

Show Your Support for Munya in his Campaign for NUS VP Welfare!

NUS National Conference 2016

Surrey Students' Union is a member of the National Union of Students (which is why you can apply for a NUS card!) and we pay approximately £40,000 per year for this membership. As their title suggests, the NUS represent students on a national level through their elected officers (national President and Vice Presidents). The national officers have direct contact with the UK government and help shape national policy that impacts on students all over the country, through discussing student issues with government ministers, speaking to the national press and attending national events highlighting the problems students face.

The NUS conference will also elect the NUS leadership for the year to come and this year, your VP Voice, Munya, is running to become the next national VP Welfare! Surrey Union has never had a candidate for a full time NUS position, and we are very excited to support Munya's campaign.

You can find out more about Munya and why he wants to be the next NUS VP Welfare by looking at his campaign [page](#), or scroll down to check out his manifesto.

Apart from the election of the new full time national officers, where you'll see Munya take centre stage ... there are several policy motions that might just catch your eye. If any of these motions are passed, they will affect the lives of students **across the country** and isn't something to be taken lightly. Check out some of our highlights [here](#).

VOTE MUNYA.

The Munya Movement.

Normally, any candidate would start their manifesto by telling you all about themselves, for example they are a black, disabled student, from a Muslim family coming from a working class household.

This is not about me however; this is about you.

I care about you if you are a single parent studying part time at an FE, or a new undergrad at a Russell Group University from a private school or anywhere in between with any set of circumstances. Factions, groups and divisions have been the norm for decades in this Union, and I want to stand for something different.

#THEMUNYAMOVEMENT



The NUS is broken. Infighting and positional politics has undermined the collective power and voice of the student movement. Like many officers, I have experienced the negative impact this has had on my own students' union, elected officers, and ultimately the representation of students. We need to do better. In a climate where students are under attack from racist and discriminatory policies, we need to do better. With cuts to services that help the most disadvantaged students in our society, we need to do better. With student unions under direct attack through policy determined to infringe the rights and freedoms of students, we need to do better. We can no longer allow the division to undermine the strength of our student movement; let's move forward to a brighter, more inclusive and united Student Movement.

1. Campaigns for Unions, Campaigns for you

Student campaigning needs to evolve with modern society; that's why I will ensure we have a new, flexible democratic approach to the delivery of campaigns. Protesting out on the streets of Westminster is one positive tactic of several; the NUS also needs to be responsive to those students for whom this method is inaccessible. You might be fighting for Wednesday afternoons to be free, or cuts to welfare provision on and off campus, or accommodation standards, or the local bus service – whatever it is, if it is important to your students then it needs to be important to the NUS as well.

I will develop a universal campaigns advice pack that informs unions of how to deliver effective campaigns using their own mechanisms of governance and how these campaigns can be communicated in new, creative and effective ways using the latest technology and trends.

2. Healthy students, healthy minds

Unprecedented numbers of students are today struggling with their mental wellbeing. I have seen first-hand the effects of mental health problems in my University as well as in my own life and I can only see these problems getting worse unless we continue to push for more help and resources. Too often this problem is fobbed off on NHS provided services that are struggling to cope. I will make sure Universities do more to further embed the wellbeing of students into the heart of the education system.

I want to enable more staff in recognising the problems early and provide help and guidance where it's needed most. Student unions are at the forefront of this battle and they need the right support to force a cultural shift within their institutions and fight for a wellbeing environment that their members need.

I will champion the 'Healthy Universities' initiative that puts wellbeing at the core of university strategies, I will also champion its expansion so that all education institutions both HE and FE can be a part of something designed to make the student experience better.

I will undertake research to determine what the basic level of student support should look like in an ever evolving environment.

3. Pushing Prevent off Campus

Our government has resorted to fighting their so-called 'War on Terrorism' not only with missiles and mass surveillance, but by making our students easy targets to make middle England feel comfortable at night. While claiming that 'our way of life must not be altered by ISIS' the government are systematically turning our country into a place where academics are recruited as state sponsored spies and files are kept on seditious suspects. Project Fear is alive and well and the scapegoats are students. If we really do believe that we must not let terrorists change our way of life, then we must resist this new culture of fear and suspicion on campuses. I will make sure Students unions are at the core of protecting the rights and freedoms of students and of wider society, we must resist this initiative with our collective might.

I will continue the lobbying of government and our institutions against Prevent and ensure that all student unions can confidently communicate the impact of Prevent to their student body.

I will work with students' unions to help them mobilise student societies so we tackle Prevent at all levels.

4. Scraping by

It has never been easy living on a student budget, it was never supposed to be – but the national housing crisis combined with the removal of student number caps has now put unbearable pressure on student living costs and the quantity of accommodation available. Student Unions are witnessing first-hand how education, an experience that is supposed to transform individuals into better versions of themselves, is devolving into a nightmare, one that many students would discourage others from undertaking. To make the experience of being a student one worth a recommendation, I will push for more provision of affordable student housing across the UK. We are living in a time where Landlords are treating students with contempt, and alongside this institutions are treating students as little more than piggy banks that they can shake whenever they want more money, while offering little to no support. This brazen exploitation of those with the least ability to pay must end now.

**I will campaign for rent caps for student accommodation.
I will help students unions lobby local government as I do the same at a national level; with the aim to build affordable and quality accommodation for students.**

My record so far...

- NUS NEC Member.
- NUS Welfare Zone committee member
- Two term full time officer, two term part time officer delivering real change in my own Union.
- Institution signed up to Time to Change charter.
- Fought for funding to introduce first ever night bus in Guildford
- Responsible for student elections, achieving best ever turnout in most diverse elections.
- Biggest ever celebration of Black History Month on our campus
- Agreement from institution to fund new student lettings agency.
- Secured future of dedicated LGBT club event on campus.
- Biggest ever participation in campus Course Rep programme.
- Fought for, and won for our student nurses on their course assessment and marking
- Opposed prevent and passed policy on this
- Achieved full time support staff for eating disorders on campus
- Fought for and achieved a real terms campus rent freeze for all accommodation.
- Fought for increased funding to accommodation repairs.
- Invited to meet with the minister for Higher Education, Jo Johnson MP to discuss student issues from our own Union.



You can watch the conference unfold live online [here](#). When the national officer elections take place, we'll be following Munya's campaign closely and you can join in on twitter, using #NUSconference.

Join the debate, support Munya and discuss motions.

