

**BECTU CONFERENCE 2009**  
**APPENDIX A:**  
**PROPOSITIONS CARRIED AND REMITTED AT THE 2008 CONFERENCE**

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**PROPOSITIONS CARRIED**

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**Proposition 1/08**                      **Venue for conference**

That this annual conference recognises that BECTU has many members across the nations of the UK but has not held conference outside England for well over a decade despite previous propositions urging the NEC to consider such locations. This conference instructs the NEC to give more serious consideration to a cost-effective venue outside England for the next conference whose location is yet to be settled.

*The possibility was explored of a conference in Northern Ireland, subsidised by the Northern Ireland Conference Support Programme, and perhaps involving Euro-MEI as an international partner. However the support programme is not available for 2010, and this made the project unviable. Because 60% of conference delegates are based in the South East of England, all conferences outside England entail prohibitive logistical and travel costs. Several branches responding to the questionnaire which followed the 2008 conference called for conference to be held in London. However the union does not enjoy advantageous terms with any London venue, and a conference where a majority of delegates would be non-residential would have little or no social aspect. At its meeting on 8 November 2008 the NEC heard that the De Vere Royal Bath Hotel was offering the same rates for a conference in 2010 as for 2009, and agreed that the union's 2010 conference should be held again in Bournemouth.*

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**Proposition 2/08**                      **Information**

That this annual conference instructs the NEC to make minutes of its meetings available to BECTU members online.

*This motion should be implemented by the Communications Officer as soon as the new website is up and running.*

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**Proposition 3/08**                      **Political Fund**

That this annual conference believes that the Political Fund could be better used as a tool for furthering BECTU's aims in parliament and elsewhere. It instructs the NEC to discuss with the divisions details of Political Fund activities over the past five years, whether there is scope to increase or broaden these, and whether an increase in members' Political Fund contributions is indicated.

*On behalf of the NEC the General Secretary wrote to all divisional committees of the union asking for their comments on the use of the Political Fund. None of them suggested changing the current arrangements.*

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**Proposition 5/08****Participatory democracy**

That this annual conference notes that secure member access to the BECTU website has the potential to free parts of the democratic process from scheduled meetings, increase overall activity and allow participation over time from home or workplace. This conference believes this approach would encourage greater participation by membership and strengthen the union and instructs the NEC to assess the feasibility of setting up the facilities to do this and report back to all divisions.

*The terms of this proposition were passed to the union's Communication Committee, and have informed the development of the union's redesigned website.*

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**Proposition 7/08****Unpaid hours**

That this annual conference deplores the increasing incidence of production companies expecting everything to be ready when they turn up, and refusing to pay for prep and wrap hours outwith the production times, sometimes leading to erosion of actual breaks between duties and infringements of the Working Time Directive.

This conference calls on the NEC to take vigorous action to eliminate these abuses of the dedication of members to their jobs, and to ensure proper recognition of the need for adequate prep, wrap – and, where applicable, travel time – to be included in paid hours.

*The terms of this proposition were passed to the Regional Production and London Production divisional committees for consideration on how best to implement it.*

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**Proposition 8/08****European model contracts**

That this annual conference supports the initiative of IMAGO (the European Federation of Cinematographers) to develop pan-European model contracts.

*AGS Martin Spence made contact with the Chief Executive of IMAGO and conveyed the terms of this proposition.*

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**Proposition 13/08****Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**

That this annual conference recognises that following devolution responsibility for education, economic development and other devolved issues in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland now resides with the Welsh Assembly Government, the Scottish Parliament and the Northern Ireland Government respectively. Conference calls on BECTU to ensure that formal responses to consultations on issues that affect the working lives and career development opportunities of BECTU members across all four countries within the UK are properly addressed, and that sufficient time and resources are available to respond effectively to important policy documents.

*The General Secretary advised the area/national committees and appropriate regional officers of this proposition, asking them to make the General Secretary and Andy Egan aware of any consultation papers which may need responses.*

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**Proposition 14/08****Freelance fairs**

That this annual conference recognises and applauds the success of BECTU's freelance fairs held in London, Bristol and Manchester. Conference proposes that BECTU provides the necessary financial and human resources required to deliver an equally successful freelance fair to be held in Cardiff during 2008/9.

*The NEC agreed that fairs, not Freelance Fairs but fairs for all members, should be held in Cardiff in March and Belfast in May 2009. Where non-members attend they will pay a charge of £10.*

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**Proposition 16/08****Arts and theatre funding**

That this annual conference calls on the NEC to make representation to the Arts Council of England to ensure they have a clear and transparent arts and theatre funding policy.

*Action was taken by the FEU which approached Baroness Genista McIntosh over her review of the way the Arts Council distributed monies. Her review, published in July 2008, of ACE's investment strategy, which concluded that 'both its design and its implementation had flaws which exposed ACE to reputational damage', is available online from ACE's website at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/downloads/investstratrev.pdf](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/downloads/investstratrev.pdf).*

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**Proposition 17/08****Long service**

That this annual conference considers that any member having served a period of fifty years membership should receive a certificate in recognition of his/her service presented by the President.

*The Membership Department was asked to identify members of BECTU who have been in membership for fifty years or more. The number was greater than anticipated, and an appropriate means of devising and awarding such a certificate is being considered. BECTU's longest-serving surviving member is Sir Roger Moore, who was invited to attend the 2009 annual conference as a guest of the NEC. Unfortunately he could not attend because of overseas commitments, but he has conveyed his best wishes to conference.*

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**PROPOSITIONS REMITTED**

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**Proposition 4/08****Party political and party election broadcasts**

That this annual conference instructs the NEC to draw up a clear set of guidelines which fully explain the actions which members should take when facing ethical decisions while working on party political and party election broadcasts. The guidelines should clearly

state what actions members can and cannot take and what support BECTU will and will not give. These guidelines will be published on the BECTU website and in the journal as well as other appropriate places at times when such advice is likely to be needed. These guidelines should be pan-BECTU and will replace the less formal and less thorough ad-hoc advice generally given during past elections.

*AGS Luke Crawley drafted a paper for consideration by the NEC, and guidance was issued in February 2009 in Branch Circular 758.*

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**Proposition 9/08                      Funding of public service broadcasting**

That this annual conference instructs the NEC to lobby the new Culture Secretary [and] BECTU's MP and MEPs groups to ensure cable, satellite and digital channels and suppliers help fund public service broadcasting.

This would be aimed at ensuring all organisations that benefit commercially from licences to broadcast on digital, cable or satellite in the UK help fund terrestrial public service broadcasting and to stop existing public funding being redirected to fill this gap.

*Work in line with this proposition has included our submission to the Ofcom PSB review and collaboration with the IPPR (Institute for Public Policy Research), which submitted a report for BECTU and the NUJ in February 2009. The report was due to be launched in March.*

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**Proposition 12/08                      Hands Off Venezuela**

That this annual conference instructs the NEC to affiliate [BECTU] to the Hands Off Venezuela Campaign.

*AGS Luke Crawley obtained a copy of the constitution of the Hands Off Venezuela Campaign, and the NEC approved affiliation at its meeting on 17 July 2008.*

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