Focus on Fees: End the NSS Boycott

This Union Notes:

1. Warwick SU has policy to boycott the National Student Survey (NSS) and Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DHLE).1
2. Warwick SU has policy to oppose tuition fees.2
3. Warwick SU submitted written evidence to the UK Parliamentary Committee for the Higher Education and Research Bill, criticising the link between the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) and tuition fees.3
4. Tuition fee increases are not linked with the TEF results nor the NSS until 20204 5.
5. An independent review of the metrics used to increase and differentiate tuition fees will be conducted.6
6. The Government is reconsidering its approach to Higher Education policy, especially in relation to fees.7

This Union Believes:

1. Warwick SU was successful in its campaign to challenge the link between the TEF and tuition fees. It contributed to the suspension until 2020 of tuition fee increases in line with TEF data and the establishment of an independent review of the metrics.
2. Warwick SU should focus its time and resources on efforts other than an NSS boycott to challenge, lower, and abolish tuition fees.
3. Students should be encouraged to participate in activities that create data and feedback to improve Warwick SU and/or the university. Activities that make universities accountable to their students are to be encouraged.

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1 https://democracy-files.warwicksu.com/council/Policy/Policy/Education%20Zone/085%20Stop%20Tuition%20Fee%20Rises,%20Boycott%20the%20NSS.pdf
2 https://democracy-files.warwicksu.com/council/Policy/Policy/Education%20Zone/004%20Warwick%20SU%20Against%20Tuition%20Fees.pdf
3 https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmpublic/HigherEducationandResearch/memo/HE RB38.htm
7 https://www.conservatives.com/sharethefacts/2017/10/theresa-mays-conference-speech
4. The NSS data should be used alongside – not instead of – other feedback methods, such as Student-Staff Liaison Committees (SSLC), the Institutional Teaching and Learning Review (ITLR), and PTES and PRES and others.
5. The high visibility of NSS results and the inclusion of NSS data in the formula of some league tables forces the university management and vice-chancellor to pay attention to its results. Warwick SU should use the results of the NSS to support its case when seeking improvements from the university.
6. The Government’s original plans to link tuition fee increases with TEF were misguided.

This Union Resolves:

1. To repeal the motion 085 Stop Tuition Fee Rises: Boycott the NSS.
2. To end the NSS and DHLE boycott at Warwick SU.
3. To mandate the Education Officer and Education Exec and the Postgraduate Officer and Postgraduate Exec to produce a plan for the next step in Warwick SU’s campaign to oppose tuition fees.
4. To mandate the Sabbatical Officers to promote Warwick SU’s successful contribution to the campaign to make the Government think again about the link between TEF and tuition fees.
5. To mandate the President and Education Officer and the Postgraduate Officer and Postgraduate Exec to contribute to the independent review of the metrics used in differentiating tuition fees.
6. To use NSS data, where possible, to improve students’ experience at university.

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