

Oxford UCU Branch Motion

Passed at Quorate Branch Extraordinary General Meeting on 9th April 2025

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'
- 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 HE
- 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](#) submitted by [QMUL UCU](#) and Goldsmiths UCU
- Co-host the cross-branch online meeting on 10 April 2025 at 6pm in support of a trade dispute with the Secretary of State for Education over the current funding model
- 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