



23 March | Leeds University Union

Student's Role in Curriculum Reform

The world has changed, the syllabus hasn't – is it time to do something about it?

A partnership between







The Student Movement in Economics: An Overview



Who are we?

 Economics students across the UK from Sussex to Glasgow

What are we doing?

Campaigning to change the way that economics is taught

Why are we doing it?

 We want an economy that reflects the needs of everyone in society

Why is curriculum reform so important?



Thousands of students enter university every year

The things they are taught both formally and informally go a long way towards shaping their outlook on life and understanding of how the world works

They go into professions that shape the way society looks

Universities have a duty to their students and to wider society to ensure the provision of a comprehensive and socially relevant education

Why is curriculum reform so important?



IF THEY ARE FAILING IN THIS AIM, THEY ARE FAILING SOCIETY

CURRICULUM REFORM IS ESSENTIAL

Why should students get to contribute to curriculum reform?

Academics are experts

What gives students the right to tell experts what they think they should be taught?

Why should students get to contribute to curriculum reform?

- Universities are public institutions, they have a duty to reflect the needs of society
- Students have not yet been indoctrinated into a fixed way of looking at the world. We are a fresh pair of eyes
- We are the future, it is our world we are creating, who is better placed to comment on how that world should look than us?

How can students contribute to curriculum reform?



Iron out your aims

- What is it you want to change and why?
- Constant revision and reflection

Spread you message

- Build effective and accessible narratives
- Think of your audience and appeal to them

Know the opposition

- Identify power structures
- Understand constraints

Keys to Success:



CONSISTENT AND PURSUASIVE NARRATIVE

CONSTANT INTERNAL REFLECTION

CONFIDENCE IN YOUR ARUGMENTS

UNDERSTANDING YOUR AUDIENCE



Lack of will

From Students;

- Good narratives
- Appealing to the things that are important to them,
 e.g. employability, value for money, justice

From Academics and Universities;

- Effective arguments
- Evidence of student support
- Concrete suggestions for moving forwards and examples of how/where these have worked



Lack of resources in the university

- By far the highest portion of university funding comes from tuition fees.
- The white paper that was pushed through parliament in order for them to allow the hike in tuition fees was a promise to put students at the heart of the system
- The implementation of a better education need not require massive amounts of money and resources



Institutional Barriers

Know what you're up against;

- Create power maps
- Speak to your department
- Make alliances with sympathetic academics
- Find examples of where change has happened in the past and learn from those successes

Use the resources available to you;

Use institutional feedback streams such as student reps and NSS



Short student lifespan

- Create robust structures that will last after you leave
- Rigorous and effective recruitment processes
- Informative induction procedure
- Ability to communicate successes
- Constant internal reflection
- Using long-term structures (SU)
- Building alumni networks
- Acquiring allies outside the university

What next?:



Continually evaluate what you have done. What worked? What didn't? What can you do differently next time?

What is the issue with my current curriculum?

Evaluate

Research

Research

know and understand the issues and power structures around them

Start implementing your plan!



What step do you need to take to set the changes in motion? How will they work?

Talk to people who

BATTLE CRY!!!!



This is our future and we are the ones who will create the change we need to see!!!!

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT!!