

Publicly-Funded Education Motion

Council Notes: The pressure, financial and otherwise, faced by students and staff in higher education, which has been exacerbated in recent years by increases to the student contribution, rental prices, and other costs related to higher education.

Council Also Notes: The need for a higher education system which is free at the point of delivery for all students, including international students, and is publicly funded through general taxation.

Council Opposes: The exploitation of labour in higher education, which includes the use of student labour in unpaid course-related placements and internships, and the casualisation of contracts for teaching staff.

Council Believes: That health services and academic support services are of great importance to students, which must be free at the point of delivery.

Therefore Council Mandates:

1) Campaign for the following:

- A higher education system that is fully publicly funded, and free at the point of delivery for all students, including international students;
- Properly funded essential services for students such as healthcare and counselling;
- An end to unpaid student placements and other forms of student labour exploitation, and for student workers to be paid a living wage, including all staff employed by the Students' Union;
- College-level recognition of all teaching staff and teaching assistants as workers, who should be offered permanent contracts and a living wage.

2) Establish a committee which will oversee and build this campaign.

3) Membership

Membership shall consist of:

Chair;

Secretary;

Education Officer;

President;

Welfare Officer;

Student Representative participating in a professional placement or internship for credit;

No fewer than 6 Ordinary Members.

4) Members shall be appointed by application.

5) Duties

- Develop a strategy to achieve the aims as outlined in 1);
- Engage and mobilise students in all faculties.

6) Meetings

Meetings to this committee shall take place at least 3 times per teaching term.

The agenda of this committee shall be compiled by the secretary or chair from submissions from the members of the committee.

7) Review

The Committee shall, on or before April 31st 2022, review its own performance and its terms of reference and shall report its conclusions and recommendations for the campaign going forward to Union Forum.