

## **LSESU Should Support Free Education**

Proposed by Matt Myers

Seconded by Ollie Hill

### **The Union Notes**

1. Recently the National Union of Students voted to campaign for a new deal for education, that is free, publicly-funded, accessible, and funded by greater progressive taxation and clamping down on tax avoidance.
2. Free education is also the policy of the University and College Lecturers' Union (UCU), and the Trades Union Congress (TUC).
3. Germany has recently abolished tuition fees.
4. Contrasting the model of free education adopted by Germany, UK Conservative and Liberal Democrat politicians have made several statements calling for uncapped tuition fees.

Over 130 LSE students attended the march on November 19<sup>th</sup> for Free Education. 10,000 students attended the march on November 19th for Free Education, organised by the National Campaign Against Fees and cuts, of which over 130 were LSE students.

### **The Union Believes**

1. We face a clear choice in education funding: either our system is going to continue down the road towards an American-style model of private universities with uncapped fees, or we can take it closer to a German model of free, public and accessible education.
2. The German model of free education is preferable to the current UK system of high fees, debt, cuts to staff wages, and privatisation of the education system.
3. Tuition fees and associated marketisation have decisively failed to create a sustainable funding system for universities. The current system is not saving the government money but the opposite.
4. In order to fund tuition fees, the Government can now expect to loan in excess of £10 billion per year, much of which it will never recover.
5. Fees, cuts to bursaries, and maintenance grants act as a deterrent to access, making education seem unaffordable to some.
6. Access is a public benefit, and as such requires a public-owned and funded education system rather than the current model of privatisation, fees and debt, which does nothing to incentivise good access schemes.
7. That national co-ordinated action is the best way to achieve national policy changes from political parties, as evidenced by recent campaign successes.
8. That the threat of uncapped tuition fees requires a strong response from the student movement.

### **The Union Resolves**

1. To mandate the LSESU NUS delegates to vote for and campaign towards free education at NUS conference
2. 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.
3. That this motion does not affect the negotiating stances of LSESU's executive in deliberations with the university on funding, bursaries or grants, but rather reflects our intervention in national policy-making.

Passed, 23.1.2015

Undecided: 11

Yes: 239

No: 165

