



University and College Union

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Professor David Richardson
Vice Chancellor
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Dear Professor Richardson

I write to express my concern over the recently announced closure of counselling courses within the school of education at University of East Anglia (UEA) and to ask you to now urgently meet with staff union and student representatives.

As well as representing an unacceptable threat to UCU members' jobs the proposals would damage the education of existing students and significantly impact provision of counselling teaching in the region at a time when there is growing recognition of the need for more investment in mental health provision and education.

UCU believes that there has been insufficient consideration for the impact on staff or current students and that the plan for 'teaching out' would not deliver the same quality taught by unqualified staff.

I am also concerned by the apparent lack of consultation to date and your refusal to meet with student and staff representatives.

I urge you now to pause and meet with UCU, the other staff unions and student representatives to explore alternatives to the planned closures including the counter-proposals already offered.

I'm sure we share a desire to protect the high quality of education at UEA, the morale of staff and students and positive industrial relations at the university.

Yours sincerely

Sally Hunt
UCU general secretary