

## **SUBU update Statement on UCU Industrial Action at BU**

As the democratically elected Full Time Officers (FTOs) at SUBU we have requested a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Vinney and his team to ensure that students are provided with reassurance as to what affect the industrial action would have and increase transparency with regards to who is likely to be affected by the strikes. We will also be asking the Vice-Chancellor to use his influence to write to UCEA\* and ask them to recommence negotiations that include pay and conditions. This way, an equitable solution for all parties can be found quickly.

Our priority is ensuring that the strike causes minimum disruption for BU students and that all students are supported throughout this period, regardless of their views on the strike. We would also like to reassure all students that SUBU services and outlets remain open as usual throughout the industrial action.

We support the rights of all staff to challenge unfair practices, including challenging pay and conditions which they democratically deem to be unfair, and recognise strike action as an entirely legitimate means of raising such concerns. We believe that all effort should be taken to ensure that the strike causes minimum disruption to students at BU and that no student is adversely affected by the strike.

You can find out more information about how the strike will affect students at BU [HERE](#).

SUBU will support the strike and stand in solidarity with UCU by:

- We have written a letter to the Vice-Chancellor, asking him to use his influence with UCEA to ask them to recommence negotiations. The letter can be found at [www.subu.org.uk/ucustrike](http://www.subu.org.uk/ucustrike)
- The FTOs will meet with the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice Chancellor to focus on the strike, and to put pressure on the university to be more transparent with particular reference to assignments and missed lectures
- SUBU will run a social media campaign asking students to use the #mystrike to keep SUBU updated with regards to how the strike is affecting them. Students who are getting involved will also be using the hashtag #mystrike.
- SUBU will support students affected by the strikes who wish to request compensation through the University Complaints system and subsequently through the Office for Students.
- UCU members will lose pay and this is then held by the University. We will lobby the university to ensure that any money saved should be safeguarded and put into a fund.
- We will support students looking to complain through the university complaints process, through SUBU Advice.
- We will lobby the university to ensure that no student is examined on material that has not been covered due to the strike.
- Encouraging UCU members to share with their students if they intend on striking

- Asking the university to make available any data they hold on the impact of the previous strike in November/December 2019.

We also encourage students to feedback on their experience of the strikes and the impact it has on them through the SUBU online feedback tool known as [SIMON](#). We will also be working with our student reps across all faculties and departments to ensure your feedback is captured. It is absolutely essential that we hear from as many students as possible so we are representing the student body as best as possible, so please use the hashtag #mystrike.

\*UCEA – Universities and Colleges Association is the employers association for universities and colleges of Higher Education in the UK.