLE measures taken to reduce the number of cars being driven on to campus.

NUSA, via the Transport Convenor and the Transport Collective, will encourage students and staff to utilise public transport, by running awareness campaigns on campus and through the media. NUSA will also lobby the University to remove parking fees at all Newcastle University campuses.

That NUSA offers in principle support to the construction of a multilevel car park as just one element of a wider strategy to eliminate the transportation problems facing the Callaghan campus. NUSA calls upon the University to ensure that the car park be constructed in conjunction with sound environmental principles, and does not expect the carpark to be prioritized for use by staff.

Furthermore, NUSA calls upon the University to recognise that only longer term educational strategies designed to reduce the number of students and staff driving to University will provide a viable solution to the problems currently experienced, and that a weekly nominal amount from the parking fees be directed towards active campaigning for solid solutions.

That NUSA does not support fine collecting on campus by the State Debt Recovery Office and shall liaise with the appropriate people in the University to push for this practice to be stopped and returned to the providence of the University.

That NUSA strenuously objects to the exclusion of any full-time student from obtaining a student travel concession. NUSA shall therefore lobby parliamentarians by way of letters, media releases and other means available until a change is enacted to allow all students to gain concessional travel.

5. Caucusing

That no caucusing take place inside the NUSA office.

6. Disability Access

That NUSA hold meetings in venues and locations which are accessible for people with disabilities. This includes NUSA Executive, NUSA Council, and NUSA Collective meetings.

Further, that NUSA recognises its responsibilities to uphold the principles of equality and access, and so it will, as far as possible, implement measures designed to ensure that all services and facilities provided by NUSA are fully accessible to people with disabilities.

7. Environment

NUSA, in its operations, will not support activities that avoidably;

- 1) pollute land, air or waters;
- 2) destroy or waste non-renewable resources;
- 3) extract, create produce, manufacture or market materials products, goods or services which have a harmful effect on humans, non-human animals or the environment.

NUSA shall not be involved or deal with companies or organisations who generally have a poor environmental record or who are specifically involved in:

- 1) the logging or importation of primary rainforest timbers;
- 2) making or using wood chips except of genuine timber processing waste or forestry plantation thinning.
- 3) Logging, mining or exploration or other activities likely to disturb areas of environmental significance including;
 - i. areas on the Register or interim register of the National Estate;
 - ii. National Parks,
 - iii. World Heritage listed or nominated areas,
 - iv. Comparable identifiable classified areas in countries other than Australia;
 - v. All of Antarctica
- 4) the direct or indirect killing of whales, dolphins or seals;

- 5) the mining, processing, distribution or sale of Uranium
- 6) any involvement whatsoever with nuclear armaments;
- 7) major defence contracts;
- 8) the manufacture of ozone depleting substances;
- 9) the growing or processing of tobacco
- 10) human rights abuses

Further to this, NUSA will maintain and update (on an ongoing basis) a list of companies which are considered unethical because of their involvement in the aforementioned activities. A list of environmental friendly companies will similarly be created, maintained and updated. The Environment collective shall devise a set of criteria by which to judge and categorise a company so as to enable continual updates of the above mentioned lists. When either list is updated, it should be publicised through Opus, the Orientation Handbook and the Environmental handbook and made visible in the office and on campus noticeboards.

Indigenous Peoples and The Environment

NUSA acknowledges the distinct relationship most indigenous peoples have with the Earth and actively supports campaigns for land rights for indigenous peoples world-wide. Specifically, NUSA acknowledges Australian Aboriginal people as

possessing important knowledge of, and connection with the Australian environment and thus supports them in their effort to gain land rights.

Animal Experimentation

NUSA recognises that the experimentation on animals is an unnecessary part of the education system. NUSA believes that no student should be penalised if they do not wish to be involved in experimentation on animals. NUSA will encourage the University to cease all forms of animal experimentation and to develop alternative experimental methods.

Waste Minimisation

NUSA recognises the need for waste generation to be minimised and will.

- 1) implement within the office a waste audit;
- 2) implement the use of energy efficient lighting methods in the office;
- 3) set up aluminium, glass, plastic and paper recycling bins in or outside the office;

- 4) always use reusable plates, cups, and cutlery for NUSA functions;
- 5) encourage reduction in waste levels on campus by lobbying to abolish excessive plastic, polystyrene and by encouraging the use of recyclable packaging such as glass.

