

Strike back against poverty pay!



Support HE workers End the 1% Pay Freeze

TUC must
name the date
for a 24-hour
general strike to
defeat Cameron's
austerity!

Text JOIN with your name & postcode to 07761 818206

E-mail join@socialistparty.org.uk; phone 020 8988 8777; write to Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London, E11 1YD

31 October will be a day of coordinated strike action by UCU, Unison and Unite members working in Universities. This is the first UK-wide joint action between these Higher Education unions, demonstrating the anger that their members feel about the employers' insulting 1% pay increase.

Even pro-capitalist commentator Will Hutton, writing in the Observer notes that "The real wages of academics have fallen by 13% since 2008, one of the largest sustained wage cuts any profession has suffered since the Second World War." This is despite the scandalously high fees charged to students, which have subsidised lavish pay at the upper echelons of University management while ordinary teaching, research, and support staff struggle.

We want a publicly funded system of Higher Education, free at the point of use and paying a fair wage to its workers. In addition to real-terms pay cuts, casualisation of all jobs is rife in the sector, including use of fixed-term, hourly-paid and even the now-infamous 'zero hours' contracts. This job insecurity together with management bullying and excessive workloads will also motivate UCU members to undertake a 'work to contract' following the strike day.

Many student organisations, including official students' unions, have offered support. It will be vital to build on these links and make clear to students that this industrial action strengthens their fight for free education, particularly if exam marking ends up being affected. Already propaganda about the USS pension scheme has tried to pit students against staff - in fact this scheme is

healthy in any reasonable measure, and a bizarre accounting practice is being used to claim students will end up 'bailing out' their lecturers' pensions. Nothing could be further from the truth, but this and similar falsehoods will be peddled by the ConDem Government and their media chums if the dispute continues.

This and other elements of a serious fighting strategy could see a victory in the form of a significantly improved pay offer. The government is already under pressure from strikes by the CWU, FBU and NAPO. But ultimately the dispute has arisen from the politics of austerity and we need to make links with other unions - our members already look to the dispute in the teachers' unions NUT and NASUWT and the call for a one-day general strike against austerity is gaining ground. Socialists in Higher Education unions will fight to make it a reality.



nationalshop stewardsnetwork

The NSSN has been to the fore of the campaign for a 24-hour general strike, organising lobbies, protests, petitions and more.

Organising mutual solidarity when trade unions are in dispute has been at the heart of our work. The NSSN brings together fighting trade union activists to share ideas and to build a united struggle.

Initiated by the RMT in 2006, the NSSN now also has national support from PCS,

www.shopstewards.net

TUSC AGAINST CUTS Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) was set-up in 2010 to enable trade unionists, community campaigners and socialists to stand candidates against the pro-austerity establishment parties.

TUSC has a clear position of opposing all cuts, and candidates endorse a clear 10-point programme (see the website). TUSC was set up by the RMT and includes other leading trade union

www.TUSC.ORG.UK

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RALLY FOR SOCIALISM

SPEAKERS INCLUDE

PETER TAAFFE, SOCIALIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY

BOB CROW, RMT GENERAL SECRETARY

MARK SERWOTKA, PCS GENERAL SECRETARY

A SOUTH AFRICAN MINER & MORE!

2 NOVEMBER, 6:30PM, FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, 173 EUSTON ROAD, NW1 2BJ

TICKETS & MORE INFO

socialism2013.net