2016 Presidential Candidates on Higher Education

prepared by the UNH Graduate Student Senate

- DEMOCRATS -

Hillary Clinton (former U.S. Secretary of State)

- "The New College Compact": (https://www.hillaryclinton.com/p/briefing/factsheets/2015/08/10/college-compact/)
- Graduates with student loan debt can refinance and enroll in a plan that will cap payments at 10% of income
- Single income-based repayment plan to be capped at 20 years
- Community college students will receive free tuition
- States will be rewarded for investing in higher education

Martin O' Malley (former Governor of Maryland)

- "Making College Debt Free for All Americans": (http://martinomalley.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/OMalley-Debt-Free-College-Goal.pdf)
- Freeze tuition at public colleges and improving federal work-study programs
- Programs for public college students to graduate debt-free
- Refinancing options and income-based repayment plans
- Restore state higher education funding
- Affordable childcare on campus

Bernie Sanders (U.S. Senator for Vermont)

- "College for All Act": (https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-114s1373is/pdf/BILLS-114s1373is.pdf)
    - On May 19, 2015, Sanders introduced the College for All Act (S.1373), which would use a Robin Hood tax of 50 cents on every "$100 of stock trades on stock sales" to fund tuition at four-year public colleges and universities for students who meet admission standards
    - States required to cover 33% of $70 billion dollar tuition costs; federal government will cover remaining 67%
- Programs that allow students to refinance loans; Eliminate federal profits on loans
- Colleges and universities encouraged to increase percentage of courses taught by tenured and tenure-track professors; colleges expected to hire new faculty

- REPUBLICANS -

Jeb Bush (former Governor of Florida)

- "Education Reform: Transform Post-Secondary Education": (https://jeb2016.com/education/?lang=en)
- Believes the Democratic plans for higher education--e.g. federally funded programs to lower tuition and reduce debt load at public universities--is financially irresponsible
    - Requires a more state-based approach
- "Income-based financing system" for student loans
- "Give states the flexibility & resources to create great public schools."
- Plans to reduce the federal Department of Education by 50% and empower states, local districts and families

Ben Carson (retired neurosurgeon)

- "We the People: Prescription for Achievement": (https://www.bencarson.com/hubfs/issues/20160107_commonsense_in_the_classroom_WP.pdf?t=1453326637050)
- Department of Education to monitor public universities for "extreme political bias" and slash funding on that basis. (http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/10/ben-carson-calls-for-a-right-wing-fairness-doctrine-on-college-campuses/411865/)
- Reduce the size of the federal Department of Education
    - Give more power to local school districts and state governments
- Streamline financial aid system and use "market-oriented solutions" to lower tuition rates and minimize student loan debt

Chris Christie (Governor of New Jersey)

- "Governor Christie's 15-Point Education Reform Agenda": (https://d70h9a36p82zs.cloudfront.net/Ccpres2016/base/assets/1-0-1/production/Chris-Christie-Education.pdf)
- Increase funding for FAFSA Perkins loan
- Debt relief in exchange for community service
- Greater transparency at universities: cost itemization for tuition/fees with an option to "unbundle" for low-income students

Ted Cruz (U.S. Senator for Texas)

- In the past, has called for elimination of Department of Education
- Federal aid/student loans governed by states
- Voted against legislation that would allow students to refinance loans

Carly Fiorina (former CEO of Hewlett-Packard)

- Believes the federal government has nationalized the loan industry
- "The federal government basically owns that industry and they decide what interest rates should be, so they say it should be 4.5 to 6 percent," Fiorina said. "Meanwhile the government is paying between 1.5 and 3 percent interest on their own debt. Kind of sounds like a racket for me."
  (http://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/5223/2016_Presidential_Candidates_Scattered_on_Higher_Ed_Student_Aid_Views)

Jim Gilmore (former Governor of Virginia)

- Recognizes a higher education "crisis:" rising student debt, hiring of administrators at the expense of teachers, and "high expenditure without any type of oversight or accountability" (http://www.forbes.com/sites/maureensullivan/2015/08/04/jim-gilmore-on-education-6-things-the-presidential-candidate-wants-you-to-know/#71157c474ae7)
  - Federal government should work closely with governors to manage these issues

Mike Huckabee (former Governor of Arkansas)

- Students should be able to refinance loans and lower interest rates
- Eliminate the Department of Education
- Shift control of education to local level

John Kasich (Governor of Ohio)

- As governor of Ohio, Kasich has threatened to "take an axe" to public university funding if institutions do not effectively cut costs
- Believes students should select universities based on their affordability and needs, not brand
  (http://www.wmur.com/politics/kasich-tells-students-go-to-a-college-you-know-you-can-afford/37282704)
- Debt relief in exchange for community service
  (http://nhpr.org/post/kasich-talks-higher-ed-costs-goffstown-event)

Rand Paul (U.S. Senator for Kentucky)

- Has called for elimination of Department of Education
  (https://www.randpaul.com/issue/education)

Marco Rubio (U.S. Senator for Florida)

- "Marco's Plan for Overhauling and Modernizing Higher Education":
  (https://marcorubio.com/issues-2/marco-rubio-position-higher-education-policy-college/)
- Income-based repayment program for student loans
  - Allow graduates to consolidate existing loans
- "Increase access to career and vocational education"
- Establish new accreditation system to be more amenable to innovative and non-traditional education

Rick Santorum (former U.S. Senator for Pennsylvania)

- Not all students should/need to attend college; the focus should lie in creating jobs and teaching "useful" trade skills.
- (http://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/5223/2016_Presidential_Candidates_Scattered_on_Higher_Ed_Student_Aid_Views)

Donald Trump (Chairman and President of Trump Organization)

- Education should be locally controlled, would cut down the size of the Department of Education
  (http://www.ontheissues.org/2016/Donald_Trump_Education.htm)
- Questioned why the government makes money off of student loans; would reduce interest rates to stop this.
- Foreign students who wish to attend college and stay in the U.S. to work should be allowed to do so and not be deported.
  (http://www.nasfaa.org/news-item/5223/2016_Presidential_Candidates_Scattered_on_Higher_Ed_Student_Aid_Views)

USEFUL LINKS:

- 2016 Presidential Candidates' Higher Education Proposals *National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators*: http://www.nasfaa.org/2016_presidential_candidates
- 2016 Presidential candidates on education, from *Ballotpedia, The Encylopedia of American Politics:* https://ballotpedia.org/2016_presidential_candidates_on_education