

## **Press Release**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2019  
for immediate release

# **Bournemouth University UCU begins strike action with 90% of students behind them**

### **Press Call:**

**Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 10am, Poole Gateway Picket**

**Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup>, 10am, Poole Gateway Picket**

***\*\*Opportunity to film, take photos, speak with those on the pickets. Students also available\*\****

Members of BU UCU will begin 8 days of strike action on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November until Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December, with 90% of students polled supporting their lecturers.

This is an **historic strike** for BU UCU, which has mobilised the largest strike action since the branch began. With **more than 360 members**, and more joining every day, there was a **55% turnout** in the national vote, with **more than 70% voting for strike action**.

BU UCU is striking for **equality**, specifically focusing on **race** and the **gender pay gap**.

**Female academics at BU** and across the sector **make 15% less than their male counterparts** for doing the exact same job and also have a difficult time getting promoted. An even greater disgrace is that **BAME women make 9% less than their white counterparts** across the sector, and are leaving BU because they cannot progress their careers.

BU UCU is also fighting against **casualisation**, with many lecturers on **zero-hour contracts** and some barely making £10 an hour. BU UCU is also striking about increasing **workloads**, with many lecturers at BU working **more than 50 hours per week** to get through a normal week's workload. Academic staff, across the sector, have told UCU that they put in **40 million hours on extra-curricular activities a year**; the equivalent of almost 25,000 full-time jobs. **BU UCU is fighting against toxic stress**, with many staff members **burned out** or on **long-term sick leave**.

BU UCU is also fighting for **pay**. Pay for university staff has plummeted in real-terms in the last decade, even according to a report released by universities last month. Their figures showed a **drop of around 17% in real-terms since 2009**.

**Action short of strike** also starts on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November and **will continue until further notice**.

Action short of a strike involves:

- working to contract
- not covering for absent colleagues
- not rescheduling lectures or classes cancelled due to strike action
- not undertaking any voluntary activities

**Please attend our Press Calls:**

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**XXX**

**Contact:**

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