



18<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Professor John Vinney,

We are writing to you as the democratically elected leaders at the Students' Union to express our views on the ongoing UCU strikes. As you are aware we have the mandate to lobby the university to ensure that the strike causes minimum disruption for BU students and that the student experience is protected throughout this process.

We believe that everyone deserves fair pay and working conditions and we were shocked to find that staff pay has declined by 14% in the past decade. Similarly, we were unhappy to read that universities in the UK continue to perpetuate a gender pay gap of, on average, 13.7% and our university is at 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 in our university. This means our lecturers taking more time off due to stress, consequently providing less consistent teaching for us. 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 students' university experience and quality teaching.

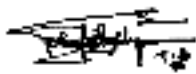
As universities, we should be in the lead to be equitable institutions, where everyone can work, learn and study to their highest ability – but conditions like these only set us back.

We 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.

Additionally, we would like to meet with you to get your assurances on the following:

- 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
- 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
- Increase transparency around the strike and allow for exceptional circumstances for students who are affected by the strikes

Yours faithfully,



Ade Balogun  
President



Lea Ediale  
VP Activities



Abidemi Abiodun  
VP Community



Lenrick Greaves  
VP Education



Joanna Ann  
VP Welfare &  
Equal Opportunities