

## 2269 Increasing our efficiency when supporting students lecturers and university staff

Proposer: Finn Northrop (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Seconded: Madeleine Colledge (Postgraduate Education Officer)

### **Union Notes:**

1. That UUEAS has a long tradition of supporting industrial action by UCU and standing by university staff
2. Earlier this year UUEAS passed *Emergency Resolution: Backing UCU in the Pension Dispute*
3. In 2014 UUEAS voted in favour of backing UCU industrial action against proposed changes to the USS pension scheme – a strike that was recognised as largely successful.
4. Some UCU members are PhD students who work within the University as Associate Tutors. These UCU members are therefore also members of UEA's Students' Union.
5. That to take effective action UUEAS is forced to wait until a motion has been passed through council, which can take quite a while dependent on the council schedule
6. That for action to take effect more than 50% of votes from UCU members have to support action on a minimum 50% turnout

### **Union Believes:**

1. Student support is often vital and our support of UCU and our university staff, from admin staff to senior lecturers is an integral part of what we do
2. UCU has repeatedly stood in solidarity with Students Unions, joining students on demonstrations and opposing the rise in tuition fees.
3. That the relationship between academic staff and students in Higher Education is one of partnership and should be mutually supportive.
4. UUEAS's support of industrial action strengthens UCUs negotiation hand, therefore reducing the period of dispute and the length of disruption to students.
5. Dependent on the council timetable, UUEAS can be forced to sit twiddling its thumbs, and is unable to support lecturers, staff and students in the important early phase of action
6. Working conditions of staff are learning conditions for students
7. We should be able to defend workers and support students as soon as a strike is called
8. Union Council always retains the power to withdraw its support from a particular strike action and this policy would of course not affect that power

**Union Resolves:**

1. That the UUEAS supports UCU its legal industrial and strike action
2. That UUEAS should hold the default position of supporting UCU industrial and strike action
3. That UUEAS will thus be able to help inform students and support staff as soon as action is announced, making us more effective in executing our responsibilities
4. To Mandate the Campaigns and Democracy Officer to liaise with the president of UCU in the event of industrial action to arrange how UUEAS will support the action