

Mr. Bob Hay
Permanent Secretary
Students Representative Council
University of Glasgow
University Avenue
Glasgow
G12 8QQ

6 November 2006

Dear Bob,

NUS Affiliation Referendum

I have now had an opportunity to consider your letter of 20 October and have raised the issue with my Finance Committee.

In response to point 1 the Queen Margaret Union would not be prepared to contribute to the affiliation fee to NUS. The Queen Margaret Union have adopted a clear anti-affiliation position and will not consider making any financial contribution to NUS.

In point 2, the question of savings has been raised. The Queen Margaret Union was involved with NUSSL when that organisation was founded and has always had an opportunity to rejoin regardless of the NUS affiliation position at Glasgow. We have consistently refrained from joining in that we believe it is not in the best interest of the members of Queen Margaret Union. It has regularly been suggested that there could be a financial advantage to joining NUSSL but to the best of my knowledge the model Edinburgh University Students Association used to calculate the benefits resulted in minimal cost savings. The issue for the QM Union is a lack of choice. NUSSL operate a "must stock" policy and to the best of my knowledge operate a quota system on draught products and key brands. The Queen Margaret Union values its independence and a right of choice based on customer demands. We believe we should have the right to choose the products we sell without having to operate to a predetermined quota.

The Queen Margaret Union is against any change or recalculation that will result in a further reduction in the allocation of the University block grant to this institution. We believe our share of the block grant has been significantly eroded and could not support any decision that would further reduce the amount available to the Queen Margaret Union.

Yours sincerely

Anthony McConachie MHCIMA
General Manager