

University Sector - Industrial Dispute

This Council acknowledges the contribution to civic and economic life made by both Queens University Belfast and University of Ulster to the citizens of Belfast City. Belfast City Council also notes the high standard of teaching and research carried out by staff at both universities and the benefits made to the people of Belfast as an employer.

This Council is concerned at the current Industrial dispute taking place throughout the university sector and in particular its detrimental impact upon the international reputation, civic and economic contribution of Queens University Belfast and University of Ulster to the City. This council is further concerned of the failure to resolve this dispute will mean staff will seek employment outside the sector impacting upon quality of teaching and research and the local and international standing as universities of excellence.

Belfast City Council is also concerned at the failure of Universities and Colleges Employers' Association (UCEA), of which Queens University Belfast and University of Ulster are members, in addressing the proposed 35% cut in the Universities Superannuation Scheme payable to staff on retirement.

Belfast City Council is further concerned the Universities and Colleges Employer's Association appear to have no resolve in negotiating an amicable solution and is therefore prolonging unnecessarily the industrial dispute.

Belfast City Council therefore calls upon both local University Vice Chancellors to use their influence with the Universities and Colleges Employers' Association to resolve this dispute and if required for call for an allocation from the sector's reserves estimated at £46.8 billion to be used to support the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

This Council asks the Lord Mayor to write to both Vice Chancellors expressing the views of council and in particular the dispute to be resolved fairly and that Belfast City Council supports the principle of adequate pensions for all employees on retirement.

Proposer: Councillor Heading

Seconder: Councillor Lyons