

Support a Trade Dispute with Secretary of State for Education over Funding

This branch notes:

- UK Higher Education is in crisis and tens of thousands of jobs have been lost
- UCU Northern Region call for urgent action on sector funding, and UCU commitment to 'defending jobs, free education'¹
- The funding model for HE is determined by the Secretary of State for Education (Higher Education and Research Act 2017)
- Recent legal advice commissioned by UCU members shows the viability of a trade dispute with the Secretary of State over the funding of HE²
- QMUL UCU and Goldsmiths UCU have passed motions for UCU HE Sector Conference at Congress in May, calling for our union to open a trade dispute with the Secretary of State for Education over HE funding

This branch believes that:

- The crisis in UK HE can only be tackled by challenging the current funding model
- An increase in student fees leverages yet more student debt to fund universities, which does not resolve the problem
- Increases to the block grant are the only way to secure the future of Higher Education in the UK, through publicly funding universities

This branch resolves to:

- Support the [Congress motion HE14](#) submitted by QMUL UCU, Goldsmiths UCU, and University of Essex UCU
- Sign a cross-branch [open letter](#) in support of this trade dispute, to be sent to UCU's General Secretary and HEC members
- Mandate its HE Sector Conference (Congress) delegates to vote in support of this motion, so that it becomes UCU policy

¹https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vTY20tsLYA7JVe6X354VD_e8oS4FGHm6DEyBBPYj8i6aOO7S5_vyzqpxle8nWYaShxT0NMQ3yU5vfw/pub and 2009-2010 HESC motion 8.

² <https://www.universityrankandfile.org.uk/legal-advice-on-ucu-dispute>