

Motion against Education Cuts

Proposer: L McCafferty (Socialist Worker Student Soc)

Seconder: J Kiffin (Societies Officer)

Union Notes:

- 1 That the government has announced cuts in public spending, as well as cuts worth £398m for 2010-11 in Higher Education.
- 2 That these cuts will put the jobs of 1 in 10 lecturers in many HE institutions under threat.
- 3 Some universities have already announced cuts. Leeds University is facing nearly 700 compulsory redundancies and extensive course closures including the school of Biology.
- 4 Historically, universities have used the tactic 'divide and rule' between students and lecturers at times of crisis.
- 5 Leeds UCU (University and College Union) has balloted to defend higher education with an overwhelming 97.5% in favour of industrial action.
- 6 That instead of supporting their lecturers, the Leeds Students' Union Executive began a campaign condemning the result of the ballot.

Union Believes:

- 1 That Leeds UCU are taking industrial action to defend not just their jobs, but the quality of education for students as a whole.
- 2 That students' unions should support any action in defence of education.
- 3 That students' unions are wrong in condemning their lecturers when taking action in defence of education.
- 4 That with cuts coming across the board, this union should prepare its position in advance.

Union Resolves:

- 1 To remind Leeds Students' Union of their collectivist duties by mandating Executive to write an open letter reminding them of their duties.
- 2 In accordance with Believes 2, to send another letter to Leeds UCU expressing our support for their industrial action against the cuts.
- 3 That UUEAS will act in the interests of its members, and stand alongside UCU and any other ally in defence of Higher Education and against cuts.