

# News Release



Southampton University  
Students' Union

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## *Southampton University Students Union votes to leave the National Union Of Students*

At an Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15th May a motion was passed by Southampton University Students' Union to cease renewing affiliation to the National Union of Students. Southampton joins many Students' Unions across the country, including UMIST, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Imperial College who are not members of the NUS. The motion was prompted by students, already disillusioned with the NUS, who were disgusted by what they saw as delegates at the Annual NUS Conference last month.

The motion was passed at a packed AGM with a turnout of over 300 students. Each year Southampton University Students Union pays £68,850 (2002 rate) to affiliate to the National Union of Students. Although denied by the NUS, once a Union is disaffiliated from the NUS students may obtain an 'Associate Membership' card giving them entitlement to a discount card only.

### **The proposer of the Motion, Alex Bazin, Clubs & Societies Officer – elect said:**

"The NUS does not provide the level of support or representation that our students expect for the amount of money we pay. I feel that SUSU can provide more than the NUS for far less, leaving money for our Clubs & Societies and Athletic Union."

### **The seconder of the Motion, Cat Brown, Union Vice-President (Education & Welfare) - elect said:**

"A big loss to the Union will be in the training of our Sabbaticals and Executive Officers in the skills necessary for their positions. However, we feel that we can provide training to just as high a standard for considerably less than £70,000."

### **Union President Stephen Edwards said:**

"Southampton University Students want a National Union that truly represents them without wasting their money on the bureaucracy and the political time wasting of the NUS. For decades the NUS has refused to reform, deciding instead to remain under the control of political factions and giving real students very little. Only 10% of Southampton University students actually collect their NUS card, clearly showing how little the NUS means to them. The £70,000 saved can go towards activities that Southampton Students want: effective campaigns, proper representation and more money for their Clubs and Societies."

### **Notes for editors:**

- ✂ Southampton University Students' Union leaves NUS.
- ✂ Southampton University Students' Union affiliation fee to the NUS (2002) is £68,850
- ✂ Only 10% of Southampton University Students collect NUS cards.
- ✂ A sabbatical officer is an elected Union Officer who takes a year out during, or after, their degree to work full time in the Students' Union.
- ✂ An Officer–elect, is an officer who has been elected but does not take office until their term starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✂ NUS Website: <http://www.nusonline.co.uk>
- ✂ No2NUS Website: <http://www.no2nus.co.uk/> and at Imperial College <http://union.ic.ac.uk/no2nus/>
- ✂ Imperial College, London, recently held a referendum: 72% voted in favour of remaining outside of the NUS.

Southampton University Students' Union is known with the acronym 'SUSU'. Southampton University Students Union represents the 20,000 students of the University of Southampton and has been in existence in various forms since 1903. It now has an annual turnover in excess of £5m and employs over 100 permanent staff.

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