

Should LSESU support the 4th November student demonstration calling for free education and living grants for all?

Motion Passed

Final results:

- Yes- 276
- No- 27
- Undecided- 11

Proposer: Deborah Hermanns

Secunder: Lydia Hughes

This Union notes:

- The emergency budget passed on July 8.
- That because of the cuts to Maintenance Grants announced here, students from the poorest families are likely to graduate with £51,000 of debt.
- That because of the restructuring of student loan repayments, those who begin to work on the average LSE starting salary will repay £6,000 more of their loans - but not repay the entire amount within the allotted time.
- Furthermore, as shown in the above link, those who enter graduate employment with significantly higher salary bands will pay less than under the current system, as they will pay their loans back swiftly.
- This gives those on lower wages a significantly greater repayment burden.
- The current HE funding system is neither robust, nor sustainable: the RAB charge has hit 45%, meaning that the current funding system costs the government roughly the same as that pre-2012 and that a "funding black hole" is emerging, and has been for some time.
- That NUS conference 2015 voted to campaign for free education, the creation of jobs with a living wage and security, an end to cuts and rebuilding public services funded by taxing the rich, business and the banks.
- That it is predicted that 34bn pounds of tax was dodged in the UK last year.
- That LSESU is a constituent member of NUS, and should use its part of this national platform to campaign with them for free education
- That a coalition of student unions and student campaigns, supported by NUS, are organising a national demonstration on 4 November under the slogan "Free education and Living Grants for all: No Barriers, No Borders, No Business" and under the hashtag #grantsnotdebt.

- That LSESU passed a motion to support Free Education on 23/1/2015 “To make support for free education an official position of LSESU and a central campaigning priority of the union nationally in the fight against fees and debt”

This Union believes:

- Immediately after the General Election, there are clear opportunities to make substantial gains for students, if we put out a clear message and mobilise a movement
- The scrapping of maintenance grants will affect poorest students the most and it is vital that we build a mass movement to fight these cuts.
- That supporting the Nov 4th demonstration and other proposed campaigning is directly in line with the “LSESU should support Free Education” motion passed 23/01/2015

This Union resolves:

- To campaign on these themes over the next year arguing for “Free education funded by raising income taxes on the highest earners and clamping down on tax avoidance” and for “#grantsnotdebt”.
- To support the national student demonstration on November 4 and mobilise LSE students. As a bare minimum this should include publicising it on the LSE website at least a few weeks in advance, including it in an all students mailout, organising a “LSE students go to the national demo” Facebook event, organising a related event in the week before the demo (such as a free education discussion or a free education banner making workshop or a Know your rights workshop) and generally using the student union social media to raise awareness among LSE students for the demo.
- To also emphasise how cuts, unemployment and debt hit the most oppressed hardest, and the liberation aspect of these policies.

References:

Summer Budget:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-budget-2015/summer-budget-2015> Opposing: [Joshua Hitchens](#) Opposing: [Megan Dunn](#)