

1584 Save the Disabled Students Allowance passed 9 Oct 14

Proposer: Max Levene – Students with Disabilities Officer

Seconder: Holly Staynor – Welfare, Community & Democracy Officer

Union Notes:

1. The Disabled Students Allowance offers non-medical help and support for over 90,000 disabled students in UK Higher and Further Education.
2. That in 2012/13, 7.7% of UEA students were in receipt of DSA.
3. Earlier this year, the government announced plans to make significant changes to the way support for Disabled Students is funded.
4. The majority of these changes mean that individual Universities will be expected to make provisions for disabled students, rather than funding being provided centrally.
5. Since then, Greg Clark, the current Minister for Universities and Science has announced a deferral of the majority of changes to DSA and a cancellation of some.
6. That the Union of UEA Students have participated in campaigning to stop the cuts to DSA.
7. One of UUEAS's priority campaigns for 2014/15 is to stop the cuts to DSA.

Union Believes:

1. That the Disabled Students Allowance provides a vital support to ensuring that disabled students have access to Higher and Further Education.
2. There is not yet evidence that Universities are willing or even capable of matching the support offered by the Disabled Students Allowance
3. That significant changes to the way DSA is funded are likely to act as a barrier to disabled students' access to Higher Education
4. The alterations that have since been made to plans for Disabled Students Allowance funding are not significant enough. The announcement made by Greg Clark constitutes a deferral, not a cancellation.
5. That as a result of a high profile and well co-ordinated campaign run by NUS and individual Student's Unions which has put significant pressure on government, ministers have been forced to adjust their plans.
6. That further campaigning on this issue has the potential to secure funding for Disabled Students into the future.

Union Resolves:

1. To condemn cuts to Disabled Students Allowance
2. To continue campaigning against Disabled Students Allowance cuts
3. To liaise with the University, particularly the Dean of Students office, to ensure that if cuts to DSA go ahead, that alternative provisions are made which directly replicate the current support.