



THE STRIKE CHRONICLE

"Academia is for life, not for business"

Day 3 Dispatch

Despite the "Beast from the East", the mood was high on the picket line at 22 GS and at Central House. A sound system and good playlist, baked goods, creativity and comradie helps with the cold. By morning's end, we had beautiful signs crafted as part of the Strike-writing workshops - thank you students! - and were able to march with pride to Tavistock Square to join other strikers across UCL for a show of support. Saw many amazing colleagues, including from departments that have shut down (DPU, History of Art - we salute you.)

Round up

UCL Provost's Office occupied by UCL Students.

Vince Cable refuses to break the picket line - cancels appearance at Bartlett lecture.

UCL's Provost, Michael Arthur, one of the leading hawks of pension reform, writes an all-staff/student letter restating UCL's position; for a strong point-by-point union response, see <http://uclucu.blogspot.co.uk/2018/02/response-to-ucls-provost-time-to-catch.html>

Big day today as UCU and Universities UK are meeting for the first time. (London Region UCU invites picketers to 60 Threadneedle Street EC2R 8HP for 2:45pm; talks start 3:30)

"I DON'T WANT TO STRIKE" BUT...

MOLLIE CLAYPOOL

I don't want to go on strike. It's cold out there. But, I'm striking. Why am I, a member of design staff, striking? Why is it important to strike even though my strike has such an impact on my students' education? Why is it important to strike even though it will affect my colleagues ability to do their jobs? I can list two reasons.

One. Learning. Unit 19 works on the relationship of labour to space, speculating on what disruptive spatial, social and economic models for post-capitalist and post-work society might look like in architectural design, fabrication and assembly. As you may suspect we are fundamentally against the neoliberalisation of higher education - which is what this strike action is really about. My students, after educating themselves about the strike, came together as a group to support me. I feel touched - and proud - that they understand this strike goes beyond their midterm crit, beyond their individual academic experience. It didn't take much effort to prioritise this as a space of learning, in real time, as real action. It is an opportunity.

Two. Health. In addition the undergraduate students I have spent 4 years working closely as a Programme Director with the students who have been most affected by neoliberalisation.

I have seen the effect of this in real terms in the marketisation of the university - the student as consumer has transformed how we deal with progression rates (for example). I have seen this in the casualisation of roles (although we have worked hard as a School and programme to put design staff on permanent contracts in the last few years). I have seen this in the financial impact that £9k tuition fees have had on the composition our student body (higher levels of mental, emotional and financial stress, elitism, a narrowing demographic, less risk taking in their time studying). I have personally worked on temporary contracts for over half of my professional life in academia. A good pension was a big selling point for me to come to the Bartlett and work my way up to a full time post. Security is important when in our working lives we regularly go beyond the call of duty. I understand most design staff are mostly in practice and not a full time academic like me. But if we are all concerned first and foremost about our students - which I believe we all are - then to strike against changes to pensions is to ultimately strike for the health of their educations.

For breaking news follow #ucu #ucustrike #strikeforUSS #usstrikes

JOIN US

We are striking for 3 days this week (Monday to Wednesday) and are organizing teach-outs and events to provide positive spaces for dialogue and learning outside of the classroom.

TODAY: Tues 27 Feb, 9am-12, outside 22 GS

Hedge schools and other forms of transformative pedagogy Join us to talk radical pedagogy, civic education and teaching to transgress!

1-3pm, 52 Club, 52 Gower St.

David Graeber will be teaching-out. He is author of *Debt: The First 5000 Years* (2011); *The Democracy Project* (2013); *The Utopia of Rules* (2015); and soon, *Bullshit Jobs, A Theory*.

TOMORROW: Wed 28 Feb, 9am-12, outside 22 GS

Crit-out BREAK//LINE will present their the union banner and manifesto, and talk about developing critiquing the trespass of capital into practice and pedagogy. We are keen to reach out to design staff and students. So anyone with a project relating to the themes of the strike - inequality, precarity, debt, intergenerational equity, Please come along to a crit which will take place inside at the front of the foyer and on the street.

12 noon, March for Education: Back Pension & Pay Strikes Assemble Malet St, London WC1E

THIS IS A KEY TIME TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD - WE MARCH ON PARLIAMENT.

Solidarity Corner

A Bartlett shout-out to the Architectural Workers at Cambridge Architecture School - <https://architecturalworkers.wordpress.com/2018/02/26/architectural-workers-are-striking/> - where the Rebel Architects' Faction occupied Scroope Terrace.

FOR BARTLETT EVENTS, <https://www.s-t-r-i-k-e.org/>