



LEEDS BECKETT STUDENTS' UNION

making students' lives better

POL-2015/16-011

Proposed: Jay Malpass-Clark

Seconded: Ben Leonard

Passed: December 2015

Expiry Date: December 2018

THIS DEFINITELY ISNT GOOD!

Union Notes

1. That TEF stands for the Teaching Excellence Framework which was released to the public as part of the Higher Education Green Paper on Nov 2nd 2015.
2. That the Teaching Excellence Framework is a metric driven proposal that seeks to introduce further grading and ranking to Higher Education with a focus on teaching.
3. That through this proposal the Government has stated they aim to use the TEF to 'improve teaching quality and status', to help 'institutions meet students' expectations', and to 'help employers identify and recruit the right graduates'.
4. That a more limited initial TEF is proposed and is quoted in the media as "TEF-light". This has been proposed for the first two years. The TEF assessments will be made independently of government by a panel of experts. The panel will be made of both academics, employers and student representatives.
5. That all institutions meeting the Level 1 threshold in the first year of TEF will be allowed to raise tuition fees with inflation. In Year 2, higher levels will be introduced and financial incentives differentiated according to the levels. TEF-light will be at institutional level not discipline level.
6. That fee increases will apply at an institutional level. Power to set fee caps will move from Parliament to Government. Government have been unclear about whether these powers can increase fees above inflation.
7. That institutions will have to prove that they are meeting WP (Widening Participation) and access expectations before they are entitled to apply for a higher level.

Union Believes

1. That the TEF's assertion that by measuring and grading teaching it will 'improve teaching quality and status' is unfounded.
2. That you cannot measure the quality of a lecturer appropriately and accurately with a grading system that is supposed to be able to grade the vast array of university courses. Quite simply it's

impossible to do right.

3. That any attempt to further raise tuition fees should be opposed, and believes that students have a right to excellent education, no matter where they choose to study.
4. That by breaking up the equal fee structure that universities have, further elitism would be introduced into the university sector.
5. That a 'Free Market' ideology is not welcome in the Higher Education sector. Universities are there for the public good. By bringing them closer to the free market it is bringing unnecessary and greater risk to Higher Education, taking them away from their primary goal of informing, challenging and educating students.
6. That the issue of student fees should always be debated in Parliament and never devolved to Government ministers.

Union Resolves

1. To oppose TEF as it currently stands
2. To engage in the consultation process in the autumn of 2015 as fully as possible through either local consultation or lobbying NUS to engage on the national level, dependent on what method of consultation is eventually agreed upon.
3. To lobby both of our constituency MP's (Leeds Central & Leeds North West) asking for their support in opposing the TEF.