

**Fees Sub-Committee**  
**Compendium of Reports to the Bursars' Committee 2017/18**

**Report of the Fees Sub-Committee**

A meeting was held on 6 October 2017.

**Matters to which attention is drawn**

1. Future of the private College fee: international students

Members of the Sub-Committee have met with representatives of the Cambridge Trust to discuss how it manages its international scholarships, and to assess whether there were opportunities for the Colleges to use the Trust's scholarship scheme as a vehicle for enhanced levels of student financial support in the event that plans to move towards a combined fee with a 50:50 split proceed. The early discussions were very positive.

Discussions with representatives of the University are on-going and the Sub-Committee will report further after its next meeting.

2. Future of the private College fee: home/EU ELQ students

The Sub-Committee has been consulting with the mature undergraduate Colleges about a proposal to charge home/EU ELQ students the regulated fee (with the Colleges receiving 50% of the tuition fee income): the Colleges have not been able to reach a consensus on the matter and have been requested to discuss further how to balance a relatively high fee (in comparison with other HE providers), the necessary financial income of the Colleges concerned and a healthy recruitment of applicants.

3. The cost of an undergraduate education

Attention is drawn to the early discussion of the factors that might influence the timing of a discussion of the University about a review of the Undergraduate Fee Agreement.

4. Fee status verifications of undergraduate applicants

Bursars are asked to ensure that staff in the College responsible for fee status assessments are aware of the following points:

- a) recent revision of fee status assessment guidelines had indicated that Colleges were not expected for every case to have sought and retained a fee status questionnaire (providing that alternative evidence of their conclusion was retained): Bursars undertaken future College audits were aware of the change of the guidance.
- b) the College making the formal offer is responsible for the accuracy of the fee status assessment: particular care should be taken when making offers to applicants from the winter (and especially) the summer pool: no College should rely on the tentative assessments of previous Colleges.

5. Presentation on survey findings from Y13 and UG students on the attraction of bursaries

Bursars are highly recommended to attend the presentation at 9.30 am on Friday 27 October 2017.

9 October 2017

## Report of the Fees Sub-Committee

Meetings were held on 24 November 2017 and 26 January 2018.

### Matters to which attention is drawn

6. Future of the private College fee: international students

Progress has been slow with the Sub-Committee waiting for market-related research on how significantly increased undergraduate fees might impact on recruitment.

7. Various initiatives relating to the future of undergraduate bursaries and other student financial support

The Sub-Committee has been kept informed of development in other fora (and particularly the recent formation of the Bursaries Task Force and the joint Strategic Working Group). Attention is drawn to the minutes for specific comments, but it was noted that there was current diverse opinion but a number of identified actions to help inform future discussion.

8. Clarification on what is included in tuition fees (University Composition Fees)

The Sub-Committee has reviewed the legal definition and University interpretation of what can be charged to students over and above "tuition fees". It agreed to share its conclusions with the University, with suggestions that it work to produce an articulation to link to the Fee Agreements, but also a public statement for potential and current students.

9. HESA data: cost of an undergraduate education

The Sub-Committee endorsed the data prepared by the Technical Sub-Committee of the ICCA for onward communication to the University for its financial return to HESA.

26 January 2018

## Report of the Fees Sub-Committee

Meetings were held on 9 March 2018 and 4 May 2018.

### Matters to which attention is drawn

10. Future of the private College fee: international students

Progress has been slow with the Sub-Committee waiting for market-related research on how significantly increased undergraduate fees might impact on recruitment. The Sub-Committee will otherwise continue with preparatory work on the possibility of establishing a bursary fund for international students, noting the rapidly-changing context of bursaries for home/EU undergraduate students and postgraduate students.

11. Bursaries Task Force

The Sub-Committee has been kept informed of development in other fora (and particularly the recent formation of the Bursaries Task Force and the joint Strategic Working Group). Attention is drawn to the minutes for specific comments, but it was noted that there was current diverse opinion but a number of identified actions to help inform future discussion.

15 May 2018

## Report of the Fees Sub-Committee

A meeting was held on 15 June 2018.

### Matters to which attention is drawn

12. Future of the private College fee: international students

The Committee reviewed a paper being considered by the Undergraduate Admissions Committee (UAC) and requested that the members of the Fees Sub-Committee common to the UAC highlighted some points that might require further clarification to aid the discussion.

13. Retirement of Mr Nick Wilson

Mr Wilson has now retired from the University, and the Bursars may wish to record their gratitude to his fruitful engagement over many issues over the years.

14. Future of Student Bursaries

As part of the growing link to the Student Support Initiative, the Sub-Committee noted that any significant reform of the Cambridge Bursary Scheme (and any more long-term application of the current pilot Trinity Scheme) would be dependent on the research outputs of the recently-commissioned research on bursaries, and that this may take some time to receive and then initiate.

Members of the Committee otherwise noted wider concerns raised by several Colleges about a perception that they may have committed to a range of financial support initiatives without any transparent governance or approval of the decision, and without thorough consultation.

15. Fee status assessments: Islands students

The University had considered the matter yet again and agreed to retain its current policy of considering Island students to be classified as overseas for fee status purposes.

16. Fee status assessments: children of Swiss Nationals

The University had clarified that, in contrast to the advice of UKCISA and the SLC, Swiss nationals did not need to be exercising their right of ordinary residence in the UK, for their children to meet the "Swiss Agreement" clause of the Student Fees (Qualifying Courses and Persons) Regulations 2007, as amended. The Secretary of the PRC's Fees Sub-Committee was intending to formulate appropriate guidance for the University and the Colleges, which Dr Russell would incorporate into his annual training for Colleges in due course.

17. Fee verification audits

While there were still five Colleges outstanding, recent audits had not revealed any significant concerns.

25 June 2018