

David Wilkins  
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**DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 31<sup>st</sup> 2009**

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**TO: MEMBERS OF NUS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE**

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**FROM: DAVID WILKINS, NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY**

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**SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY,  
National Executive Round 2: April 4<sup>th</sup> 2009**

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#### COMPLETED DOCUMENTS

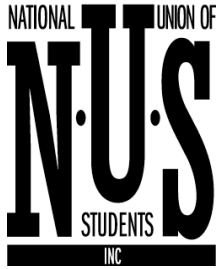
- 2009 NUS Strategic Plan
- 2009 NUS Budget Executive Summary
- 2009 NUS Affiliation Fees - Consultation Report and Discussion Paper
- 2009 NUS Affiliation Fees - Application Form for Further Reduction
- 2008 NUS Annual Financial Report Submission

#### ATTENDANCE

- Senate Inquiry Public Hearing, Student Services and Amenities Fee, Wednesday 4 March

#### CAMPUS VISITS

- Tasmania University Union, Affiliate Consultation, Monday 2 February
- Australian National University Students Association, Affiliate Consultation, Tuesday 3 February (also in attendance was University of Canberra Students Association)
- University of Technology, Sydney, Affiliate Consultation, Thursday 5 February (also in attendance was University of Sydney SRC and University of New South Wales ARC)
- Adelaide University Union, Affiliate Consultation, Monday 9 February (also in attendance was University of South Australia UniLife and Flinders University Students Association (Flinders One))
- University of Western Australia Guild, Wednesday 11 February (also in attendance was Curtin University of Technology Student Guild and Murdoch Guild of Students)
- Australian National University Students Association, various O'Week activities, Monday 16 - Friday 20 February
- University of Canberra Students Association, various O'Week activities, Monday 16 - Friday 20 February
- Adelaide University Union, various O'Week activities Monday 23 - Thursday 26 February
- University of New South Wales ARC, Board Presentation, Wednesday 11 March
- University of South Australia, Campus NDA, Wednesday 18 March
- South Australia, Cross Campus NDA, Wednesday 25 March



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## ACTIONS ARISING FROM LAST REPORT

- **RECOMMENDATION 2: That the National General Secretary be authorised to wind-up UNISTUDENT.COM PTY LTD**

This process has occurred in two stages - the first stage was updating the list of company office holders for UNISTUDENT.COM PTY LTD, as NUS currently has no record of who the current company office holder for UNISTUDENT.COM PTY LTD is nor has updated contact details for this person. As such, I have requested ASIC update the list to include myself, as the National General Secretary, as a company office holder. This was approved by ASIC.

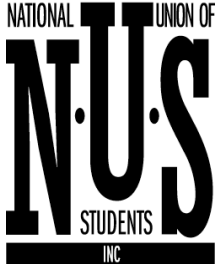
The second stage involves an application for voluntary deregistration of UNISTUDENT.COM PTY LTD. This has been approved by ASIC and will now be published in the Australian Government Gazette. ASIC may deregister the company two months after the publication of the notice. This notification will be sent through to myself, as the National General Secretary and applicant. I will advise National Executive if and when this occurs.

Further to this, it has come to my attention that the Australian Taxation Office has not received income tax returns for the period ending 30/06/2005, 30/06/2006, or 30/06/2007. This is of concern as this could lead to prosecution from the ATO. I am currently investigating how this can be rectified. Of interest, while I have been able to update the list with ASIC to place me as a company office holder, it appears that this doesn't automatically transfer over to the ATO. As such, because I am not a current company office holder according to the ATO I am unable to progress this further.

## 2009 AFFILIATION FEES

As previously outlined in the 2009 Affiliations Model paper, tabled at the last National Executive Meeting, all member organisations were invoiced at \$5.47 per EFTSL as per the NUS Constitution. I am pleased to note that the first campus to pay their affiliation fees AND at the full rate was Monash Union of Berwick Students (MUBS). I would like to take this opportunity to thank MUBS and in particular Nick McLennan, President of MUBS. 'Patriot Campus of the Year 2009' I hope this encourages other member organisations to consider increasing their financial contribution to NUS and pushing for affiliation to NUS in 2009.

