

TEF – NSS Boycott

ICU Notes:

1. The Higher Education and Research Bill (HERB).
2. That NSS data will be used as a primary metric in the implementation of the new Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF).
3. That existing union policy, backed by member polling, is opposed to the marketisation of higher education and the raising of tuition fees.
4. That the primary impact of TEF ratings will be to determine which universities are permitted to increase their tuition fees.
5. That the NUS is engaged in a campaign to boycott the NSS in order to undermine the TEF.
6. That this boycott campaign has the backing of a number of individual student unions.
7. That this boycott campaign has the backing of the national lecturer's union, UCU.

ICU Believes:

1. That even if the HERB becomes law, the TEF can only be used to justify future above-inflationary tuition fee increase if the TEF is successful in initial years.
2. That an effective campaign to reduce the negative impact of the HERB requires tactics that will make the TEF unsuccessful.
3. That the government intends to weaponise the NSS; using it as a tool to further the marketisation of higher education.
4. That a national boycott of the NSS– if it is supported by the NUS and the campus trade unions - would be a substantial disruption to the plans contained within the HERB.
5. That such a disruption could well be the only way to make the reforms of the HERB unimplementable.
6. That it is only by acting in solidarity with our friends and colleagues in the NUS, the UCU and elsewhere that we stand a chance of winning.

ICU Resolves:

1. To support the NUS-led boycott campaign of the NSS .
2. To write to the NUS VP(HE) expressing our position.
3. To write to Imperial's UCU branch opening a line of communication on this issue.
4. To support the NUS-led boycott campaign through tactics including but not limited to:
 - Refusing to promote the NSS and refusing to include our branding on pro-NSS material.
 - Collecting pledges from final year students to boycott or sabotage the NSS.
 - Promoting the campaign through leaflets, posters, emails, etc.