

UNION POLICY (GENERAL MEETING – (11.5.11)

FIGHTING THE CUTS – THE NEXT STEPS

THIS UNION NOTES

1. The magnificent half million strong demonstration called by the TUC against the Con-Dem government's cuts. The protest was one of the biggest demonstrations this country has seen.
2. The demonstration was called in response to the biggest cuts since the 1930s. Including a 40% cut to Higher Education teaching budgets with up to 100% cuts in band C & D subjects, which include the Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities.
3. Manchester University has announced it will be charging £9,000 fees from 2012.
4. The UCU, the academic staff union, has taken two days of strike action and may take further action.
5. The peaceful occupation of Fortnum & Mason's on Piccadilly by UK Uncut activists which led to the arrest of hundreds of campaigners, including a Manchester University Student.
6. Union leaders like Len McCluskey and Mark Serwotka have called on trade unions to organise co-ordinated strike action against the cuts.
7. Unions including UCU, NUT and PCS are planning a one-day strike against government attacks on 30th June 2011.

THIS UNION BELIEVES

1. These proposed cuts are regressive, ideological and will disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable in society.
2. That cuts to Higher Education will have a direct impact on the quality of education across the UK.
3. Students and staff are justified in taking action, not just against fees, job losses and budget cuts which directly affect Higher Education, but also in protest against wider austerity measures introduced by this Government.
4. It is essential to provide full support and solidarity to the general resistance against the Government's cuts agenda.
5. The strike by UCU members is an important next step in the campaign and should be fully supported by students.
6. History has evidenced that political change can be effected through continued campaigning against unpopular Government policies, as campaigns against Poll Tax and Section 28, for example, have shown.
7. The University should join us in our campaign and refuse to implement government cuts, including teaching budget cuts.

THIS UNION RESOLVES

1. To continue the campaign against cuts and fee increases.
2. To condemn management's decision to raise fees to £9,000.
3. To demand the University does not make any cuts (including voluntary redundancies).
4. To issue a public statement endorsing the points raised in "This Union Believes" 1-7.
5. To mandate the Exec to fully support UCU and other union members in any strike action they choose to undertake.