

# Union Higher Education Funding Policy

<b>Proposer:</b>	<b>Seconder(s):</b>	<b>Other Contributors:</b>
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**Policies affected/related:** N/A

**Policies superseded:** Higher Education Funding Policy (Lapsed)

## 1. The Union Notes:

- 1.1. In June of last year the previous Higher Education Funding Policy lapsed
- 1.2. Union Council of last academic year elected to commit to an information gathering exercise before committing to a new policy
  - 1.2.1. This should ensure that any policy is reflective of student opinion
- 1.3. The Union Council of this Academic year chose to conduct a survey, led by the Officer Trustees and then bring a policy to a General Meeting of the Union
- 1.4. The survey was conducted between 4 November 2014 and 19 November 2014
  - 1.4.1. A full analysis of the results and methodology used in this can be found in the attached document 'Higher Education Funding Survey Analysis (2014)'

## 2. The Union Believes:

- 2.1. Higher Education Funding is an extremely important issue as it will affect many students in the years to come
- 2.2. Decisions of such magnitude should be decided based on as much evidence as possible within reasonable constraints for collecting said evidence
- 2.3. Forming a thorough policy which reflects student views gives us a strong platform for lobbying parliament and parliamentary candidates in the upcoming general election
  - 2.3.1. Higher Education Funding may be a key issue in this election

## 3. The Union Resolves:

- 3.1. To accept the recommendation of the Higher Education Survey Analysis. These can be summarised as:
  - 3.1.1. To campaign for any model that can show that it encourages the best education possible for students
    - 3.1.1.a. This was highlighted as the most important issue for the majority of students.
    - 3.1.1.b. We will also support research into this as it is felt that not enough is known about which funding models most effectively promote high quality education
  - 3.1.2. To campaign for reduced privatisation of the Higher Education sector as we feel this does not encourage a Student focused approach
  - 3.1.3. To campaign for regulation of Postgraduate and Overseas fees
    - 3.1.3.a. Along side this the state should support universities in moving away from using Overseas and particularly taught Masters Fees to create revenue
    - 3.1.3.b. This is currently particularly problematic for expensive STEM subjects
    - 3.1.3.c. We also wish to ensure continued/increased support for long courses such as medicine
  - 3.1.4. To assess any proposed funding models against the principles laid out above
    - 3.1.4.a. To currently campaign for significantly reduced Tuition Fees.
    - 3.1.4.b. As based on several metrics this is what aligns best with the largest number of students views and appears to be antagonistic to the views of the fewest respondents