

**MEDIA
RELEASE**

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Attention: Education and Political
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TEC Must Ensure Equity

Students are calling on the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) to ensure that under the newly announced Tertiary Education funding system that higher education does not become an elite privilege for a select few.

“The Tertiary Reforms promised the ability to link student demand with wider community needs. However in recent weeks institutions have disappointingly shown that, given the choice, some will use the reforms as an excuse to unacceptably exclude particular sectors of the community from tertiary education”, says Joey Randall, Co-President of the New Zealand Union of Students’ Associations (NZUSA).

“The TEC have the ability to ensure that institutions’ commitments to providing equity in access and success are not simply empty promises. This must be an ongoing key focus of the Commission”, said Randall.

The University of Auckland recently approved in principal the capping of every undergraduate course, with minimal consultation with the communities that this change would affect, and with no link to strategies for ensuring equity in access. Worryingly, a number of other institutions have signalled similar moves.

NZUSA is generally in favour of the tertiary reforms but has argued that their success relies on the TEC ensuring the sector fulfils their obligations and that the Government ensures that the sector is adequately funded.

“New Zealand needs a tertiary sector that meets the needs of students and their communities, not more empty promises”, concluded Randall.

Following a rushed and relatively closed consultation on this round of Investment Plans, students look forward a greatly improved and enhanced role in the Investment Plans process of the future.

ENDS

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