

BM66 – VIENNA

7b10



Internal motion

Resolution

Amendment

Title: ESU against unequal treatment of foreign students in Switzerland

Point of the agenda: 7b

Proposed by: VSS-UNES-USU

Seconded by: LSA, FAIRe

Text:

1 A motion to triple tuition fees of foreign students at the Swiss Federal
2 Institutes of Technology has been passed by the National Council of the
3 Swiss Parliament. It is now discussed in the summer session of the Council
4 of States. Should the motion be adopted, those students whose parents are
5 obliged to pay taxes in Switzerland, would pay the “standard” tuition fees.
6 Everyone else would pay up to three times that amount. Such measures
7 would most likely result in a great loss for the international student
8 community.

9 Differentiated tuition fees are not a new concept. The additional cost for
10 foreign students ranges from 300 CHF (240 €) to a staggering 4000 CHF
11 (3200 €) per year. By leading the way for cantonal universities, an
12 unprecedented difference implemented at two federal universities could
13 reinforce a trend in which students are charged based on their fiscal origin.
14 However, education is a public good. Access to higher education should
15 therefore be a question of capabilities and not be limited by financial
16 means – for domestic and foreign students alike.

17 The creation of a unified European Higher Education Area has been the goal
18 of numerous efforts for the past couple of years. In times when the result

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19 of the popular vote on mass immigration challenges the international
20 dimension of Swiss higher education, it would be a huge setback to
21 reinforce borders through unequal financial treatment. ESU is therefore
22 strongly opposed to this proposition and urges the Swiss parliamentarians
23 to reject the motion and to ensure the international diversity of the student
24 body.

25

Passed: **YES** **NO**

(for use of board meeting chair only!)