**RECOMMENDATION 1: That NUS National Executive formally thanks Monash Union of Berwick Students and Nick McLennan, MUBS President for the full and early payment of their affiliation fees.**



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## 2009 NUS BUDGET

The NUS Budget was developed during the first half of February, with Budget Committee meeting on Sunday 22 February in Adelaide. I was pleased to note that most departments were provided with their full request for their specific departmental budgets. In addition, the budget has been delivered in a fiscally responsible manner. I also note with interest that no amendments were made to the original budget presented, which hopefully demonstrates that all sectors of National Office should be pleased with this framework.

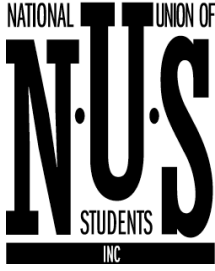
Aspects of the budget, which should be highlighted:

- an increase in the expected affiliation fees - with significant work now surrounding the collection of these fees
- an increase in the resources allocated to the National Campaign - in particular the Demand a Better Future: Less Talk, More Action Campaign
- an increase in the resources allocated for National Officers to travel, ensuring that National Officers are supporting activism from a grass roots level
- streamlined state branch funding to acknowledge the diverse needs of different states
- full support of the WA State Branch, highlighting the unique situation face by activists in that state

Further to the allocation of resources as part of the budgeting process, it is imperative that income on the one hand and savings on the other hand are continuously investigated throughout the year to ensure that the finances of NUS are protected. As a result, I will continue to investigate alternative revenue streams, aggressively target affiliation fees and exploit further cost saving opportunities throughout the year.

In addition to the development of the NUS Budget 2009, I have prepared the 2009 NUS Budget Executive Summary in light of growing interest in NUS and its financial position. This seeks to provide member organisations and other interested parties with an overview of the expenses of NUS and where the scarce resources of NUS are being allocated.

I seek direction from National Executive, as the body responsible for the monitoring of NUS finances, for the use of this document. It is envisaged that this will be made available on our website to ensure easy access to our financial information. However, National Executive will need to consider any consequences associated with the unprecedented disclosure of our financial position - particularly in light of any legislation currently being considered by the Federal Parliament.



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**RECOMMENDATION 2: That the NUS National Executive direct the NUS National General Secretary to upload the 2009 NUS Budget Executive Summary onto the website.**

### 2009 NUS STRATEGIC PLAN

Policy that I moved at the last NUS National Conference outlined the need for NUS and its departments to develop strategic objectives and for this to be effectively communicated to member organisations and other interested parties. This was designed to compliment the overall need to increase the accountability, transparency and professionalism of NUS. In addition, the development of strategic objectives has enabled the activities of NUS to be more streamlined with greater awareness of what each department seeks to achieve throughout the year.

After extensive work from all National Officers, it was with great pleasure that I was able to launch the 2009 NUS Strategic Plan on 13 March 2009. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all National Officers for their hard work in contributing to this document. Feedback received to date has been extremely positive towards this document. Extra hard copies are available upon request.

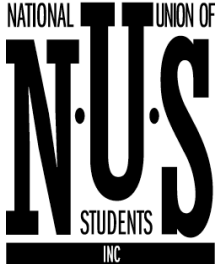
Copies of the 2009 NUS Strategic Plan combined with copies of the 2008 NUS Annual Report were mailed to all member organisations with a letter promoting affiliation to NUS. In addition, the 2009 NUS Strategic Plan has been made available on our website, with over 100 hits already!

### 2009 NUS AFFILIATION FEES - CONSULTATION REPORT AND DISCUSSION PAPER

As outlined at the 2009 NUS President Summit and the first NUS National Executive meeting, I embarked on a consultation tour with member organisations regarding affiliation to NUS and the generation of affiliation fees. This was an incredibly valuable experience and I would like to thank all representatives for their insight, thoughts and opinions.

Following from this consultation tour, I have developed a consultation report, which seeks to outline the key issues that were raised as part of the consultations while also taking the opportunity to respond to how these issues are being addressed or could be addressed. This also generated many questions, which I sought to open to discussion by member organisations through the discussion paper. At the time of writing this report, I am yet to receive any response from these questions.

This report has been made available on our website, with over 100 hits already, while also being mailed out to all President's. It is also attached to this report.



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## 2009 NUS AFFILIATION FEES - APPLICATION FORM FOR FURTHER REDUCTION

One of the issues raised during the Affiliations Consultations with member organisations, was the need for the application for further reduction of affiliation fees to become more streamlined and effective. In addition, with the need to ensure consistency and transparency, NUS must be able to collect the same data from all member organisations to ensure that its decision is reflective not only of the particular member organisation but also in comparison to others.

