

Free University!

Petition against undermining the University of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest

Initiated by students of the University of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest

The University of Theatre and Film Arts, Budapest has been a national treasure, a fundamental element of Hungarian culture for the last 155 years.

From the 1st of September it is going to be privatised.

It is going to be managed by a foundation, through which the government can exercise total control over the University.

Until this day no professional argument was provided to justify the rushed and forced reorganisation.

The government makes decisions about the future of the institution without any meaningful negotiations with the University.

The current bill does not guarantee the autonomy of the University, as it was entailed in the Fundamental Law.

The bill serves neither our nation's interests, nor the cause of our national culture, it solely guarantees the government's control over the University through a foundation.

Such reorganization has already started in other Higher Education institutions of Hungary and it can happen to all of our Universities. It can endanger the freedom of Higher Education.

To the honourable Members of the Parliament!

Honourable Minister!

Looking back at the events of the past 10 years, we are almost certain that the bill will be passed into law in its present form. However we urge Minister Prof. Dr. László Palkovics to ensure the University in written form - before the bill is passed, if possible - that the following points are met at the beginning of transformation:

1. The election of the rector should remain under the control of the University. The current elected rector nominee has to be appointed.
2. Start meaningful negotiations with the University, do not make decisions without us.
3. Should the University be managed by a new created foundation, the University should have the right to elect the board of trustees.

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