Staff in the UCU (University and College Union) at over 60 universities across the country have voted in favour of historic strike action to resist savage cuts to their pensions. The Students’ Union is supporting the UCU, because attacks to staff affect us all: the future of our education is at stake.

What is the dispute about?
Until now, public universities have had a responsibility to ensure staff have a decent pension when they retire. Under the new scheme, this goes out the window completely, with pensions entirely at the whim of the fluctuations of the stock market, risking a loss of up to 40%.

When is the strike?
The strike is due to take place for 14 days during February and March. On other days during this period, staff will be doing something called ‘working to rule’. This means they won’t take part in activity that is over and above their normal contracted hours.

- Thu 22nd – Fri 23rd February
- Mon 26th – Wed 28th February
- Mon 5th – Thu 8th March
- Mon 12th – Fri 16th March

Why strike action?
88% of UCU members voted to take strike action in record turnouts, but staff concerns have been completely ignored by universities. UCU has sought a negotiated solution, but universities have refused to budge from a hard-line approach which will decimate staff pensions. Strike action is the last resort, but UCU have had no choice.

What can you do to help?
- Sign our open letter to Vice-Chancellor Sir Keith Burnett, calling on him to speak out against the proposals.
- Tell your fellow students that staff are not to blame for the disruption.
- Show your support for staff by visiting picket lines on strike days.
- Send an email to your lecturer or tutor saying you support them.
- Add banner or twibbon to your profile picture on social media.
- Attend ‘alternative events’ and seminars in the SU on afternoons during the strike.

Sign the open letter and find out more at: sheffieldsu.com/SaveStaffPensions