UCU resolution Cardiff branch 1st May 2024

Put forward by James Whitley (SHARE)

This branch notes with concern the widespread tendency of Senior Management in British Universities to end or restrict the teaching subjects in the Humanities (such as the pressure put on the teaching of modern languages in Aberdeen). This branch regrets in particular the recent decision to end the provision of the teaching of ancient and religious languages in Cardiff (Sanskrit, Hebrew, ancient Greek and Latin). It deplores the lack of transparency in the way the decision first made and then communicated, the lack of respect towards staff who taught on these language modules (‘external academics’) and the framing purely in terms of instrumental vocabulary. It notes with concern that there is a complete lack of any role for the arts and humanities in each of the ‘three visions’ that form part of the ‘Big Conversation’ in this university.

This branch therefore **resolves** that Cardiff University re-affirm that the Humanities are an essential part of human knowledge (along with all STEM subjects), and therefore must form a part of what a world-leading university ought both to teach and research. It **re-affirms** that we cannot plan for the future unless we understand the past, and that the value of culture in general (and different cultures in particular) cannot simply be a matter of managerial quantification. It therefore also **resolves** that the role of the Arts and Humanities should form an integral part of the **vision** for Cardiff University’s future.