1669 (a) Reduction of Taught Programme Modules passed 12 Feb 15

Proposer: Liam McCafferty (Postgraduate Education Officer)
Seconder: Connor Rand (Undergraduate Education Officer)

Union Notes

1. Learning and Teaching Committee recently approved a policy that seeks to reduce the number of taught modules with less than a specified number of students enrolled.
2. The number of students that are specified for a module to be 'financially viable' is 10.
3. That many existing courses, particularly at PGT level, contain modules with fewer than 10 students.
4. That the specified number for 'financially viable' modules applies to all schools at all levels, regardless of the number of students in that school or the variation in cost for running individual modules.

Union Believes

1. The reduction in modules to only the most popular with lead to a more homogenised selection of modules available.
2. Many students value choice in modules, and the ability to specialise in niche or specialist subject areas.
3. That any calculation of what is 'viable' for each school should factor in the size of the school, as well considering if modules are vital to offering a holistic course provision.
4. Reduction in modules for PGT will lead to many courses being slashed.
5. Course programmes should be designed to provide a broad range of options to provide rounded education, and not dictated by the market.
6. This policy is a direct consequence of the government drive to marketise the higher education sector, with the outcome being an educational system based on the needs of the market or 'financially viable', rather than providing education for its own sake.

Union Resolves

1. To request that the university review the procedures with reference the above points.
2. To ensure that where modules are closed, that it is done through proper evidencing and with extensive student consultation.
3. To demand the university put in place adequate measures to ensure that students on modules due to be closed are protected and that they are not adversely affected.