

P22-23/014

Motion: supporting students to demand fee reimbursement for teaching lost due to industrial action

Proposed by the executive committee.

Cardiff UCU:

1. Notes that:
 - Cardiff Students Union supports our industrial action and will vote on 24 November around continuing this support.
 - Cardiff Students Union has committed to lobbying the University for fee reimbursements for any lost contact hours owing to Industrial Action. (source: <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/news/article/secret/Statement-Industrial-action-November-2022/>).
 - The chief executive of the Office for Students recently backed students' demands for refunds: "Universities are subject to consumer protection law, and they should consider how they will make up for any disruption caused by industrial action. This might include...considering whether partial refunds of tuition fees are appropriate" (sources: <https://thetab.com/uk/2021/12/02/universities-could-refund-students-over-the-strike-disruptions-230292> and <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/dec/01/refund-students-hit-by-english-university-strikes-says-watchdog>).
2. Believes that:
 - Our working conditions are students' learning conditions.
 - We take industrial action as a last resort.
 - We oppose university tuition fees and the wider marketisation of higher education. Education is a public good and should be free. Marketisation, neoliberal reform and consumerism in higher education are at the heart of many of the problems staff and students currently face. Neither students nor staff should bear the negative consequences of these sectoral changes.
 - Having been forced to pay tuition fees, students should not bear the financial impact of our employer's unwillingness to provide reasonable pay, pensions, job security, and equality at work. Students are within their rights to complain about teaching missed due to industrial action.
 - Support from the Students Union and wider student body is important to Cardiff UCU and we offer our solidarity in return.
3. Resolves:
 - We support the Students Union's efforts to support students to demand a reimbursement of fees for any teaching and wider university services lost due to the upcoming industrial action.
 - To support the Students Union's efforts to lobby the University for fee refunds and to offer practical assistance to this end. This could include e.g. writing an

open letter to the Vice Chancellor or University Executive Board, or promoting our position with posters or social media.

- To communicate to students via the Students Union that the university management's failure to provide reasonable working conditions, as part of a wider process of marketisation in higher education, is the reason we are taking action.