



106 – Warwick Students for Fair Pensions: Solidarity with our staff!

This Union Notes:

1. That the University and College Union (UCU) is currently balloting on industrial action in Spring 2018, in response to proposals from employers to the USS pension scheme.¹
2. That the proposals will end guaranteed pension benefits, making final pensions depend on investment performance rather than workers' contributions.²
3. That UCU general secretary Sally Hunt described this proposal as "the worst proposal I have received in twenty years of representing university staff".³
4. That University of Warwick Vice-Chancellor Stuart Croft has also spoken out against these proposals in a blog post to staff and students.⁴

This Union Believes:

1. That the staff that provide our education deserve to receive decent and fair pensions upon retirement.
2. That Warwick SU has a strong and proud history of student-staff solidarity, which is crucial for a progressive education system.
3. That although industrial action is likely to minorly affect students in the short-term, fighting for pensions means fighting for the long-term health of higher education which is to the benefit of students and society as a whole.
4. That threats to staff working conditions are part of a wider picture of cuts to education funding as well as ongoing marketisation and neoliberalisation agenda, and must be opposed.

This Union Resolves:

1. To give full and public support to UCU on industrial action should it go ahead
2. To mandate the SU President to lobby the University to continue to oppose the changes to the USS pensions scheme.
3. To encourage students to show solidarity with staff on the strike day(s), such as by showing their support on social media or by joining picket lines peacefully as reflected in the Code of practice: Picketing.

¹ <https://www.ucu.org.uk/strikeforuss>

² <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/strike-looms-universities-seek-end-uss-defined-benefit-deal>

³ <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/9075/Important-pension-update>

⁴ http://blogs.warwick.ac.uk/execteam/entry/which_way_forward/

Policy History		
<i>Action</i>	<i>Body</i>	<i>Date</i>
Carried	ASM	2017/18, T2W5
Policy review	Student Council	2019/20, T2W5