

## **051 Staff Support UEASU Motion**

**Proposer:** Madhi Fofana (Marxist Society)

**Seconded:** Nathan Wyatt (Non-Portfolio Officer)

### **Summary**

This motion aims to affirm SU support for the demands of the striking UEA staff - such as that of 0 redundancies - and to oppose the marketisation of the universities that has precipitated the strikes, as well as for fighting for fully-funded, lifelong, and democratic education, uniting with the staff's industrial action in doing so.

### **Union Notes**

1. On 24th October 2022, UCU members across over 150 universities in the UK voted in favour of taking strike action [1].
2. The reasons for this were due to not only the poor pay, working conditions, and USS pensions dispute [2], but also due to the effect of the mismanagement and misfunding of the universities, leading to a poor educational environment for students.
3. An even worse situation for the staff has since emerged at UEA, with management saying that there is no other path than significant redundancies [3] in order to make up for the funds that management has squandered in building projects such as the Sky House Project (which cost two million pounds to plan but was never built) to momentarily increase profits by increasing investment, ignoring the need for renovating old buildings or raising staff salaries in line with inflation.
4. Significant redundancies, including cleaning staff, student support services staff, and library staff, will not only leave many members of staff without a job, but will also massively affect the university and the lives and education of UEA's students.
5. Students in England face extortionate tuition fees of around £9000 a year, the underfunding of facilities at universities, and the staff being forced to take multiple different roles (rather than the hiring of more staff), all of which negatively affect the students' educational environment and thus the rest of their lives.
6. These issues that face both university staff and students can be traced back to the increasing marketisation of the universities that has been happening across the country.

### **Union Believes**

1. The students of UEA should support the staff in their industrial action through a co-ordinated effort.
2. The current industrial action is about more than just pay and pensions - it is also about the ongoing marketisation and destruction of the universities by the government through running the universities for the profit of private investors and not for the purpose of education.
3. It is the staff at UEA that make it run, not the Vice-Chancellor or the private investors, who are more interested in profiteering or cost-cutting than providing a university fit for students and staff.
4. Marketisation should be resisted with a real democratisation of education, with universities being run for the sake of education and not for profit, and that education being free and fully funded.

### **Union Resolves**

1. The SU supports the industrial action going on at UEA and at other universities around the country.
2. The SU supports UEA UCU's, Unison's, and Unite's demand of 0 redundancies.
3. The SU pledges to support the building of a strike assembly consisting of staff and students for the purpose of co-ordinating greater action against the profiteering and exploitation of the university's staff and students.

### **References**

1. <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/12474/Institutions-affected>
2. <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/12474/Institutions-affected>
3. <https://eastern.unison.org.uk/news/2023/01/staff-demand-answers-over-shock-university-of-east-anglia-job-cuts/>