

**MOTION TO HOLD A UNION GENERAL MEETING TO DISCUSS HIGHER
EDUCATION FUNDING POLICY**

**Proposed by Andrew Tranter
Seconded by John Selby**

ICU Notes:

1. That the planned referendum on higher education funding was cancelled at the first meeting of council this year, with 24 members of council voting.
2. That this was replaced by a non-binding survey of student opinion.
3. That use of a survey instead of a referendum takes the actual policy decision out of our members' hands and into those of council.
4. That holding the survey may provide more detailed information about the opinions of our members.
5. That it is common practice in other student unions to hold regular general meetings, wherein all members of the Union may vote on policy decisions and hold officers to account.

ICU Believes:

1. That the Union should strive to be as democratic as possible.
2. To achieve this, direct student decision-making and clear accountability channels – such as those provided by general meetings – are vital.
3. That a decision ultimately made by a relatively small committee is a poor substitute for direct democracy.
4. That holding a general meeting to set our higher education funding policy would allow the information-gathering advantages of a survey whilst still allowing students a direct vote on the actual policy.
5. That a general meeting would allow students to discuss the actual policy as drafted, rather than set questions – thereby allowing even more information to be gathered than a survey alone.
6. That even independent of the higher education funding question, holding a general meeting would further enhance the democracy, transparency and accountability of the Union.

ICU Resolves:

1. To mandate the Union president to call a general meeting of the Union, between November 28th and December 19th, to set the finalised higher education funding policy and to hold the meeting in accordance with the Appendix of this paper.

ICU Further Resolves:

1. That any other papers will be accepted for consideration at the general meeting, provided that: They are proposed and seconded by members of the Union.
 - 1.1 They are submitted to the Union chair at least seven days in advance of the general meeting.

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11 November 2014

- 1.2 And that proposals relating to higher education funding shall be the first substantial (i.e. excluding approval of minutes, acceptance of the agenda, etc.) item of business at the general meeting.
2. Subsequent to proposed motions, the general meeting shall include a "questions to officers" section for members to ask questions of sabbatical officers, who may present a short report of their activities.
3. In the event of inquoracy, all proposals to the general meeting will be automatically taken to the first subsequent meeting of Union council*.
4. Each proposed motion shall follow a fair debate procedure, with an equal number of "for" and "against" speeches which may each be followed by questions, followed by an open discussion period. Timings shall be specified by the chair, subject to challenge by the appropriate procedural motion.

Appendix

1. For the avoidance of doubt, the general meeting shall be considered a general meeting of the Union as specified by section J of the constitution of the Union.
2. All papers to be considered at the meeting (save amendments proposed at the meeting) shall be circulated to every member of the Union at least six days in advance of the general meeting.
3. Procedures not specified here (including procedural motions) shall be the same as those used for Union council.

* Pending a resolution of the Trustees in accordance Constitution rule 32 to suspend an inquorate meeting indefinitely.