

National Conference of University Professors, UK

Janet Wilson (University of Northampton),
Roger Watson (University of Hull)

Australian Association of University Professors Conference

17th February 2022

'Academics in the University of the 21st Century'

Founded 1989. Aims



National **C**onference of
University **P**rofessors

to support university professors in carrying out their special responsibilities for

- the maintenance of academic standards;
- to provide a forum for discussion and a corporate voice on matters of concern to the nation's university system;
- to improve public perceptions about the work of universities;
- to act as a means of collecting and disseminating information relevant to universities.

Structure, Events, Affiliations

- Patron: Baroness Pauline Perry of Southwark
- President, Vice President
- NCUP Council: up to 13 members
- Charity Trustees
- House of Lords lunch (with speaker)
- Annual Education lecture (followed by AGM)
- Occasional lectures, seminars, conferences
- Membership fees
- Affiliations: UK Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI)
- AAUP Affiliation

House of Lords luncheon speakers

- 2022. Professor Dame Madeline Atkins, Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge. “From in-person teaching to avatars in the metaverse: just how many ‘realities’ will universities have to address in future?”
- 2019. Sir Oliver Letwin, MP. ‘The Meaning of the University’
- 2018. Baroness Alison Wolf of Dulwich, Sir Roy Griffiths Professor of Public Sector Management, ‘British Universities as International Institutions: Are They Under Threat?’

NCUP Annual Education Lectures

- 2019: Professor David Cameron Neylon (Curtin University) on the Changing System of Research Communications: ‘Where Next in an Open Access World’?
- 2020: Professor Stephen Barber (Regents University of London): ‘What Happens Now Brexit is Done’
- 2021: Sir Anthony Seldon (Buckinghamshire). ‘A New Vision for Higher Education Post Covid-19: From Policy-Takers to Policy-Makers’
- 2022: Prof Mike Watts (Brunel): ‘My Family and other disscientists’

Projects and sponsorship

- **Commissioned research:** papers on

Quality Control of Teaching Standards.

The Role of the Professoriate.

Higher Education: A New Framework. Commentary on the Government's White Paper.

Improving Public Opinion of Universities.

Commitment to Scholarship and Research in Universities

- **Sponsorship**

NCUP offers Travel Grants for doctoral students and ECRs to attend the Annual education Lecture (London); the annual colloquium at Brescia, Italy (on 'Innovations in Education').

2022 landscape of UK universities

- Universities are 'engines of social mobility', with extended civic duty as providers for students facilitating employability and social access.
- Statistical measurement: national league tables: Student Satisfaction Survey; graduate employability; Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)
- Internationalisation cf needs of home students: i.e. those who want technical training, looking for sub-degree tertiary education and two year degree courses; part time and mature students
- Post-Brexit/ 4th Industrial Revolution: challenge of robotics, AI, biotech, big data (universities to drive or challenge change?)

Challenges ahead

- Post pandemic recovery
 - Confidence in the sector
 - Justifying how we do things
- Free speech on campus
 - Lists of microaggressions
 - Language/thought 'police'
 - Cancel culture