NUSA will lobby for the reduction in use of paper in general and for the use of unbleached 100% recyclable paper, specifically:

- 1) That University publications such as Faculty handbooks, diaries, Opus or others be printed on 100% unbleached recycled paper;
- 2) That the recycled paper made available to Universities be made either the same price as or less than the equivalent non-recycled paper;
- 3) That the majority of the libraries; photocopiers be converted to unbleached recycled paper;
- 4) That a program be undertaken to convert the single sided photocopiers on campus to double sided capability.

That where possible, all memos and reports be double sided.

That, depending upon the financial feasibility, NUSA adopt the use of 'renewed' or equivalent copier safe recycled paper for all paper use. Furthermore, that NUSA institute double sided printing wherever feasible.

8. External Students

That external students be able to utilise the same NUSA services as full fee paying students and that an effort should be made to try and incorporate them into all NUSA campaigns and events.

9. Handover

That Executive members and Collective Convenors compile a report before the end of their term of office, which includes details of campaigns organised, on-going issues and where relevant information is stored or to be found, and that this report be tabled at the final NUSAC of each year and provided with induction material the following year so as to inform incoming council members as to the state of affairs in their portfolio.

10. Indigenous Representation

NUSA acknowledges the past and present disadvantages imposed upon Indigenous people and communities and that effective Indigenous representation is an essential aspect of overcoming these disadvantages.

Specifically, NUSA believes that Indigenous representation within University structures, in areas of importance to Indigenous people, is insufficient and needs to be enhanced in both the number of representatives and the autonomy of those representatives. NUSA will openly support, assist and campaign for the creation of any and all new Indigenous representative positions that are supported by the Indigenous Students Collective.

11. Induction

That NUSA institute an annual forum and training day for the incoming NUSAC members of each year.

That when a position is filled the new Council Member receive a copy of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations and Policy Documents and sign a receipt stating as much; and that all nominees, upon submitting their nomination, receive a job description on an A4 sheet of paper which notes that the above documents are available on demand.

12. Industrial Relations

That NUSA recognises that the right to strike, the right to belong to a union and the right to collectively organise are fundamental human rights. Furthermore, we recognise that unions provide crucial protection for the basic rights, conditions and wages of students in the workforce

13. Queer

NUSA shall provide information in regards to alternative sexualities/genders and information on support services at the beginning of the academic year. NUSA shall also endeavour to disseminate via mainstream activities and events, information and representation (i.e. bands or films) of alternative sexualities/gender. It is also imperative that all future NUSA campaigns also take into account the violence against people of alternative sexualities/gender.

14. Racism

That NUSA, in conjunction with the International Students Convenor, International Students Collective, Indigenous Students Convenor and the Indigenous Students Collective will initiate campaigns and liaise with the appropriate University bodies to implement strategies to deal with racism on campus.

15. Reconciliation

That Newcastle University Students' Association expresses the strongest support for *Reconciliation Australia's* Reconciliation's vision of 'a united Australia which respects this land of ours; values the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage; and provides justice and equity for all.

Furthermore, NUSA calls upon the University to establish a plaque acknowledging the Awabakal people as the original and rightful owners of the land upon which the Callaghan campus is situated.

16. Reports to NUSAC

That all members of the Executive and Collective Convenors submit a report on their activities to each NUSAC, and that they provide these to the Public Officer or their nominee Seven (7) days before each NUSAC.

17. Women's

NUSA shall endeavor to disseminate via mainstream activities and events, information and representation of women's support services, issues, rights and equality. NUSA will also produce a women's only publication/ resource handbook as a forum for feminist debate, channelling useful information to women students with specific needs and for broadening the agenda of the University. A women's publication provides women students of many and varied backgrounds an opportunity to contribute to a production completely compiled by women, and which contributes to a women friendly environment at the University.

NUSA supports women organising autonomously and will support the campaign for an on campus Women's Room where women can meet; exchange ideas and experiences; organise campaigns and actions; and gain strength from the building of common bonds. women require, and should be accorded, a space on campus in which to feel free from overt sexism, harassment and discrimination.

NUSA should also support programs for women which seek to ensure not only women's full and equal participation in all social and economic activities, but also that the status of the skills, values and activities associated with women is enhanced in the eyes of all people of all genders.

NUSA also recognises the need to support International Women's Day and Reclaim the Night activities and subsidise the participation of NOWSA (Network of Women Students Australia). NUSA should actively liaise with organisers of these events . and disseminate information to students wherever possible.

NUSA will also defend the position of Women's Convenor against any threat or attack.