

# #BOYCOTTNSS POLICY

Title:	#BoycottNSS	Date of Student Council:	07/02/17
Proposer name:	Kirran Khan	SID:	1516245
Seconder name:	Michael Graham	SID	1509493

## Union Notes:

- The current UK government is creating a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) to measure teaching quality in higher education providers and rate them as Bronze, Silver and Gold.
- Depending on the universities rating, they can rise fees to certain amounts.
- The metrics that are currently being used to measure teaching quality in this framework are student retention data, the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE) and the National Student Survey (NSS).
- ARU has agreed to raise undergraduate home student fees to £9,250 per year for the 2017/18 academic year (this will not affect students currently on £9,000).
- ARU Students' Union has a stance against rises in tuition fees.

## Union Believes:

- All of the metrics that the TEF uses to measure teaching quality aren't good ways to measure this and have many outside factors.
- The NSS is supposed to gather student feedback on student experiences of Higher Education, however the variety of questions and scope of the survey mean that the responses are often little to do with teaching excellence. This creates an unfair measure for our lecturers and other ARU staff of their contributions to teaching quality.
- That the current £9,000 fees are high enough already before allowing Universities to charge more due to their score.
- Satisfaction with the university as a whole does not equate to quality of teaching.

## Union Resolves:

- That ARU Students' Union should conduct a boycott of the NSS in protest of its contribution to fee rises and its link to the TEF.
  - The SU should not promote the NSS through their own communication sources (eg. social media, newsletters and lecture talks).