

MOTIONS DOCUMENT 1 | NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2013

These motions have been proposed for debate at National Conference 2013. Amendments to these motions will be taken until **8pm Monday 18th November**.

1 | The Marketisation of Higher Education

Proposed by **Birmingham Defend Education**

NCAFC Notes:

1. That the market in Higher Education is leading to increasing secrecy between institutions as they try to develop strategies to gain an increased market share and to out-compete their rivals.

NCAFC Believes:

1. That a public education system would be based on the free transfer of information between institutions and the public.
2. That the National Campaign Against Fees and Cuts should have no respect for institutions' commercial confidence.
3. That more public information about universities and colleges should be made available.

NCAFC Resolves:

1. That the national committee should liaise with contacts with the relevant skills in order to set up a secure way that people can leak documents about universities.
2. That the national committee should put a call out that as many important documents as possible are leaked.

2 | Amendment to the Constitution

Proposed by Birmingham Defend Education

NCAFC Resolves

1. To insert (Text in bold Italics indicates new text.) come into force for this years election to the national committee.

“The National Committee consists of:

14 members, or ***affiliated groups***, elected by single transferable vote (with 40% of the places ***not held by groups*** reserved for women)

- 1 voting representative for each Liberation Campaign (which can be shared)
- 1 voting representative for each Region or Nation (which can be shared)
- 1 voting representative for each Section (which can be shared)

Affiliated groups can offer themselves as candidates for election to the National Committee. They will then stand in the election along with the other individual members standing. If elected the group will receive a recallable delegate on the NC. The quota for self-defining women will be calculated with the places for recallable delegates removed. So for example if two recallable delegates are elected the quota would be 40% of 12 or 5.

Where a vote is shared, the representatives present must come to a majority view of how to vote; if not, they must abstain.

Sections and Regions are self-organising groups, and exist once they are recognised by the NC.

Any NCAFC member may attend NC meetings, and the NC can invite others if it wishes to. The NC can establish working groups of whoever it wants to take on various projects.”

2. To enforce this motion in this year’s election of the national committee.

3 | Agitating for, and supporting, workplace struggles by postgraduate HE workers

Proposed by UCL Defend Education

NCAFC notes:

1. Postgraduate students engaged in teaching work (and other duties) in various educational institutions have been organising and fighting over their rights as workers, including around pay, hours and casualization. Some campaigns have been conducted institution-wide, while others are focussed in individual departments of large institutions.

NCAFC believes:

1. NCAFC is in a position to foster and assist such organising by connecting activists.
2. We should push for workplace campaigns to be fought using effective collective action methods, encouraging and developing cultures of combative and democratic self-organisation of workers – both among these student workers specifically and in the wider trade unions they find themselves in (UCU etc.).

NCAFC resolves:

1. To offer material support to these struggles, by helping activists connect and giving local campaigns a platform to share their experiences – both victories and lessons learned – with the rest of the movement. In doing so we will agitate for more such workers to start organising and campaigning using collective action methods, by illustrating that it can be done and that gains can be made, and we will ensure activists in different places can learn from one another. This should include dedicated space in NCAFC's online presence (either on the website or the promised forum), putting activists in touch with each other (potentially to facilitate visits to campuses by activists who have already been engaged in struggles elsewhere), and in workshops and discussions at some of our events.
2. As this work is carried out through the coming year and campaigns develop and link up, to consider whether there is scope for NCAFC to organise a national meeting of student education workers.

4 | The Socialist Party

Proposed by **UCLU Defend Education**

NCAFC Notes:

1. Steve Hedley (assistant General Secretary of RMT) abused his ex-partner physically and mentally during their relationship.
2. Socialist party wrote on their website that Steve Hedley had no case to answer for, despite his victim having posted clear evidence of domestic violence online.
3. Steve Hedley was not cleared of domestic violence by the RM
4. The ex-partner of Steve Hedley was questioned about her mental health, asked about her personal history, and more degrading and accusing questions.

NCAFC Believes:

1. The SWP rape cover-up was shameful and those who continue to cover it up should be condemned.
2. Those that come forward to report rape should be believed.
3. Those that come forward to report domestic violence should be believed.
4. Victim blaming is horrible.
5. That revolution without women's liberation is no revolution at all.

NCAFC Resolves:

1. To publicly challenge the Socialist Party about the Steve Hedley case in any forum or capacity that we work with them.

