

Motion on UCU's 2023 - 1 Strike Action

Proponent: Camilo Torres Barragan

Seconders: Sai Shraddha Suresh Viswanathan, Akua Serwaa Agyeman, Adam Lambert, Vanessa Mabonso Nzolo.

Council notes:

1. That UCU have announced 18 days of strike actions in the months of February and March beginning on February 1st.
2. That the dispute is not only about pensions and pay, but also equal pay, precarious contracts and workloads.
3. That the dispute is taking place at a national level and has the support of staff at 150 Universities across the UK.
4. That inflation is at record levels in the UK making the recent offer from the employers a substantial pay cut.
5. That UCU has withdrawn the threat of a marking boycott for this action, but that a marking boycott may be proposed if the dispute is not resolved by April.
6. That the Principal of the University of Aberdeen is leading pay negotiations nationally.

Council believes:

1. The University of Aberdeen has limited powers to resolve the pay dispute because of its national nature, but has the ability to address workloads, precarious contracts, and unequal pay.
2. That UCU's actions over precarious contracts, workloads, and equal pay will directly benefit post-graduate student teaching fellows and research assistants.
3. That all UoA staff should be paid a fair wage and be entitled to a good pension.
4. That staff who are paid well and have positive moral are the best staff to teach and assist our students.
5. That historical agreements over pensions should not be broken.
6. That as students we support UCU's right to strike and believe their demands are fair.
7. That although it is not UCU's aim, strikes and other actions may have significant negative impacts on all students.
8. That any potential marking boycott in the future will have a disproportionate impact on final year students, and MA international students.

Council resolves:

1. For the Students' Union to lobby the stakeholders involved in the dispute to take negotiations seriously to reach a positive outcome for staff and students.
2. For the Students' Union to work with UCU to share accurate information about their dispute and actions.
3. For the Student's Union to not support a marking boycott if there is one.
4. For the Student's Union collaboration with UCU not to be limited to only strike periods.