

Support for Higher Education Staff Strike Action

“Council notes that four in five higher education staff are struggling with workloads, 86% have been directed towards support for mental health, and over 30% of workers are not on fixed-term contracts.

Council further notes the disparity in pay for both women and BAME higher education staff, and that these are among the key reasons why higher education staff in 58 universities, including local institutions Queen’s University and University of Ulster, have overwhelmingly voted for strike action.

Council recognises the efforts of these workers, through their union UCU, to resolve these issues, and the reality that strike action is a final resort for those who are invested in delivering higher education to young people.

Council acknowledges that it has a role in supporting workers fighting to win decent pay and conditions in their workplace, and therefore will adopt a position of supporting the strike action, and commit to writing to the managements of higher education institutions in Belfast, at which UCU workers have balloted for strike action, encouraging them to deliver on these demands.”

Proposer: Councillor Matt Collins

Seconder: Councillor Michael Collins