5 | Labour Start Motion

Proposed by Royal **Holloway Anti-cuts Alliance**

NCAFC Believes:

1. Students' unions are inherently political and should campaign not only for their members' narrow interests but alongside the labour movement as a whole.
2. We should convince students of this through our actions.

3. LabourStart, an online news service oriented to the international trade union movement, runs a project called ActNow.
4. Trade unions from all over the world identify disputes which would benefit from an email campaign, and these are collated by LabourStart.
5. Increased support in these campaigns could have a notable impact.
6. Students' unions should be explicitly political and interested in more than just their members' narrow interests.
7. Students should orient themselves to the labour movement, and students' unions should encourage them to do so.
8. Many students' unions have access to all-student emails alongside other channels of communication.
9. This work requires very little effort and can easily be done alongside larger campus-based campaigns.

NCAFC Resolves:

1. Activists should bring regular motions to their students' union, mandating them to promote specific LabourStart campaigns.
2. A model motion on a specific campaign should be produced at least every two months during term time, and promoted through NCAFC.

6 | Greek Solidarity Motion

Proposed by Royal Holloway Anti-cuts Alliance and AWL Students

NCAFC notes:

1. We stand in solidarity with Greek workers facing enormous pay cuts and massive attacks on their working conditions and union rights, with the unemployed who increasingly cannot afford basic essentials like food and electricity, and with all oppressed peoples who are exponentially affected by cuts.
2. Draconian state repression and police brutality are increasing in Greece. The imprisonment of activists, summary deportation of migrants, and physical attacks by the police with batons, tear gas, water cannons, and lethal rubber bullets on demonstrators are now routine, and can only worsen.
3. Fascist street-violence is ever increasing. The threatening homophobic literature distributed by Golden Dawn, its racist migrant sweeps, and its physical attacks on socialists,

anarchists and trade unionists are seriously alarming, and require urgent cross-European anti-fascist action.

The NCAFC believes:

1. The intensifying struggles of the Greek working class will have a critical effect on the anti-austerity struggles of the rest of Europe.
2. We support the demands of Syriza – to nationalise the banks, to reverse all cuts, and to freeze all debt payments.
3. However, we also note that the demands of the state and the bosses will come into immediate conflict with Syriza's programme. Large sections of the state bureaucracy have already indicated that if Syriza is elected, they will refuse to carry out their programme. Increasing numbers of street fights, imprisonments, massacres of demonstrators, riots, sections of the state fighting against other sections, and expropriations of food and other resources, will lead to virtual civil war. We understand from the horrors of Pinochet's military dictatorship what will happen if a workers' government does not meet the threat of open class war.

The NCAFC resolves:

1. To approach the Greek student left, including Syriza, and other socialist and anarchist groups, to help organise a cross European conference in Greece in order to:
 - a) Show solidarity with the struggles of the Greek working class against austerity.
 - b) Contribute to establishing a European wide workers' response to the crisis, and to fascist mobilisations.
2. To organise other activities to that end, including NCAFC public meetings and/or a speaker tour across the UK to discuss what is happening in Greece, to organise protests at the Greek embassy in London in solidarity with workers' struggles, and to facilitate local fundraising events to raise money for strike funds, legal costs, electricity reconnection, demonstration protection, and other important workers' funds in Greece.
3. To circulate information in the British student movement about Greek students', workers' and anti-fascist struggles.
4. To seek to make links with the Greek student movement, and investigate bringing a Greek left student activist over to the UK for a speaker tour.

7 | General Orientation

Proposed by **University of London Union**

NCAFC Believes:

1. The local and national organisations of the UK student movement are mainly a product of a period of major struggles in 2010-2011. These struggles also radicalised a generation of activists, most of whom are coming to the end of their studies now.
2. New struggles, like the fight over student debt and workers' rights, will arise again, and some will reach the intensity of the battles of 2010/11. We should prepare for them. But whenever this revival comes, the student movement today needs to renew itself and build organisations that can keep going even in quieter times.
3. A key legacy of 2010 is the existence of active campus left-wing groups, generally with a name relating to 'anti-cuts' or 'defend education'.
4. Many of these groups still exist, but generally in a state of decline: they have fewer and more irregular meetings; they struggle to attract new faces; they are generally less active.
5. There also exist a number of generic left-wing discussion groups on campuses, for instance more established ones like Birmingham's 'Broad Left Society' and Edinburgh's 'Socialist Society', and UCL's newer 'Left Forum'.
6. Another legacy of 2010 is that NCAFC and general leftwing activists now hold many more students' union sabbatical positions and, in some cases, control the entire students' union.

