

Policy passed by Union Council on 20 October and 3 November 2011

(Passed amended 20/10/11)

Motion against cuts 1100

Proposer: Liam McCafferty (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Seconder: Tash Ross (Community and Student Rights Officer)

Union Notes:

1. That the government since 2010 has embarked on a series of cuts to public spending, the effects of which have been felt in all areas of public life.
2. That many of these cuts have affected higher education, and as part of the spending cuts, the government has raised tuition fees and introduced reforms aimed to introduce a market in education.
3. That many of these cuts affect provision of services that students use and need, from public libraries to the NHS, from transport subsidies to aid for disabled individuals.
4. That the government still has money to fund war and bankers bonuses, and well as allowing estimates of up to £120 billion in unpaid corporate tax – enough to pay the entire deficit. (1)

Union Believes:

1. That the introduction of a market into higher education will not serve the interests of students or universities, it will create a situation in higher education where courses and higher education providers will be forced to look at their provision predominantly in terms of cost benefit rather than educational purpose.
2. That the impact of other spending cuts also has an impact on 'students as students', many cuts will effect students in other areas of life, and their future career aspirations.
3. That is therefore, the job of our students union to fight all such cuts.

Union Resolves:

1. To reaffirm our policy of opposing public sector cuts which affect service delivery to students.

2. To support and mobilise support for the 'Hardest Hit' demonstration on the 22nd October.
3. To support and mobilise for the TUC 'N30' national day of strike action on the 30th November.
4. To call a demo on the 30 November

(1) The deficit is estimated to be around £85-£135 billion, with the government planning £85 billion of cuts immediately.