

## **1419 Students are partners – 7 November 2013**

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### **Union Believes:**

1. UEA is a community. Academics, professional staff, students and the union are all integral to this community
2. At their best, university communities are home to debate and collaboration, with students feeling like engaged members of their departments, as well as their students' union.
3. Changes to the fee system and the marketisation of education can encourage consumer-like behaviour. However, we believe students have far more to contribute to their communities than simply a list of wants.
4. A higher education system where some only demand, rather than contribute, is a tragic waste of talent.
5. Students should not be seen as consumers, but as partners in their academic communities. Not only should students be co-creators of their education, they should be co-creators of their institution as every policy in an institution affects students in that community.
6. The student engagement agenda has taken root in large parts of the higher education sector. Many universities are committing more resource to their unions than ever before on supporting course representatives, developing representation and research at the heart of students' academic activity.
7. The union should be the legitimate representative voice of students at UEA. All representation should run through the students' union. Where the University seeks to listen to the student voice, this should be accomplished in partnership with us.
8. Partnership is much more than the sum total of student engagement or consultation projects. Changes to institutional plans, policies and strategies should be developed with us.
9. If we contend that students should be partners in decision making at all levels in an institution, we need to make sure that these processes are inclusive to our whole student body and not just to the traditional, full time, undergraduate student.

### **Union Resolves:**

1. To prioritise building a culture of partnership in the university, recognising that the relationship between students and the students' union, staff and management will differ across the university.
2. To work to develop an evidence base of the educational benefits of a partnership approach and the impact student representatives can have on the university.
3. To lobby for funding and support to enable the union to have an impact on quality assurance and enhancement activities, such as periodic review, curriculum development, annual monitoring and annual quality reports.
4. To lobby for funding to develop student led research to enable the union to better represent the depth and breadth of student views and opinions.