As such, based on feedback received regarding the criteria in which applications for further reductions in affiliation fees should be judged, I have prepared an application form which will streamline the application process while also ensuring the key data is garnered from all member organisations.

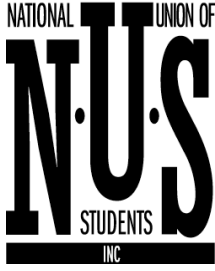
All member organisations which will be seeking a fee reduction on their affiliation fees, will need to complete this application form and send this into me, as National General Secretary, by COB 24 April 2009 with all relevant supporting documentation. Applications received after this date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

This application form has been attached to this report and has also been made available on our website.

## 2009 NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION

I was asked to travel to South Australia for both the Campus and Cross Campus NDA's being held. Having seen previous efforts of organising actions for the NDA, I was pleased to see that something had actually been planned for the cross campus NDA, with students signing petitions and a fake wedding ceremony being held at the University of Adelaide. I would like to pay particular attention to the work of Paris Dean, SRC President who was instrumental in organising this action. Also I would like to note that National Triple J as the news byte chose Paris for the following three hours worth of media coverage which was a fantastic achievement, considering all the other actions happening across Australia.

I would also like to extend a huge congratulations to patriot campuses, Australian National University and University of Canberra, who were successful in gaining national media attention and over 1000 students attending their rally at Union Court, ANU. This was an incredible achievement and highlighted that when actions are organised around issues, which actually impact students - that they are far more likely to engage in a meaningful way with NUS and its objectives. Congratulations also to Sham Sara and Kurt Steel for their hard work in organising this NDA.



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## DEADLINES

I'm sure all National Officers and State Branch Presidents are eager to hear who will be getting the Gold Star for submitting their report by the due date and first! After much frustration dealing with the Internet and wondering if others had beaten her to the spot, it will be going to Stefie Hinchy, National Education Officer.

## NUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE

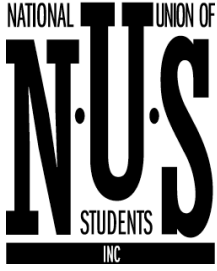
I have been in contact with the University of Ballarat Accommodation Services with regards to organising the NUS National Conference to be held in December 2009. At this stage, UB are happy to have NUS return for our annual conference and have been able to offer us the dates of Monday 14 December - Saturday 19 December. This is an increase of one night from last year as it was felt that sufficient time to debate policy was not provided at last year's conference. I had attempted to get the week before (7 December 2009) however there is another booking during the middle of the week, meaning it would be inappropriate for NUS to attend that week. Also UB would prefer that we 'bump-in' on a Monday rather than a Sunday, so I have looked to accommodate this request.

This will obviously result in a small increase in the cost associated with attendance at NUS National Conference; however, I am looking to increase the level of sponsorship for this Conference in an attempt to offset many of these expenses. In addition, I will be looking to ensure that NUS National Conference either operates at a break even or small surplus point.

**RECOMMENDATION 4: That the NUS National Executive authorise the National General Secretary to confirm the booking with UBAS for the NUS National Conference and that the dates for NUS National Conference will be Monday 14 December - Saturday 19 December.**

## CONCLUSION

The last two months have been incredibly busy in shaping the future activities of NUS. I have personally enjoyed the opportunity to speak to member organisations about their affiliations and I look forward to the task of aggressively seeking affiliation fees from member organisations. I also hope to be able to address many of the issues raised during the consultation period with the viewpoint to ensuring that NUS increases its transparency, accountability, value-for-money, and professionalism.



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The key for NUS will be ensuring that we are able to effectively communicate to our membership base the important work that we are doing and how this is of benefit to them. In addition, we must ensure that we are offering value for money and that the services we provide are relevant and of use to our members. While the work that NUS is doing is very valuable to our members, it often has failed to be effectively communicated to them meaning the argument to continue affiliation is made more difficult through a lack of understanding on the member organisations behalf.

In Unity,

David Wilkins  
National General Secretary  
National Deputy President  
National Union of Students Inc.

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Appendices:

1. 2009 NUS Budget Executive Summary
2. 2009 NUS Affiliation Fees - Consultation Report and Discussion Paper
3. 2009 NUS Affiliation Fees - Application Form for Further Reduction