

UCU Executive Committee, 19 July 2016, AG07a, 1300-1430
Minutes (status draft)

Attendance

Member	01/09/15	06/10/15	03/11/15	01/12/15	05/01/16	02/02/16	01/03/16	05/04/16	03/05/16	07/06/16	19/07/16
Keith Simpson (KS)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A
Chris Flood (CF)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	A
Rebecca Lewis (RL)	A	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
Morris Pamplin (MP)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Greg Wellington (GW)	P	P	P	A		P	P	P	P	P	A
John Saunders (JS)	P	A	P	A	A	A				P	P
Chantal Hill (CH)	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	A
Martin Chivers (MC)	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
Grietje Baars (GB)	P										
Rachel Cohen (RC)	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	A	A	P	A
Alison Macfarlane (AM)	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P
Leon Cuthbertson (LC)	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
Hayley McBain (HM)	A	P	P	A		A	A	A	A	A	A
Swetha Bobba (SB)	A		A								

1 Apologies

Apologies received from KS, CF, RC, GW, CH.

Also attending were newly elected branch officers and committee members for 2016-17: Holly Powell-Jones, Lorna Ryan, Sadie Wickwar.

2 Minutes of last meeting

JS gave an update of the lift at Myddleton Street which is now due for replacement.

He also updated on the USS presentations given by USS staff at City. JS had asked MP to forward a message from the UCU pensions officer to members.

RL and RC had met with Pam Parker on plans to introduce a question about peer observation of teaching into the academic staff appraisal. No major issues had been raised at the meeting. It was due to be discussed at Senate this week.

3 PSR 3 update

MP gave an update on the Annual Professional Services planning round which was still not complete. The process had been very unsatisfactory as reported at previous committee meetings. The TUs had met with SPB representatives on 6 July at which meeting we had continued to voice concerns and frustrations with how the consultations had been conducted and the factors making meaningful consultation impossible. HR had expressed their surprise at this report. Consultations in Lead, IS, the Library, HR, Finance and DARO were now deemed concluded along with the concurrent consultation in Research & Enterprise. There was still no news of the Marketing & Communications consultation.

JS noted that the report sounded very familiar from recent restructures and redundancies and that HR's commitments to lead on redundancy consultations appeared to have been forgotten.

LR asked how counter-proposals in various services had developed. There had been few suggestions from staff on counter-proposals probably due in part to staff's perceptions of the process. Where they had made suggestions e.g. In DARO they had been ignored.

4 Branch committee and facility time allocation 2016/17

The committee co-opted Alison Macfarlane onto the 2016/17 committee as an Ordinary Member in recognition of her work as a fixed term researcher and her knowledge of issues facing this group of staff.

AM noted some of the work she wanted to do to engage and represent researchers in 2016/17 in order to raise membership in this group of staff. The issues of researchers' role profiles and contracts still needed to be addressed.

Action: MP to add this to be agenda for September committee meeting with a view to organising an event in the Autumn term.

MP reported that the branch committee needed to send notification of facility time for 2016/17 to HR. The proposal was for new President to take 0.5 FTE as in previous years, and the Vice Presidents and Secretary would also want facility time for their duties.

Branch officers and committee members were asked to write to RL by Friday if they would like to make a request for facility time and this would be considered.

There was a commitment to manage allocation of facility time more sensitively this year. RL noted that the Recognition Agreement stated that part-time or hourly-paid staff should be reimbursed for union duties if they could not take facility time, or should have their hours reduced. This issue affected JS and HPJ in particular, and they agreed to log their hours to monitor time spent on union duties in order to be able to negotiate with HR on this.

Action: HPJ to log union work hours in 2016/17, and JS to log hours in a typical week.

5 Model branch rules

MP had received an email from Sally Hunt regarding changes to model branch rules which had been moved and approved by Congress.

MP showed the document at the meeting and would circulate it to the committee for comment and questions. New branch rules would be approved at the September committee meeting. The changes were quite minor.

Action: MP to circulate the new model branch rules and committee members to return any comments or feedback by 23rd August.

MP to add to the agenda for September committee meeting.

6 Lecture capture: expansion in schools

MP noted that two schools were considering plans to expand lecture capture and make it “opt-out” rather than “opt-in”. This was in contravention of the lecture capture policy. The union would need to fight this if necessary.

RL expressed some caution because there was evidence of lecture capture recordings’ benefits to students, especially in light of changes to disabled students support which moved the responsibility for providing support onto the university.

7 Any other business

SW asked if there had been any updates on industrial action. There were no official update since the last strike days though the strategy of continuing action until a more satisfactory offer, or until the start of the next academic year, remained in place.

MP noted that UCU were holding more training courses for new Reps in London, 7-9 September. Any interested branch officers or committee members could sign up.