

Safeguard Sussex University services

26 November 2012

Dear Council member

We are taking the unusual step of writing to you directly because of the depth of our concern about the University management's proposals to outsource all estates and facilities services on our campus.

As you will be aware, UCU, UNISON, Unite and the University of Sussex Student' Union are the representative bodies of all the staff and all the students in our campus community. We believe that on this occasion, we need to write directly to the members of the university's governing council.

We have serious concerns that the proposal to outsource these essential university services and the process being undertaken by the university management are fatally flawed. We are concerned that this is exposing the university to unacceptable risks, both in terms of its financial sustainability in the future and its reputation. In an era when student recruitment is so critical, these issues are of course, completely intertwined.

We respectfully request that you take a moment to read our joint briefing document ahead of the Council meeting and please contact us if you wish more information about any of the issues concerned.

We are asking that you consider mandating the university to pause its competitive dialogue process, release to the unions the requisite financial information and actively address the unions' deep concerns about the failures of process thus far. We are now at the point where we believe only this urgent action can safeguard the university.

We would also like you to be aware that there will be a lobby of the Council meetings and that a rolling campaign of boycotting university services has begun on the campus in order to express the united opposition on campus to the process to date.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and briefing and we hope that you will consider our requests.

Sent on behalf of

**University of Sussex UCU, Unison,
Unite and the University of Sussex Students' Union**

