



Proposer: George Walker

Durham Students' Union Notes

1. Durham Students' Union currently has no existing policy on the UCU strikes.

Durham Students' Union Believes

1. Durham Students' Union should have policy on the UCU strikes.

Durham Students' Union Resolves

1. To adopt the below policy

Proposed position of Durham SU on UCU strikes

Durham SU supports the University and College Union's industrial action. Our academic staff has the right to protect their pensions through striking, and through action short of a strike. The University must understand that career academic staff deserve security in their employment and can't be part of providing a world-class education when they are under threat.

There is no contradiction in Durham SU supporting UCU's action and also working to protect students' rights to education. We reject any attempt to divide our unions through attempts to make false distinctions between our shared interests. Students will, of course, expect Durham SU Officers to use their best efforts to get the University and UCU to minimise the impact of industrial action on students, who are largely not a party to this dispute.

The Durham SU Officers should continue to work with UCU to try and find ways in which industrial action can have the best chance of achieving what we both want – a change in the University's position regarding academic staff pensions. The Officers should also continue to make the University aware of student support for academic staffs' rights and ensure that University management meet their obligations to deliver students' education. The Officers should share student frustration with University management, and support a swift resolution to the dispute. We'll need to understand that our solidarity will be tested, and students won't accept their education being used as a bargaining chip, and in particular to assessment, progression, and graduation.