

Higher education and constitutional change

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University and College Union



UCU's approach

What are Universities for?

-economy, society, health, culture

Role of trade union:

-defending members

-Commitment to students

-Promoting education



Devolution context

- Historic differences in school and post-school education
- Scottish Higher Education Funding Council 1992
- Policy divergence
- But – connections to rest of UK

Vision for HE in Scotland

- Publicly funded institutions without student tuition fees
- Maintaining distinctive education system – including honours degree
- Defence of academic freedom and fair employment practices

Paying for it

- Funding
- Public finances
- Taxation
- RUK fees
- Sustainable research funding

Progressive education

- Four year honours degree
- Governance
- Academic Freedom
- Immigration

Supporting workers

- valuing and supporting staff and their creativity
- collective pay bargaining – fair, efficient and sector-led
- Sustainability of pension provision

What next for the future of HE?

“Education is human right and, therefore, sustained and sufficient public financing of education is necessary... in order to achieve that right for all.”

Fred van Leeuwen, General Secretary
Educational International