

Motion for Union General Meeting – NUS and Education

Proposer: M Taylor (PSI 2)

Seconder: J Kiffin (Socs Officer)

N.B. The purpose of this covering motion is to give something to discuss as policy at a general meeting or council. What should be sent to NUS is only the two attached amendments, not the rest of the motion.

Union Believes:

- 1) The NUS has failed to offer a lead against the cuts which we all know we are facing in education.
- 2) Cuts campaigns across the country have shown a model for how we can begin to fight back, and NUS should be involved in organising those campaigns, and sharing their experiences with others.
- 3) The attached amendments, designed for NUS annual conference, call on NUS to abandon their failed policy; to engage with and lead these campaigns as part of a struggle for a better education; and to support tactics that have been proven to work.

Union Resolves:

- 1) To send the attached amendments (Amendments to Motion 601 and 611 in the NUS Policy Zone Report) to NUS National Conference in the Higher Education Zone.

Attached Amendments:

Amendment to Motion 601:

DELETE Believes 1 and INSERT:

Activists across the country are campaigning for a better vision of education. Campaigns against cuts have brought together thousands of students who are questioning the marketisation of our education. These campaigns can be a starting point to fight for a better system in education. NUS should act to bring together these campaigns.

DELETE Believes 7 and INSERT:

1. Living Grants should be available to all. Means testing doesn't work.

DELETE Believes 8 and INSERT:

NUS Believes:

1. The cut backs in university funding proposed by the government will hit students hard. The UCU estimates that 15,000 jobs will be lost in education, with departments and in some cases entire campuses under threat. These cuts need to be resisted by a mass campaign of students and staff united. Campaigns such as this have achieved victories at Liverpool University, and are already established in many universities.

ADD Believes 11:

1. That strikes and occupations against cuts are no longer merely something we see in Greece or France, they are happening here. Over 100 students have occupied in Sussex against cuts. An all out strike against cuts at Tower Hamlets college won a major victory. These tactics have an important place in our movement.

DELETE Resolves 1 and INSERT

- To support the cuts campaigns existing on the ground in many universities. To unite and co-ordinate these campaigns on a national and local level, under the slogans under the slogans: "Free Education Now" and "Why Should Students Pay for Their Crisis?". To develop an alternative vision for education based on the principles of a free and fair education, not on accepting the government agenda.

DELETE Resolves 2 and INSERT

- Hold a national demonstration in the first term of the academic year beginning September 2010, to take place outside the annual conference of whichever party wins the general election and announce the date of said demonstration by May 2010 at the latest.

ADD Resolves 7

- To support occupations and strikes in defence of jobs and education.

Amendment to Motion 611:

ADD Believes 3 and 4:

- Industrial action is a key weapon of the union movement, and the best way to defend jobs and conditions in the face of aggressive management.
- UCU members are taking action across the country, from Leeds to Tower Hamlets, and they have won significant victories which benefit us all.

ADD Resolves 3:

To support industrial action taken by UCU and our other partner unions in defence of jobs and education, and to urge our Constituent Members to do the same.