

# Left Unity National Council meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Attendance:** Kate H, Jon D (Eastern), Jack C, Sarah McD (London), David L (London), Rachel GW (London), Mathew C, Fran B (Yorks and Humb), Felicity D, Alison T (NW), Sharon McC, Marianne CJ (Eastern and Women's caucus), Ann B (Wales), Louise C (London), Pete McL, Barbara S (SW), Len A (Wales), Bianca T, Stephen M (East Mids), PipT, Andrew B, Matthew J (Scotland), Eve T, Terry C, Doug T (London), Oliver N, Liz D, Josphe H (London), James T (NW), Kathy L, Liam C (London), Luke C, Dave T (West Mids)

**Observers:** Toby A

## 1. NC minutes and matters arising

- a. Constitution commission – refer back to EC.
- b. Internal Elections
- c. Standing orders – agreed that we would only run a by-election if there are positive nominations for women.
- d. Disputes Committee – agreed to record and send a vote of thanks to Sheila Mosley for all the work she has put into the Disputes Committee.
- e. Minutes agreed.

## 2. EC Minutes and decisions for approval

- a. Economics Day School – rescheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> with Eric Toussaint.
- b. The speed of producing EC minutes was raised by Joseph H.
- c. EC minutes agreed.

## 3. TUSC letter

- a. Reminded that conference policy was not to join TUSC.
- b. Kate H proposed that we have a meeting with TUSC as requested to discuss plans towards next elections.
- c. Oliver N proposed an amendment that we only take proposals to the meeting and not just have a general discussion. Amendment was agreed and Kate's motion was agreed as amended.

## 4. Draft Standing Orders for NC – Liz introduced

- a. She proposed two amendments to her draft, that in Clause 9 2 mins be changed to 2.5 mins, and that in Clause 12 it should make clear that a record of each individual's voting should be kept at the National Office.
- b. In the discussion the following amendments were proposed:
- c. Jon D proposed that there should be minutes taken of all meetings and that this should be rotated amongst the nationally elected 15 and that we need to define when the NC's annual meeting was.
- d. Dave proposed that in Paragraph 9 there should be a summing up.
- e. James questioned the need for secret ballots in paragraph 13.
- f. Sarah proposed that we refer the document back so that something less prescriptive could be produced.
- g. Oliver proposed that the voting records not include procedural motions and that all motions should be numbered.
- h. Kate suggested that the NC's annual meeting should be the first meeting after the internal elections.
- i. Liz responded by accepting the amendments except for the reference back. She also accepted the need for a calendar to be published. She proposed that the summing up should be for 2.5 minutes.
- j. The reference back motion was lost.
- k. All amendments were agreed except that on the secret ballot.
- l. The vote on voting by a secret paper ballot was lost.

- m. The vote on the Draft Standing Orders was carried.
- 5. **Election Items – Terry C reported.**
  - a. Jeremy Corbyn standing for LP leadership – it was agreed that we issue a press statement on the ballot subject to checking with his campaign.
  - b. Terry's items
    - i. Standing Election Committee – to be organised by Nominating Officer and to include reps from Wales and Scotland committees as well as London committee and reps from branches where local elections will be held in 2016.
    - ii. Committee to produce briefings for candidates.
    - iii. Election schools to be organised to give candidates and others confidence. EC to discuss in detail.
  - c. Terry's report accepted.
- 6. **Campaigns and branches – Simon reported**
  - a. Need for a Branch Organisers' event.
  - b. Website needs local reports from branches.
- 7. **EU referendum**
  - a. EC to prepare discussion on EU for next NC with a view to a debate at next National Conference – agreed.
- 8. **Statement on Greece from Liverpool meeting - endorsed**
- 9. **Procedural Motion** – to move finance report to next item – agreed.
- 10. **Finance Report** – Andrew introduced.
  - a. Terry proposed that the EC has an extended discussion on finances and fundraising – agreed.
  - b. Report accepted.
- 11. **Scotland Conference Report** – Matthew reported
  - a. Proposed that we have a more detailed discussion or Conference on Scotland and Wales – agreed.
- 12. **Motion on Manchester Comrade** – agreed to take motion.
  - a. Motion moved by Jack C.
  - b. Motion defeated ( 9for 23 against 5abstentions)
  - c. Agreed to send case to Disputes Committee and for a report to be produced by end of July.
  - d. Jon proposed that SOC should look into making discussions in meetings the property of the meeting – agreed.
- 13. **Motion from Wigan** – moved by James
  - a. Motion defeated (13 for 17against 4 abstentions)
- 14. **Autumn Political Event** – Luke reported and introduced motion to support event.
  - a. Agreed to offer to open LU Office to assist in organisation of this event.
  - b. Motion carried nem con
- 15. **Safer Spaces** – moved by Felicity.
  - a. Alternative proposal from Eve and Barbara that a workshop be organised to discuss issues and see if a document can be produced for the LU Conference.
  - b. Joseph moved an amendment that the LGBT and other caucuses, as well as the Disputes and Appeals committees, have reps - accepted by Felicity.
  - c. Motion not carried (17 for 17 against)
  - d. Alternative proposal carried with 1 abstention.
  - e. Officers to look at motion and bring proposals.
- 16. **Motion from Leicester LU carried unanimously.**
- 17. **June 20<sup>th</sup> Demonstration** – Simon reported on preparations.
- 18. **Pre-Conference Timetable** – introduced by Terry
  - a. Liz D proposed that the Saturday be on politics and the Sunday on constitution – agreed.
  - b. Proposed that EC look at word limit on motions – agreed.

- c. Timetable proposed: September 5<sup>th</sup>: motions deadline; September 13<sup>th</sup>: motions on website; September 25<sup>th</sup>: amendments deadline; October 16<sup>th</sup>: SoC report; Conference 24/25 October in London. Terry to liaise with SoC.