UWA Student Guild responds to Guidelines outlining the use of the $250 Student Services and Amenities Fee.

CONCERNS
"Unis get the fee, students get the services but student unions get screwed" said Dom Rose, President of the UWA Student Guild.

"While we welcome the move to safe guard student services, we are disappointed that universities will possess the funds and exercise that control over student organisations" he said.

"Now student organisations will have to beg for scraps" he said.

"Until these guidelines include funding for political representation through student organisations, Australian students will not be getting value for money from this fee" he explained.

"Student control of student affairs is not even a distant echo" he continued.

SUPPORT
"However we urge the senate cross-benchers to support these guidelines" he said.

"These guidelines rebuild and protect the life enriching experiences and crucial support services fundamental to a university experience… particularly at regional campuses" he explained.

"Everyday students of all ages will get academic, medical, fiscal, childcare and welfare support. Whole communities will benefit from cultural and sporting facilities and the administration of uni clubs" he said.

"Currently if these services do exist, the money is tenuously coming out of teaching and learning budgets. In a recession, uni budgets tighten and services could disappear" he said.

FEE PERSPECTIVE
"Unlike the old model, students won't have to pay upfront – it is paid like HECS and $250 is nothing compared to a $20'000 HECS debt" he continued.

"It will mean that cash-strapped students will have more money while at uni by making savings at the re-subsidized dentist, gym, cafeteria or book shop" he said.
POLITICAL?
"As for the question of what is political, none of it is" He concluded.

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