

## **Motion: Union Policy Rejecting Top-up Fees**

*Proposer:* Mustafa Arif (ISE 4)

*Seconders:* Etienne Pollard (ISE4), Oliver Pell (ISE 3)

### **Imperial College Union notes:**

1. That Sir Richard Sykes is seeking permission from College Council, this Friday, to charge 'top-up' fees to Home/EU students.
2. That the President has published a diplomatic response.
3. That the government is due to publish what it describes as a “radical” White Paper in November 2002 on the future of higher education funding.
4. That Sir Richard Sykes is one of the government’s advisors in its current higher education funding review, along with Sir Ron Dearing.
5. That Sir Richard Sykes was a member of the Dearing commission whose report in 1997 led to the introduction of tuition fees.
6. That the original Dearing report came out in favour of differential fees for elite Universities.

### **Imperial College Union believes:**

7. That Imperial College is an academically elite higher education institution.
8. That access to higher education should be based solely on the criteria of academic ability and aptitude.
9. That no student should be denied the opportunity to study at a top university, such as Imperial, purely on their inability to pay fees.
10. That 'top-up' fees, 'differential' fees and any other method of charging a supplement to government mandated tuition fees for academically elite university places, is wrong, in principle.
11. That the Union should actively campaign against the introduction of top-up fees at Imperial College.
12. That Imperial College should not pre-empt government policy on higher education funding.

### **Imperial College Union resolves:**

#### **13. To unequivocally reject the Rector’s proposal on ‘top-up fees’ to College Council.**

14. To mandate the President and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) to attend the meeting of College Council on Friday 18 October 2002.
15. To mandate the President and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) to state clearly at College Council that ICU is resolutely opposed in principle to top-up and differential fees.
16. That the President shall cast his vote at College Council against the Rector’s paper, regardless of any amendments made to it.
17. To mandate the President and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) to request College Council that it delay making a decision until a more exhaustive student consultation has been carried out by ICU.
18. To mandate the President and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) to seek support from other members of the Aldwych Group, the University of London Union and UCL Union.
19. To mandate the President and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) to **immediately** ensure that the full extent of the national press are made aware of the students unambiguous rejection of the Rector’s plans, as expressed in this policy, by no later than 9am Thursday 17 October 2002.
20. To mandate the President and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) to report back on progress to Monday's meeting of ICU Council.
21. That ICU Council shall determine a strategy for taking this campaign forward.