



Agenda Item 9

Received 10/3/14

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The hidden cost of printing in the College of Arts

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The Union Notes;

- The print budget for each college for the current years are based on the previous years actual cost plus any potential adjustments for changes in student numbers. Schools can also increase or decrease the printing budget based on the budget setting process. However, within most of the schools within the College of Arts there is a need for students to print for regular assessment processes, to the point of if the work isn't printed then no mark will be given.
- After speaking to a number of students there was a unified response that the current printing budget wasn't enough:
"I get £15 and its not enough! I am in my 3rd year and I used that within a week or 2 of starting, printing is costing me a fortune"
"25 and it's just about lasting me, but I print a lot at home"
"2nd years on jewellery and object get £10. This was used very fast. Printing is something that every one in my year has problems with as they have to spend so much."
- Similar Unions linked within our group are implementing similar method. The Unions of Huddersfield, Liverpool John Moore Union, Manchester Met Union, Northumbria, Plymouth, and the west of England have all dealt with the same issue around printing costs and the Union at Coventry has raised problem around the cost of Architecture plotting.

The Union Believes;

- It is possible for the University to make prospective students aware of these costs that they will face once they start their degree within the College of Arts, here at Lincoln.
- Using the information that the students' so far have presented to the Students' Union with regard to print costs, the Union can present the University with information to show that currently students are not supported enough in order to meet the needs of their course with regard to printing.
- This is a recurring theme within the sector and is something that is having a negative effect on our students and their student experience whilst here. It's a topic that other Unions have tackled successfully and using their experience, and matching with our students we should successfully assist this issue.

The Union Resolves;

- To lobby the staff of the University specifically within the College of Arts, to work in partnership to tackle the burden created by 'hidden costs'.
- 2 To contact these other unions to research best practice in this area.