

1128 Passed 3 February 2011

Keep the Post Public

Proposer: Jack Brinded (PSI 2)

Seconder: Liam Mccafferty (Non-Portfolio Officer)

Union notes:

- 1) UEA students, both national and international require the Post Office and Royal Mail.
- 2) The proposed government cuts and privatisation will limit the services offered and result in them becoming increasingly expensive.
- 3) Not only will this lead to an increase in stamp prices but also to job losses.
(Source: <http://www.keepthepostpublic.org.uk/pages/whats-at-stake>)
- 4) The General Secretary of the Communication Workers Union (CWU) has issued statements supporting student protestors, declaring that workers under attack should support students in their 'inspiring struggle'.
(<http://studentbroadleft.org.uk/2011/01/billy-hayes-workers-and-students-should-support-each-other-in-struggle/>)
- 5) UUEAS has committed itself to the position of opposing all government public spending cuts.

Union believes:

- 1) An attack on the Post Office and Royal Mail harms students and the community as a whole.
- 2) International students in particular are dependent upon postal services, and any attack upon this service would affect them disproportionately.
- 3) Experience of privatisation from other previously nationalised industries such as the Gas and Rail industries has proven that privatisation does not lead to a more effective service, but in fact have an adverse effect on them.
- 4) These cuts are an ideological attempt to undermine the principles of the welfare state, and to introduce the rules of the free market and the 'race to the bottom' to replace them.
- 5) As demonstrated by our participation in the Norfolk Coalition against the Cuts, UUEAS supports all workers and members of the public taking action against privatisation and public sector cuts.

Union Resolves:

- 1) To mandate the Student Officer Committee to:
 - Write a letter to Norfolk MPs (and city and county councillors.) asking them to vote against any and all attempts to privatise, part-privatise or drastically cut the Post Office and Royal Mail service.

- Write a letter to the EDP asserting the importance of the postal service to students and the wider community, as well as offering our unconditional support to postal workers resisting these measures.
- 2) To liase through NCAC with the Communication Workers Union (CWU) and the 'Keep the Post Public Campaign' and to report back to Union Council.
- 3) To support industrial action by postal workers against the government proposals.