

SUBU Summit Ideas

Proposed by	SU President
Proposal	Should SUBU support UCU’s industrial actions, including strike action?
Problem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 21 October 2022, following ongoing disputes over unsafe workloads, casual contracts and equality failings, strike action has been balloted at UK universities and UCU members secured a mandate for both Strike and Action Short of Strike (ASOS). • As a result, staff at 150 universities, including the BU UCU branch, commenced a continuous period of ASOS from Wednesday 23 November 2022 and three full days of Strike on: 24th, 25th and 30th November. • The BU UCU branch has issued a statement to students, detailing the actions they are taking and why. In brief, UCU’s demands include action to address excessive workloads and unpaid work, a pay rise to deal with the cost-of-living crisis, action to end the use of insecure contracts and close the gender, ethnic and disability pay gaps. • The Students’ Union will always support better and more equal pay and working conditions for all staff and understands that staff wellbeing affects student experience. SUBU also has an important role to play in helping students to understand why strikes are taking place and has issued frequently asked questions for students. • The Students’ Unions decision whether to support the strikes should be made by our members. A previous policy was passed at the SUBU Summit in November 2021 was under the then condition of ASOS (and not strike), and agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For SUBU to support all UCU demands in relation to the four fights; pay, workload, casualisation, and equality ○ For SUBU to prioritise transparent information and education surrounding why UCU industrial action is occurring ○ For SUBU to not support industrial action that would lead to significantly more disruption to our members

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the ongoing national dispute means the industrial action is likely to continue and UCU's approach now includes strike, as well as ASOS, it is important to review SUBU's position by putting it to our members to decide whether they want SUBU to support UCU's industrial actions, including strike actions
Ideas for solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Students' Union to support UCU's industrial actions, demonstrations and teach outs to the students. The Students' Union to release a statement declaring its intention to support industrial actions including strikes. The Students' Union to ensure students are informed (including on why strikes are taking place and support available), run digital campaigns and student-led initiatives.
To be implemented by	SU VP Education