**Katie Pickard – NUS National Conference 22 report**

I attended the NUS national conference on the 28th and 29th March 2022 as one of the elected delegates for the University of Suffolk’s Students’ Union. During my time at the conference I attended welcome talks, workshops, discussion sessions, candidate speeches and listened to guest speakers such as Zarah Sultana MP and Christy Ku. The workshop I decided would be most beneficial to attend was, ‘Making university accessible to students of all backgrounds.’ In this session we heard from different Universities who had all submitted this proposal in order to try and approve how accessible uni is to students of different backgrounds, religions and for students with disabilities. It was very interesting to hear the different challenges each university faces and to help come up with ideas to improve issues such as extending lunch breaks and times between lectures. In the workshop all ideas were fed back to the NUS staff who then added to and changed the original proposal.

When it came to voting for the proposals we wanted to move forward and get discussed at conference we picked –

* Making university accessible to student of all backgrounds
* Reduce the number of single use plastics
* Student housing co-operatives
* Sexual education in education
* Healthcare
* Tackling gender based violence

We believed these issues were the main ones we had witnessed and heard about in the university of Suffolk and thought it would be beneficial to see how other unis deal with these challenges.

After listening to the feedback of each workshop and reading through the amendments I decided to vote for all motions except for the “The International Student Experience During And Post-Study” motion which I abstained on, due to not having enough context to be able to vote.

When it came to picking the elected leaders we listened to all candidates speeches and made sure to read all their manifestos and see whose vision most lined up with ours at the university of Suffolk. We voted for Shaima Dallali and Chloe Field for President and Vice President, and they were both elected to fulfil these roles.