

FIGHTING FOR THE FUTURE OF FE

Area Reviews of Post 16 education and training come on top of year on year funding cuts, thousands of job losses and the loss of one million student places since 2010.

UCU stands between the market and the future of further and higher education. Yet despite the scale of the attacks UCU members have shown that it is possible to mount



resistance by taking initiatives that connect with a wider movement against austerity.

The expected cuts in the Autumn spending review, whilst significant, were not as great as many feared. It is widely accepted that this was due to the campaigning work of UCU members putting the case for further and adult education.

UCU organised three parliamentary lobbies involving hundreds of students and staff, a fifteen hundred strong march on City Hall, ESOL days of action and Downing Street protests.

Political campaigning which engages members, branches and regions have put us on the map. We need to combine political

campaigning with an industrial action strategy if we are going to be successful in defending post 16 education.

We need more funding to defend the sector and to restore lecturers' living standards as well as student provision.

Support MOTION FE12 - A framework for taking the fight forward.



PAY – Getting back on track

For the second year running delegates will be attending conference in the wake of a withdrawal from a fight on pay. We must not make the same mistake again.

This year we have another opportunity to ensure that we have a dynamic, creative and positive pay campaign.

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The claim this year includes a £1 extra for all, closing the gender pay gap and an end to casualisation. This is a popular demand which will excite our members and get them behind an inclusive pay campaign. HE have shown through their successful two day strike that this pay strategy can mobilise members.



The election of Jeremy Corbyn as Labour Leader has given a positive boost to all those in UCU who want to fight to defend post 16 education.

It made a big difference to our campaign that Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell joined our picket lines, protests and lobbies.



We have the support of the Labour front bench. There is a chance to build an alliance in defence of education. The NUT are balloting their members for strike action against academisation. Our colleagues in HE have a campaign that will continue into the Autumn. The NUS have called a national demonstration “Save Our Future” on a Saturday so that other education unions can join them. Where we are able to coordinate, it can strengthen members’ confidence to win our own claim.

Support Pay motions and amendments

FE1 To FE3

Local, regional and national strategy

It is self-evident that where branches are able to mount a fight to improve their terms and conditions UCU should give full support. Local successes can and should encourage us all, and we should seek to generalise any gains. The difficulty is that branches who face the worst attacks, or whose terms and conditions have fallen behind, are not always well placed to mount that campaign. National campaigns and solidarity built properly across the sector can empower the membership and inspire the fightback in less confident areas. It should not be a case of either-or.

We have to find ways to collectivise disputes. The initiative for an All Wales contract is a good example of how this can be done.

Support Amendment FE7A.1

For a ratification panel to oversee local deals. There needs to be clarity about the substance of a settlement to ensure that improvements are generalised, but are not bought at the expense of terms and conditions that could undermine the sector.

Racism, Islamophobia and Anti- Semitism

Refugees welcome here

Friday 3 June 1pm
Pullman Hotel
Kings Dock
Liverpool L3 4FP
(Opposite ACC)

