

The Student Experience: Rising Costs – Raising Expectations

Thursday 12 May 2011
The Royal Society, London

Who should attend?

- Vice-Chancellors and Principals
- Pro Vice-Chancellors responsible for learning and teaching, and for student-related matters
- Deans and heads of department
- Other senior academic managers
- Registrars and Academic Registrars
- University staff with responsibility for teaching and learning
- University staff with responsibility for quality assurance
- University staff with responsibility for widening participation
- Student leaders
- Student Union officers and staff
- Members of Governing Bodies
- Those in government and non-government agencies with an interest in quality, learning and teaching and student-related issues

Principal speakers

Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Minister of State for Science and Innovation

Professor Sir Adrian Smith, Director-General, for HE & Science, BIS

Aaron Porter, President, NUS

Professor Janet Beer, Vice Chancellor, Oxford Brookes University & Chair of the National Student Survey

Will Archer, Director, i-graduate

Rob Behrens, Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education

Carl Gilleard, Chief Executive, Association of Graduate Recruiters

Rod Bristow, President, Pearson UK

Professor Shirley Pearce, Vice-Chancellor, Loughborough University (winner of THE Student Experience award 3 years running)

Anthony McClaran, Chief Executive, QAA

Carl Lygo, Chief Executive, BPP Holdings and Principal, BPP University College of Professional Studies

Sam Grodzynski, Barrister, and a Leading Legal Expert on Students and Universities

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Specifically the conference will:

- Provide a unique and exclusive opportunity to hear from Government about their views and proposals for the future for the HE sector
- Find out what demands the Government will make of universities in exchange for higher fees, and specifically in relation to improving the student experience
- Enable participants to make an input into Government thinking on teaching quality and standards and the future relationship between student and university
- Consider the challenge facing universities to improve their processes and policies for supporting students' teaching and learning experience
- Hear from university and student leaders about the key issues facing the sector in the post-Browne world of HE
- Hear from and enable questions to legal experts about how the law impacts on interactions between students and universities
- Learn about some of the most recent research that bears on the question of the student experience
- Provide an opportunity to share best practice in the sector
- Provide a networking opportunity for all those with an interest in learning and teaching, pastoral provision and other aspects of the student experience

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Improving and assuring the student experience has moved centre stage in policy discussions about higher education. This was already so before the new fee regime was announced – for example the 2008 Select Committee report focused largely on this – and with students in future being required to contribute so much more towards the cost of their education the question of what they will receive in return has been highlighted.

Some have, perhaps unwisely, taken this as a prompt to regard students largely as customers and consumers. But even without using such terminology the government has served notice of its belief that the new arrangements should fundamentally transform the relationship between university and student. And with money – and choices – now in the hands of students, the government believes the pressure will be on universities to improve the teaching and learning experience they offer.

However, not content to rely on the market to lead to improvements in the student experience, the government has said that it will itself make greater demands on universities in exchange for the higher fees, and the forthcoming White Paper is expected to set out the government's requirements.

This conference will take place in the context of that White Paper, and will provide an opportunity to hear from its authors and explore with them what will be required of universities. It will also enable discussion of student aspirations and needs, led by student and university leaders deeply versed in this. Above all, it will enable participants to discuss and influence future requirements and the future relationship between student and university.

Chaired by **Lord Willis**, former chair of the IUSS Select Committee, speakers will be **David Willetts**, Minister of State for Universities & Science, **Sir Adrian Smith** (Director-General for HE and Science, BIS), **Aaron Porter** (President, NUS), **Professor Janet Beer** (VC of Oxford Brookes and Chair, the Steering Group, National Student Survey), **Will Archer** (director, i-graduate), **Carl Gilleard** (Chief Executive, the Association of Graduate Recruiters), **Rod Bristow** (President, Pearson UK), **Rob Behrens** (Independent Adjudicator for HE), **Professor Shirley Pearce** (VC, University of Loughborough), **Anthony McClaran** (Chief Executive, QAA), **Carl Lygo** (Chief Executive, BPP University College), **Sam Grodzynski**, Barrister

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Agenda (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Session 1 Chaired by Lord Willis

09.15	Registration and refreshments
09.45	Welcome and introduction
9.50	Keynote Address: The Student Experience - The challenge facing universities Rt Hon David Willetts MP Minister of State for Universities and Science
10.30	Rod Bristow, President, Pearson UK
10.50	Questions and discussion
11.05	What students want – needs & expectations Aaron Porter President, National Union of Students Professor Janet Beer Vice Chancellor, Oxford Brookes & Chair of the Steering Group, National Student Survey Will Archer Director, i-graduate Professor Shirley Pearce Vice Chancellor, Loughborough University
12.05	Questions and discussion
12.20	Break for lunch

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Session 2 Chaired by Bahram Bekhradnia

13.30	The Government's Expectations – the White Paper Professor Sir Adrian Smith Director General, Science and Research, BIS
13.55	Questions and discussion
14.15	Universities, the Student Experience and the law Rob Behrens Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education Sam Grodzynski Barrister, Matrix Chambers
15.00	Questions and discussion
15.15	Great Expectations – how can students gain a great deal from their HEI Anthony McClaran Chief Executive, QAA Carl Gilleard Chief Executive, Association of Graduate Recruiters Carl Lygo Chief Executive, BPP Holdings Plc and Principal, BPP University College of Professional Studies
16.15	Questions and discussion
16.30	Closing remarks, refreshments and depart

Conference Booking Form

Please complete this form and return it to the address below. We will confirm your booking within two weeks of receipt.

An invoice will be sent with your booking confirmation. We can only accept payment by cheque or bank transfer – sorry, no cards.

After 6 May please contact us before returning this form in order to check availability of places.

Delegate details:

Name:	
Job title:	
Organisation:	
Address:	
Telephone number:	
Email address:	
Dietary or access requirements:	

Invoicing details:

Purchase order number:	
Address for invoice, if different from above:	

Fee rate:

Private sector bodies, government departments/agencies	£395 + VAT (£464.13)
Universities, colleges, LEAs, public sector bodies	£295 + VAT (£346.63)
Schools, voluntary bodies, trades unions	£225 + VAT (£264.38)

Higher Education Policy Institute
99 Banbury Road
Oxford OX2 6JX

Or send your booking by email: info@hepi.ac.uk

Terms and conditions

Payment is to be made in full before the event. Cancellations must be received *in writing* by 5 May 2011 to qualify for a refund. We regret that no refund can be made for cancellations received after this date, though substitute delegates will be accepted. By completing and returning this form, you signify your agreement to these terms and conditions.

Enquiries: 01865 284450 (but please note that registrations cannot be taken by telephone)