

# Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: The future of universities - funding and access

Date: Morning, 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Perry of Southwark**
- 9.05 - 9.15 **Future options for Higher Education funding**  
**Professor Lorraine Dearden**, Professor of Economics, Institute of Education, University of London and Programme Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- 9.15 - 10.00 **Budgetary constraints and maintaining excellence in Higher Education**  
*Themes: Perspectives on the 2010 Higher Education budget. Has funding been effectively distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England for 2010-2011? Can excellence in teaching and research be maintained in light of budgetary constraints? Should funding be targeted at 'specific elite universities or specific subject areas?' Can possible staff redundancies and campus closures be avoided? What would be their likely impact on staff and students? How far will budgetary cuts affect the UK's international competitiveness and the position of English universities in the world market?*  
**Mike Boxall**, Leader, Higher Education Sector, PA Consulting  
**Chris Morecroft**, Principal, Worcester College of Technology and Chair, Association of Colleges' Higher Education in Further Education Group  
**Tom Wills**, President, University of Sussex Students' Union  
**John Rushforth**, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of the West of England  
Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor Lorraine Dearden**, Professor of Economics, Institute of Education, University of London and Programme Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- 10.00 - 10.30 **'How do we keep our Higher Education system internationally competitive?'**  
**Professor Michael Arthur**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Leeds and Chair, Russell Group  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chairman's closing remarks**  
**Baroness Perry of Southwark**
- 10.35 - 10.55 Coffee
- 10.55 - 11.00 **Chairman's opening remarks**  
**Baroness Sharp of Guildford**
- 11.00 - 12.00 **Funding the graduates of the future - options for policy**  
*Themes: How would a rise in tuition fees impact on both universities and students? What changes need to be made for the funding system to take account of the increased number of part time and mature students and rising costs? What can be done to ensure there is sufficient financial assistance so as not to deter or limit the choices of poorer students? What alternatives should be considered to a rise in tuition fees?*  
**Professor Claire Callender**, Professor of Higher Education Policy, Birkbeck, University of London  
**Carl Gilleard**, Chief Executive, Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR)  
**Aaron Porter**, National President Elect, NUS  
**Professor Paul Wellings**, Vice-Chancellor, Lancaster University and Chair, 1994 group  
**Pam Tatlow**, Chief Executive, million+  
**James Groves**, Head of Education Unit, Policy Exchange  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 - 12.55 **Access, participation and wider partnerships - putting universities at the centre of the community**  
*Themes: How can wider access to university continue to be promoted whilst ensuring the quality of the student experience is protected? Will the increased number of university applications and increased competition amongst students to gain places affect attempts to widen participation? Would fast track degrees and flexible learning facilitate greater access and who would benefit? Is having 50% of young people attend university a practical and desirable goal in the long term? How has increased access to higher education impacted on attempts to improve social mobility? How can universities create closer links with the communities in which they are situated? In what ways can stronger links be developed between local schools, further education colleges and universities? Are universities creating effective partnerships with business and other potential sources of private funding?*  
**Christine Davis**, Principal, Farnborough College of Technology  
**Dan Shaffer**, Senior Project Officer, SPA (Supporting Professionalism in Admissions)  
**Professor Debra Humphris**, Pro Vice-Chancellor Education, University of Southampton  
**David Johnston**, Chief Executive Officer, Social Mobility Foundation  
**Keith Herrmann**, Deputy Chief Executive, Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE)  
**Peter Crisp**, Chief Executive and Dean, BPP Law School  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Education Forum thanks and closing remarks**  
**Baroness Sharp of Guildford**  
**Sean Cudmore**, Senior Producer, Westminster Education Forum