

2333 Emergency Resolution: Limousines and GoPro Cameras!? Condemn the UEA Executive Team for their Abuse of Expenses

Proposer: Hannah Murgatroyd (Disabled Students' Officer)

Seconded: Thai Braddick (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Summary:

On the 19th November 2018, Concrete released details of UEA's executive team's expense abuses. This is an emergency motion to mobilise the Students' Union to condemn the abuse of students' tuition fees to pay for limousine rides, first class transport, £640 dinners, and taxi rides when public transport options are available. This is unreasonable when the roll-out of universal credit is plaguing Norwich, students are working multiple jobs to cover UEA's rent prices, and only last year courses were cut because they weren't 'cost efficient'.

Union Notes:

1. That UEA's expenses policy states that staff shall expect to be reimbursed "wholly, exclusively, reasonably and necessarily in the performance of their duties" providing that "economy, efficiency and effectiveness are achieved".¹
2. That the newest two intakes of undergraduate students are now paying £9,250 for the same course as students paying £9000, under the guise of these fees paying for a 'better quality' education.
3. That students currently on campus have been quoted as saying that the abuse of expense claims are "disgusting".²
4. That the Students' Union represents its members and must hold the university executive to account.
5. That the most expenses claimed (£15,000 by Pro-Vice Chancellor for Science Phillip Gilmartin) is the same as earned by the University's lowest paid member of cleaning and maintenance staff in a whole year.
6. That rent prices for students, by 2016, had increased by 23% and have continued to raise, outpacing inflation and price rises in the private rental market.³

Union Believes:

1. That we must condemn any abuse of expenses by a member of UEA's executive management team.

2. With the roll-out of universal credit, the removal of maintenance grants, and the NHS bursary, students are now more financially strained than ever.
3. That the UEA executive must be held to account by the Union and its members, for their policies, abuse of expenses, and how they manage the university.
4. That whilst rent prices are being increased by the executive on campus, and student intake has also increased, that UEA has access to more funds than ever. The executive should be using them to tackle lack of BAME representation in the Student Support Services and faculty, constant breakdowns of lifts on campus, and more widely tackling massive inequalities on campus - not limousine rides and GoPro cameras.

Union Resolves:

1. To mandate SOC and the Students' Union to release a statement condemning the University executive for their abuse of expenses.
2. To campaign for full transparency of the University's expense claiming process, and for the full release of the University's expense records.
3. To oppose the inequality of the University's management team being able to claim up to £15,000 of expenses whilst students are struggling to pay UEA's on-campus rent prices, pay hidden course costs, and that their lowest-paid staff are paid only that over the course of a year.
4. To mandate SOC and the Students' Union to release a campaign against the abuse of expenses and to work with the Your Money Counts priority campaign to actively and aggressively tackle the ridiculous living costs on campus.