



The All-Party Parliamentary University Group

University APPG Monthly Update - November 2015



Dear colleague,

Welcome to the first APPG monthly update. Once a month we will be adding to the weekly update for members with a message from one of the group's parliamentary officers' giving an overview of the most topical issues that month and a reminder of the upcoming meetings of the group.

The big news in the last four weeks has of course been the release of the green paper '*Fulfilling Our Potential: Teaching Excellence, Social Mobility and Student Choice*'. The paper covers a wide range of subjects including; quality assurance and teaching excellence, TEF assessments, incentives, social mobility and widening participation and the incorporation of the Office of Fair Access and HEFCE. The consultation is open until the 15 January and the Minister will be one of our speakers next week to set out his thoughts on the paper and take some comments and questions from attendees.

Other news from the sector, which will be of interest for institutions and parliamentarians alike, is the establishment of a taskforce by Universities UK looking into violence, harassment and hate crime affecting university campuses. The remit of the taskforce is to look at all forms of violence and harassment affecting students, but with particular focus on violence and sexual harassment against women. The aim will be to bring together students, university experts and external organisations to consider the current evidence and what universities are currently doing to address these issues and what more needs to be done. The taskforce will report its findings for the start of the 2016/17 academic year to the Universities Minister. The APPG will be hearing from Universities UK and the NUS on this issue at its December meeting and I would of course encourage you all to attend.

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP

Chair, All-Party Parliamentary University Group

Upcoming meetings

24 November 2015

The proposed Teaching Excellence Framework: How can we measure teaching quality in universities and how should it be rewarded?

6pm-7.30pm, Committee Room 8, followed by dinner

Speakers to include Jo Johnson MP, Minister for Universities and Science, Dr Steven Jones, Manchester Institute of Education and Iain Wright MP, Chair, BIS Select Committee

8 December 2015

Stamping out sexual harassment and 'lad culture' in the university sector

8.30am-10am, Dining Room B, breakfast served at meeting

Speakers to include Laura Bates, Founder, Everyday Sexism Project and Nicola Dandridge, CEO, Universities UK and Chair of the violence, harassment and hate crime affecting university students taskforce

27 January 2016

International comparisons of funding of the higher education sector

6pm-7.30pm, followed by dinner

Speakers to include Professor Sir David Greenaway, Vice-Chancellor of University of Nottingham, John O'Leary, Author, The Good University Guide and Vivienne Stern, Director, UK HE International Unit

15 March 2016

Flexible pathways: what universities are doing to support 'earn while you learn' options. Why are part-time student numbers plummeting – and what should be done to halt the decline?

6pm-7.30pm, followed by dinner

Speakers to include Peter Horrocks, Vice-Chancellor, The Open University

This update is produced by Universities UK. It provides links to all relevant parliamentary business and sector announcements for the previous week and notes upcoming business. The APPG council has also suggested that university members may like to suggest inclusions from their institutions, such as major reports, speeches or events. If you did wish to do so, [please do get in touch](#).

The University APPG twitter account, [@universityappg](#), tweets regular updates of parliamentary business and sector announcements. We would encourage all members to follow the account.

Finally, the University APPG blog is now up and running and I would like to encourage members who may be interested in writing a piece to please get in touch.

Click on the items in the Table of Contents to go straight to the debates, answers, forthcoming business, etc.

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Forthcoming Business

Spending Review

On Wednesday 25 November the Chancellor will make a statement on his Autumn Budget and the Comprehensive Spending Review.

European Referendum Bill

The bill continues its journey through the Lords with the Report Stage on Monday 23 November.

Lords debate: Freedom of speech in universities

Baroness Deech's debate on the protection of freedom of speech in universities takes place on the afternoon of Thursday 26 November. You can watch this live on Parliament TV.

Written Questions

The answers to written questions can be found by clicking the name of the MP or Lord beneath the title. Members may appear more than once if they have asked several questions on the same topic.

Overseas students: English language

[Kirsten Oswald MP](#)

[Nic Dakin MP](#)

Student opportunity fund

[Peter Kyle MP](#)

Higher Education: Admissions

[Peter Kyle MP](#)

Higher Education: Freedom of information

[Louise Haigh MP](#)

Students: Loans

[Roger Mullin MP](#)

[Nicholas Brown MP](#)

Higher Education: Part-time education

[Roger Mullin MP](#)

Open University

[Roger Godsiff MP](#)

Visas: Overseas Students

[Lord Teverson](#)

[Lord Teverson](#)

[Lord Teverson](#)

Sector News

Nurse Review

Sir Paul Nurse's review of research councils was published yesterday, the full recommendations can be found [here](#).

Many parts of the sector have already commented on the review, a selection of those responses can be found by clicking on the links below:

[Universities UK](#)

[Million+](#)

[GuildHE](#)

[HEFCE](#)

[Research Councils UK](#)

Violence, harassment and hate crime affecting university students taskforce

A taskforce set up to look at violence, harassment and hate crime held its first meeting today.

The taskforce, established by Universities UK, will look at all forms of violence and harassment affecting students, but with particular focus on violence and sexual harassment against women.

Its aim will be to bring together students, university experts and external organisations to consider the current evidence and what universities are currently doing to address these issues and what more needs to be done.

For more information please see the full press release [here](#).

Students could be drawn out of democracy by boundary changes

The National Union of Students (NUS) has joined with university and college leaders and staff over the serious risk students could be under-represented by newly drawn parliamentary boundaries.

For more information please see the full press release [here](#).
