

Action Group – Amendment to Teaching Excellence Framework

Meeting Date: 24.10.23 – 9am

Present

Joseph Hill, Education Officer (**JH**) (**Allocated Officer**)

Christian Black, Senior Academic Representation Coordinator (**CB**) (**Staff Support**)

Scott Dawson, Student Voice and Representation Manager (**SD**) (**Note Taker**)

Idea for Discussion:

Amendment to pre-existing Policy – [Teaching Excellence Framework \(TEF\)](#).

Idea Submitter: Joseph Hill (Education Officer)

To note: JH declared a conflict of interest as allocated officer for the submission, due to having submitted the amendment. It was agreed with advice from the Student Voice and Representation Manager that as the alteration was to ‘*matter of fact*’ information only, in this instance JH was able to act as allocated officer to the idea submission.

Current Policy

“The Guild believes that universities should strive to continually improve teaching and anything that ensures this happens, without significant negative impact on staff and students, is a good thing. However, we believe that the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), in its current form, does not achieve this. Most of the metrics of the TEF are not based on teaching, and therefore it is not a good way of ensuring improvements to teaching in universities.

The Guild is completely opposed to the marketisation of Higher Education, **and as such opposes any link between TEF and tuition fees”**.

Suggested Amended Policy

This is an amended version of a current policy. The only change is the removal of a section that referenced a link between TEF and tuition fee levels, which is no longer relevant. This amended version is being resubmitted to restate the Guild’s belief that the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) is a flawed way of measuring educational excellence.

“The Guild is completely opposed to the marketisation of Higher Education.

The Guild believes that universities should strive to continually improve teaching and anything that ensures this happens, without significant negative impact on staff and students, is a good thing. However, we believe that the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), in its current form, does not achieve this. Most of the metrics of the TEF are not based on teaching, and therefore it is not a good way of ensuring improvements to teaching in universities”.

Minutes from meeting 24/10/23

- SD provided an overview of the Action Group and outlined the actions required of the group:
 - Review submission to the democratic process.
 - Consider any complications or additional processes or concerns to be aware of with implementation.
 - Agree implementation route.
- SD noted that as per the Guild Bye-Laws, amendments must be undertaken in the following context:
 - *7.1: “Any Guild Policy passed as a result of the Process shall be valid for a period of 3 years from the date it passes, unless amended”.*
 - *The current TEF policy is due to expire on 09/05/2025*
- SD noted the policy was to be amended following a submission by the Guild Education Officer Joseph Hill (JH).
 - It was noted that the amendment is to remove only the following: *“and as such opposes any link between TEF and tuition fees”.*
 - JH outlined this is being removed as is not applicable and accurate, as the TEF is no longer linked to Tuition Fee increases.
 - JH outlined that this is purely a procedural update, but there is an opportunity to find out student interest and engagement in the TEF, by putting the item to the All Student Vote.
- As such, it was suggested that the idea is allocated in accordance with the Bye-Laws under point 5.2.2.4:
 - *“Refer the Complex Idea or Guild Policy (in either case, as amended, if appropriate) to an All Student Vote in the event that the Action Group reasonably considers that the Complex Idea or Guild Policy is of sufficient significance to require the oversight of the Full Members”.*
- CB agreed with the suggested allocation.
- JH/CB did not note any additional processes or concerns with regard to the item submission.

- **JH/CB agreed to allocate the idea to the All Student Vote**
- The Panel briefly reconvened at 10:02am to confirm that the amendment did not include removal of the following: *“The Guild is completely opposed to the marketisation of Higher Education”*
 - JH/CB agreed that this section of the policy will remain included.
 - CB suggested that this sentence is included at the beginning of the policy, to better contextualise the policy.
 - JH agreed.

The group closed the meeting at 10:06am