

2149 Student Finance

Proposer: India Edwards (Welfare, Community and Diversity Officer)

Seconded: Emily Cutler (Students with Disabilities Officer)

Union Notes

1. Current UEA students and alumni are reporting difficulties with finances without the upcoming changes: nearly 30% of students spoken to as part of a November 2016 Quality Conversation said that they were not informed of or prepared for how much everything would cost at UEA
2. In this year's NSS comments, 33 students spoke negatively about their experiences with money and finance.
3. NUS' priority this year is a Student Hardship Commission.
4. Private sector rents in Norwich are averaging 11% more expensive this year than last.
5. The University has raised the cost of on campus accommodation by more than inflation every year for a decade.

Union Believes

1. Students are facing ever more difficult decisions to make around student finance, particularly in the context of the government changing the regulations around loans and bursaries.
2. This means that, in the upcoming years, financial support and options will be more limited for those looking to go to University, with the biggest changes being on Health Sciences courses.
3. The press and media obsess over fees but it's day to day maintenance and costs where students are feeling the biggest pinch.
4. The range of finance-related issues faced by students at UEA indicates that more needs to be done to support and inform them during their time here.
5. With the upcoming national changes, UEA should act to ascertain the reality of UEA students' finances and ways in which better support could be provided.
6. UEA should acknowledge the crisis of student cost of living by following up on the recommendations of uea(su)'s 'Real Cost of Study' report to look at wider average costs of participation rather than mere "charges"
7. UEA should conduct an investigation on different types of students with different financial circumstances, providing information as to their avenues for support and their ability to participate.
8. UEA should work with the SU to carry out a strategic review of the student financial picture at UEA to inform decision making
9. A single UEA committee that includes student representation should oversee all charges/fees levied on students.

Union Resolves

1. To mandate the Welfare and Community Sub Committee to carry out priority campaigning work on student finance this year.
2. To work with NUS to contribute to its Hardship Commission.
3. To demand that student consultation and representation are a feature of all decisions on UEA costs, charges and fees.