

*pn*Wales

The Newsletter of NPC Wales · May 2002

NPC Wales is Launched

On Saturday 16 March 2002, the National Postgraduate Committee Wales held its inaugural meeting. Attended by representatives from students' unions around Wales, we set about the not inconsiderable task of putting post-graduate issues on the Welsh agenda.



One aim of all this is first to make contact with relevant officers in students' unions. These include postgraduate officers, mature students of officers, sabbaticals with responsibility for postgraduates and/or education issues, union presidents, and of course post-graduate committees/forums/associations. Every union has a different structure so it is taking us time to get to everyone — if we should be in touch with you and this is the first you've heard, get in touch with us, it would be great to hear from you.

Our first task was to set up the internal organisation and communications of the group. We now have a presence on the NPC website:

<http://www.npc.org.uk/wales>

and an email discussion group — join up on the website:

<http://www.npc.org.uk/jiscmail>

A bilingual NPC Wales poster is forthcoming, and you are holding the first issue what will become our regular newsletter, *pn Wales!*

Having established our internal structure and communications we will go forward to campaign on postgraduate issues in Wales — more on this below, and more news at our next meeting in May, see the box for details.

Postgraduate Student Hardship

Assembly Learning Grants

The Assembly's draft proposals exclude postgraduates from these, which we felt could increase still further the hardship experienced by postgraduates in Wales — especially those with childcare responsibilities. We are planning to submit a petition to the Assembly, a copy of which is enclosed. Please support this by collecting as many signatures as possible.

The Rees Report — one year on.

June 2002 will mark the Rees Report's first anniversary; however, the majority of recommendations relating to postgraduates seem not to have been acted on, including student loan eligibility and access to benefits during the writing up period of research study. NPC Wales has written to the National Assembly to find out what is happening with these recommendations.

Next Meeting of NPC Wales

18 May 2002

Swansea University Students' Union

12-5pm

Including:

- Update on Hardship Funds
- Rees Report — 12 months on
- Making contact: postgrad reps in Wales



NPC Wales Officers



Chair:
David Manning
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Secretary:
Ian Hibble
hibblei@cf.ac.uk

Treasurer:
position vacant

Interested in taking up this position? Email the chair for details of how to get involved.