



UNION POLICY (GENERAL MEETING – (20.10.10))

THE HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING CRISIS

THIS UNION NOTES

1. The Coalition Government has already announced more than £1.5bn of cuts to further and higher education.
2. 150,000 qualified applicants will miss out on a university place and many thousands more will face huge increases in the cost of local college courses.
3. All indications are that the Comprehensive Spending Review will see further budget cuts removing £1 from every £4 for our colleges and universities.
4. Other countries are investing massively in the expansion of education.
5. Although Manchester University has not yet announced large-scale cutbacks, this Union expects to see a programme of job losses and course closures disclosed this academic year. We anticipate the next round of cuts to dwarf the shameful £9m in cuts and closure of the Combined Studies department announced last summer.
6. The cuts to universities and the education budget come as part of a wave of cuts to public services in general – including fire services, healthcare, schools and council workers.

THIS UNION BELIEVES

1. Education is a public good just like health and social care. Price should not be a factor in accessing it.
2. Education changes the lives of individuals, families and communities.
3. Cutting education and skills budgets has a detrimental affect on the society and the economy.
4. Jobs, student places, funding for teaching and access itself are at risk from the Coalition Government and together we must fight back to protect ourselves, our values and our communities.
5. Cuts to universities can be challenged and beaten. They cannot, however, be fought in isolation from the rest of the government cutbacks: A generalised attack on the public sector will require a generalised response from students and workers across the country and the public sector if it is going to be stopped.

THIS UNION RESOLVES

1. To fully support and participate in the NUS & UCU demonstration on Wednesday, 10th November 2010 in central London.
2. To ensure that as many students as possible are aware of the cuts and marketisation agenda and are mobilised to campaign against them.
3. To work with trade unions and other organisations to secure support for this mobilisation.
4. To actively support workers in our University, in other universities, and across the public sector, who take strike action in defence of public services.
5. To actively support its members in resisting the cuts, whether it be in dialogue with university management, or taking part in demonstrations and occupations against the will of management.

6. To support and help mobilise support for the Right to Work demonstration at the BBC building on Oxford Road on at 12pm on Saturday, October 23rd – against all cuts to the public sector.
7. To mandate the entire Executive and Council to work on Union Resolves points 1-6 and to attend and report on the progress of this work at each Higher Education Cuts meeting.