[Date]

Dear Professor John Vinney,

I am writing to you to express my views about the UCU Strikes.

I believe that everyone deserves fair pay and working conditions and was shocked to find that staff pay has declined by 14% in the past decade. Similarly, I am unhappy to read that universities in the UK continue to perpetuate a gender pay gap of, on average, 13.7% and BU’s is 18.6%.

With 64% of staff worried about their workload, and 63.5% worried about stress related to their workloads, it is no surprise that there is a mental health crisis amongst both staff and students at Bournemouth University. This means our lecturers are taking more time off due to stress, and less consistent teaching for the students. Similarly, because so many of our lecturers are on hourly-paid and casual contracts, this means that they aren’t here for long enough to be able to invest in our university and our teaching.

As universities, we should be in the lead to be equitable institutions, where everyone can work, learn and study to their highest ability – but conditions like these only set us back.

I fully support UCU in their strike action and their reasons for striking, however it is for the good of everyone if the problems that have caused this dispute are reconciled as quickly as possible. This means that you should use the influence you have to write to UCEA and ask them to recommence negotiations. This way, an equitable solution for all parties can be found quickly.

I would also like assurance on the following:

* That no student is examined on material not covered due to the strike
* Make available any data BU holds on the impact of the previous strike in November/December 2019
* Ensure that any money saved from withholding staff pay is safeguarded and put into a fund that will be, for example, spent on either a student hardship fund or a fund which is accessible to students adversely affected by the strikes
* Increase transparency around the strike and allow for exceptional circumstances for students who are affected by the strikes

Yours faithfully,

[Your name]