

# THE STRIKE CHRONICLE

## "WE CARE: WE STRIKE"

### Day 1 Dispatch

An amazing day. A healthy show of support from all levels of staff at the Bartlett and warm and resolute spirit amongst everyone gathered. Picketing followed by a union meeting and curry at Club 52 (52 Gower Street - the UCL UCU headquarters for this strike). Then a teach-out at Club 52 - a chance to ask questions, talk, listen, organize. A highlight was UCL UCU's Sean Wallis, who gave a clear summary of the background to the strike and the risk to pensions and to higher education. (For Sean's excellent blog, see <https://heconvention2.wordpress.com/2018/02/08/made-in-westminster/>)

#### Highlights of the day (compiled by UCU President, Sally Hunt):

Sam Gyimah, the Conservative minister for universities called for the resumption of negotiations 'without preconditions' to resolve the dispute.

Jeremy Corbyn, the Labour Leader called for urgent negotiations.

NUS President Shakira Martin sent good wishes to UCU from NUS and also called on universities to 'get round the table'

YouGov poll showed two thirds of students in strike hit universities support the staff.

In response, UUK hinted that they may at last be prepared to talk

## TEACHING IN AND OUT

JANE RENDELL

For a teacher, striking at a university is difficult because of the tension between commitments: to broader social issues and to particular students. I suggested a teach-in, following the US tradition, as place for political debate and transformational pedagogy, in the Bartlett lobby during the UCU strike.

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/pensions>

But a colleague warned me that a teach-in might be perceived as a strike-break, because it involved crossing a picket line: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/student-uss-information>

Yet, I had thought of the teach-in, not as a way of continuing business as usual, but rather as a potential occupation. And certainly NUS and UCU are in support of sit-ins. <http://anticuts.com/tag/uss/> UCU UCL suggested moving the picket line back to the card barriers, so we would be both inside the building and outside the picket line. But when I informed management of this plan, I was told that picket lines must be outside the employer's premises.

So back to binaries: inside or outside. **On strike days we are going to work the picket line into a transitional space with potential for dialogue.** Whichever side of the line you are on, we hope you will come and join us.

### Solidarity Corner

Labour leader, Jeremy Corbyn: "I join staff, students and @UCU in calling for the employers to commit to meaningful negotiations to resolve this dispute." [pic.twitter.com/RMzWynVZXk](https://pic.twitter.com/RMzWynVZXk)

Join Owen Jones's Teach Out on the Politics of Hope, Goldsmiths, The Stretch, Students Union, Dixons Road, SE14 6NW, 2pm.

#### WHY ARE WE STRIKING?

### KEY FACTS

- University staff and members of the University and College Union (UCU) are striking to defend their pensions, which are being tied to stock market performance with no guaranteed returns.
- More broadly, strikers are worried about the effect reforms like these are having on the academic sector itself. **We see education as a public good, which should be accessible and affordable for all.** We worry about increasing insecurity around jobs (precarity). This affects us all.
- 61 universities are affected; 88% of union members voted to strike; the National Union of Students (NUS) fully supports action
- **What can you do?**
- We are striking for 14 days over the coming four weeks. There is lots you can do!
- Join our daily pickets - one at 22 GS and one at Central House - however long you can.
- Join the "March for Education" Wednesday, 28 February, 12pm (Assemble at Malet Street; March to Parliament)
- Take a copy of *The Strike Chronicle* for details of the day's actions; come to teach-out events on Decolonization, Solidarity, Financialization of Education, and Intergenerational Equity
- Join the Union (currently free for PGTAs: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/free>)
- Follow the strike on UCL UCU's twitter feed: [https://twitter.com/ucl\\_ucu?lang=en](https://twitter.com/ucl_ucu?lang=en)
- E-mail Provost Michael Arthur and urge him back to the table: [michael.arthur@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:michael.arthur@ucl.ac.uk)
- **TWEET TALK MARCH**
- **MAKE BANNERS POSTERS NOISE**