NCAFC Further Believes:

1. We support the 'Birmingham model' where a campus has:
 - a. A broad leftwing discussion group, which is democratic and not dominated by a faction or specific strain of thought.
 - b. An active anti-cuts or defend education group which is as open and democratic as possible, and affiliated to NCAFC.
2. Building these groups, and attracting new members to them, is vital for the longevity of both NCAFC and the student movement in general.
3. Winning posts in students' unions is desirable but not a substitute for building these activist groups.
4. Controlling a students' union can give our campaigns additional funding and resources, legitimacy, and weight.

5. Sabbatical officers have certain administrative powers over the union which can be helpful but can also undermine its campaigning capacity. This includes using bureaucratic methods to solve political problems: for instance, bureaucratic bans of reactionary people, ideas or publications.

NCAFC Resolves:

1. Activists should create or develop these two kinds of leftwing groups.
2. Activists should seek to win students' union elections, but as a complement to not substitute for building these groups.
3. Activists with more experience of this should write up materials and provide support for this.

8| Fundraising

Proposed by **AWL Students**

NCAFC Notes:

1. That NCAFC is a non-profit campaign with no major financial backers or political party support.
2. That NCAFC requires money to function - to run its events, and meet its accessibility policies.
3. That in general, Student Unions are much richer than NCAFC and have more funds.

NCAFC Believes:

1. Believes that members have a collective responsibility for the success of the organisation. Becoming a member of the NCAFC is a commitment to support our work nationally, decide what the NCAFC is going to do – and to help carry out those decisions.

NCAFC Resolves:

1. To form a 'fundraising task group' to work throughout the year on fundraising, through grant applications, fundraising events, donations and other creative ideas.
2. That it should be a general rule of thumb, where possible, for expenses related to members attending NCAFC events to be covered by Student Unions, where that member is part of a student union affiliated to NCAFC.

3. That in general, all members of NCAFC should take a conscious turn towards more fundraising activity in the upcoming period.

9| Benefits for students

Proposed by **NCAFC Disabled students Caucus**

NCAFC Believes:

1. Many students take leave of absence for a huge number of reasons and the financial strain on individuals may mean the students are unable to take a leave of absence, therefore putting additional stress on to students.
2. Only students in receipt of DLA or PIP and were full time students that take a leave of absence are eligible for ESA and Housing Benefit.
3. There are a number of reasons why students will take a leave of absence, for example bereavement, disability, mental health, financial etc.
4. ATOS assessments frequently judge people as “fit to work” when the person is evidently unable to work. Many people’s doctors will sign them off work, as in their professional opinion they are unable to work, after which an ATOS assessment may deem someone fit to work.
5. NCAFC should be working with other organisations to campaign for the rights of all students taking a leave of absence, to have financial security and the ability to apply for ESA and JSA.

NCAFC Resolves:

1. NCAFC will campaign to ensure that job seekers allowance, ESA, housing benefit and all other related benefits are available to students taking a leave of absence.
2. NCAFC will contact relevant organisations campaigning against ATOS and take part in or organise a day of action against ATOS.
3. NCAFC will build links with the relevant trade unions for DWP and ATOS workers, and unemployed workers unions and groups, to work jointly on campaigning.

10| Housing

Proposed by **UCL Defend Education**

NCAFC Believes:

1. Housing has become one of the most significant issues in the student movement, and NCAFC has played a positive role in pursuing a radical and effective programme of organisation and political demands centred on tenants unions, coops social housing, rent caps, knowledge of rights and affordability.

NCAFC Further Believes:

1. It is vital that we continue to build a housing campaign, but also to learn from what we have experienced in the past year.
2. In practice the setting up of tenants unions can be difficult; we need a clearer vision for how to build housing organisations. This basically means building action and solidarity networks before structures in most cases.

11| Building the strikes after the strike

Proposed by **UCL Defend Education**

NCAFC Resolves:

1. To produce a guide on establishing housing campaigns. [UCL Defend Education anticipates that this motion will be amended in due course to flesh out content].

NCAFC Believes:

1. The present wave of strikes is one of the most important developments since the 2011 disputes. They present an opportunity to focus nationally after years of localisation and failure of the bureaucracies to present any serious coordinated resistance to the government's programme.
2. The role of the student movement must be to give confidence to staff and place pressure on national union leaderships to keep the strike going.

NCAFC Resolves:

1. To call for action and local mobilisation in support of the strikes following the 3rd December on a specific date.