Meeting Students' Expectations

Phil Willis MP

3rd June 2009

New Fiscal Reality

Budget will not balance until 2017/18

National debt as a share of GDP rising towards 80%

Borrowing - £175bn in 09/10 & £140bn in 11/12

Institute of Fiscal Studies predicts very tight Spending Review for 2011/12 – 2013/14

Context - DIUS

- Committee's duty to scrutinise DIUS
- Radical split of education DCSF/DIUS in 2007
- DIUS considering a 15 yrs framework for HE
- Review of tuition fees due 2009-10
- HE links to skills; examined by IUSS 08/09
- Concerns about widening participation for lower socio-economic groups and standards

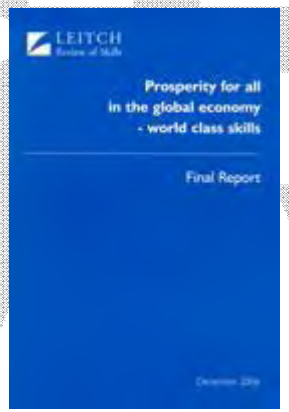
Leitch Review of Skills

Target **- 40%** of adults skilled to graduate level & above by **2020-** up from **29%** in **2005**.

Broadening learning opportunities beyond traditional full-time provision

Driving up teaching quality & individual choice.

Improving interaction between HE institutions & employers



Ambition 2020

The Challenge…

'We must prepare now for the jobs of the future.'

We must ensure that people have the skills necessary for the opportunities that will become available post-recession and that employers will be able to recruit workers with the skills necessary for business success.'

UKCES
UK COMMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

Where we are now…

Productivity – 11th in the world

Employment - 10th in the world

Skills:

OECD 30 Ranking	2006	Projected for 2020	Ambition
Low level skills	17	23	Top 8
Intermediate level skills	18	21	Top 8
High level skills	12	10	Top 8

The goal: *8th in the world in all 3 by 2020*

UK COMMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

UK found ‘at a **competitive disadvantage**’ on 7/8 measures of quality in HE and training

An “**inadequately educated workforce**” is identified as 4th most problematic factor for doing business in the UK

Maintaining Global Competitiveness

Other countries are not standing still

- *Two fewer* UK Universities in top 100 in 2008 than 2007

- Spending on HE in UK *less than half* of that in US

- *Competition fierce* from China, India and Germany, France, the Middle East and Australia

Barack Obama

Georgetown University 14th April 2009

"I have asked every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training, and we have provided tax credits to make a college education more affordable for every American."

"America will once more have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world"

Focus of Enquiry

The committee invited evidence on:

Admissions

Prospectus

Balance between teaching & research

Degree Classification

Student support and engagement

Plagiarism and academic fraud

Not included: Post-grads, international students, individual cases

Timetable

- **30 October 2009 -** *Inquiry announced*
- **11 December -** *Deadline for written evidence*
- **28 Jan - 11 May -** *Oral evidence sessions*
- **June-July** *Deliberation*
- **Late July -** *Publication of report?*

Written Evidence

- **110** submissions - published on the net

- Between **1** and **56** pages (Russell Group!)

Main respondents - universities, academics & representative and professional bodies, **NUS**

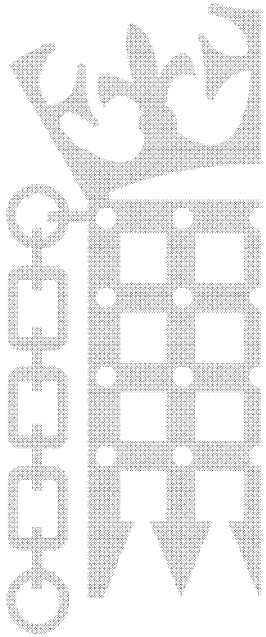
But only **2** student unions & only **2** students

E-consultation

Ran 23rd Feb – 7th April

Asked for views on 6 topics

Nearly 200 posts



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Topic	Views	Posts	Started By	Last Post
Has university lived up to your expectations? Goto Page: 1, 2	1099	32	Parliament Moderator	April 07, 04:34PM Last Post by Member of Youth Parliament
Are all degrees the same?	1248	29	Parliament Moderator	April 07, 04:25PM Last Post by Member of Youth Parliament
What factors influenced your choice of university and course? Goto Page: 1, 2	1061	31	Parliament Moderator	April 07, 04:18PM Last Post by Member of Youth Parliament
Do you think that the admissions process for universities is fair? Goto Page: 1, 2	1140	34	Parliament Moderator	April 07, 01:01AM Last Post by Cheddar123
Why did you decide to apply to university?	866	29	Parliament Moderator	April 06, 09:33PM Last Post by leila
What do you think of the quality of teaching at university? Goto Page: 1, 2	1436	41	Parliament Moderator	April 06, 08:49PM Last Post by leila

E-consultation

- Most posts on *quality of teaching*
- Views varied from *complimentary to derisive*
- *Relationship between research and teaching*
- Some paying *increased fees want a better service*
- Identified need for *better feedback*

Oral Evidence sessions

9 formal evidence sessions on the record (**7** at Westminster, **2** at universities)

70 witnesses of whom **29** were students

Student panel: **4** students gave oral evidence in February, read the evidence and came back to give more evidence in April

Visits

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

DOMI NVS ILLV MINA TIO MEA

OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

Imperial College London

Liverpool Hope University EST. 1844

1789

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

LET THERE BE LIGHT

1868

NVCC

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student centered. Community focused.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON DC

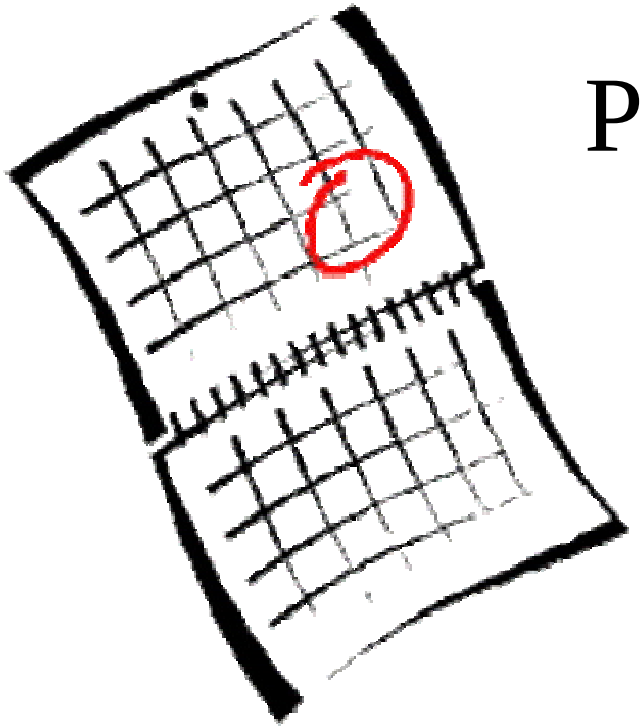
UK to become more like US?

- Mix of **private** and **public universities;**
  - **Fees set by the market**
- **Debt incurring at commercial rates of interest**
  - Alleged **study times of up to 60 hrs pw**
    - All students taking **part-time jobs**;
- Greater movt between unis **- the 2 plus 2 model**
  - A system of **credit transfer**
- People **sheltering from the recession in universities**

Next steps…

Mull over the evidence

Draft and agree report



Publish report

Government has two months to respond

Invite students and universities to respond

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Thank you!

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