

## Preserving Bursaries and Widening Participation #2: *Why you should sign the '50 Member' Initiated Graces*

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### Grace 1

The University Council's Working Group picked its £10m figure out of the air. They subsequently worked out what they could afford with it<sup>1</sup>, and it has been accepted by the Council uncritically.

CUSU has worked the opposite way around (recognising the necessary costs that higher fees introduce for Widening Participation work), modelling the costs to the University of:

- preserving current maintenance bursary provision<sup>2</sup>;
- picking up the cost of Widening Participation work currently conducted within the University that was previously funded by Government, but that has now been cut (universities being expected to pick up the cost as part of additional fee income); and
- introducing a fee waiver for the poorest students to partially offset the damage caused by enormously higher headline fee levels.

If the fee waiver provided is £3,000—so that Cambridge degrees can be said to 'start at £6,000' (for the poorest), instead of £9,000—then the cost of the above would be approximately £14m<sup>3</sup>. This is eminently affordable: the increase in tuition fee income will surpass the loss in income from the teaching fund cuts to the education of students. **This Grace therefore ensures that the costs of maintenance bursaries, fee waivers and Widening Participation above are covered in full.**

### Grace 2

In the regrettable case that other Regents do not feel able to agree to the full £14m above, CUSU has developed a way of preserving current maintenance bursaries, picking up the cost of cut Widening Participation work and providing a fee waiver of £2,000 at a cost of £12m<sup>4</sup>, allowing overly cautious Regents to back this Grace if they feel they cannot commit to Grace 1.

### Grace 3

The Council has thus far been exceedingly opaque in its reasoning, and we have every reason to expect the Old Schools to again attempt to cajole the Council to endorse the Working Group's proposed cut in maintenance bursaries of over £2,000. **This Grace would allow the Regent House the final say over whether or not maintenance bursaries are cut.**

### Grace 4

We appreciate fully that the University needs to be very careful in what it offers OFFA, because of the financial penalties it can inflict in the case of failure: the 'benchmark' in our OFFA agreement must therefore represent the University's minimum guarantee that reflects the very real difficulties in reaching where we want to be in terms of the proportion of state school students we admit.

Internally, however, it would be a positive statement to set a more optimistic target that reflects the genuine aspirations of all those students and academics who devote so much time to broadening the University's social intake, trying to ensure the best students are admitted regardless of background.

**This Grace would require the Council to add to its OFFA target its own higher, aspirational one.**

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<sup>1</sup> Modelled as 'PRC Model 1', overleaf

<sup>2</sup> Comparison shown as 'Comparison of maintenance bursary levels', overleaf

<sup>3</sup> We have modelled this as 'CUSU Model 2', overleaf

<sup>4</sup> We have modelled this as 'CUSU Model 3', overleaf

**PRC Model 1:**

Fee Waiver of 3k up to 25k, tapered to zero at 42k, Bursary of 1.625k

	Less than £25,000	£25,000- £42,000	£42,000- £50,000	£50,000- £60,000	Above £60,000 or NFA	Total
<b>Household Income</b>						
Fee Waiver	£4,050,000	£1,800,000	£0	£0	£0	£5,850,000
Maint Bursary	£2,193,750	£975,000	£0	£0	£0	£3,168,750
WP Activity						£1,000,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£6,243,750</b>	<b>£2,775,000</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£10,018,750</b>

**CUSU Model 2:**

Fee Waiver of 2k up to 25k, tapered to zero at 42k, Bursary as current Cambridge Bursary

	Less than £25,000	£25,000- £42,000	£42,000- £50,000	£50,000- £60,000	Above £60,000 or NFA	Total
<b>Household Income</b>						
Fee Waiver	£2,700,000	£1,200,000	£0	£0	£0	£3,900,000
Maint Bursary	£4,590,000	£1,878,350	£127,650	£0	£0	£6,596,000
WP Activity						£1,500,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£7,290,000</b>	<b>£3,078,350</b>	<b>£127,650</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£11,996,000</b>

**CUSU Model 3:**

Fee Waiver of 3k up to 25k, tapered to zero at 42k, Bursary as current Cambridge Bursary

	Less than £25,000	£25,000- £42,000	£42,000- £50,000	£50,000- £60,000	Above £60,000 or NFA	Total
<b>Household Income</b>						
Fee Waiver	£4,050,000	£1,800,000	£0	£0	£0	£5,850,000
Maint Bursary	£4,590,000	£1,878,350	£127,650	£0	£0	£6,596,000
WP Activity						£1,500,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>£8,640,000</b>	<b>£3,678,350</b>	<b>£127,650</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£13,946,000</b>

**Comparison of maintenance bursary levels:**

