

LUSU Motion: Participatory Budgeting

This Union Notes:

1. That the Union piloted the 'participatory budgeting' initiative this year.
2. That the University is increasingly reliant on importance of Home/EU undergrad fees.
3. That overall the University's reliance on fee income settles in the range of 53% to 54%.
4. That the University have increased both postgraduate and overseas student fees, as well as rents - this trend will continue.
5. That the student body do not have a say over how money is spent on their behalf, in terms of the University's surplus, and in some cases, the Union's budget.
6. In an environment where education has been commodified and the cost of living affects a sizeable proportion of our membership both the Union and the University should be enhancing our democratic structures to allow for financial decisions to be made in a fair and transparent way.

This Union Believes:

1. As members of the University students should be active partners in the decisions it takes, not just passive consumers, and therefore students should have some say over how part of the University's surplus is spent.
2. The Union, which represents all student members of Lancaster University, could also benefit from having more students directly involved in how it's budget is spent.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the Full Time Officer team to factor into the Union's budget a section that will allow for 'participatory budgeting'.
2. To mandate Full Time Officers to work alongside the Director of Finance to have 1% of the University's surplus dedicated to this end.
3. To mandate the Full Time Officer team to feedback on progress with this policy at least once a term.

Proposer: Laura Clayson, LUSU President

Seconded: Toby Atkinson, Cartmel Student