

UCU Executive Committee, 6 October 2015, AG02, 1300-1430
Minutes (status draft)

Attendance

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

1 Apologies

Apologies received from MC, JS, LC, RC.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

CF had followed up with Mary Luckiram on the promise of a review of PSR.

MP reported that the TUs/HR joint communication on the role of trade union reps is currently with Marketing to be formatted.

3 2015-16 Recruitment

KS would like the branch to develop a recruitment strategy for 2015-16 with a target to raise membership by one third by the end of the year.

SW is currently working one half day a week and the branch has enough funds to increase her hours 1.5 hours per week for 3 months. She will co-ordinate letters and emails to all staff including current

non-members and new starters. MP suggested she could also help with migrating members to a new email system.

MP noted we could also target the new common room and he is working on a series of posters. He had drafted an email to send to new starters. He and KS will work on text for an email and letter to go to current non-member staff.

GW to co-ordinate recruitment stalls for the autumn term.

Action: MP to send draft new starters email to KS.

Action: MP and KS to draft email to current non-members.

Action: MP to present posters and blank template to committee.

Action: GW to co-ordinate stalls.

4 Autumn term meetings, training and events

a USS pensions meeting

RL and GB met with George Hammond from Share Action who is keen to speak at an open meeting. George will speak on USS disinvestment from unethical financial sources. RL and GB also want to invite a speaker from USS for right of reply. Dennis Leech mentioned as a further possible speaker. Target audience is all USS members, not just UCU membership.

George will send posters to promote the meeting.

b Pre-Christmas open meeting and social

MP and KS had discussed the need for an open meeting and social at the end of term.

KS noted the recruitment of Richard Murphy as a Professor of Political Economy and also on Jeremy Corbyn's economics advisory board (joining current academics Anastasia Nesvetailova and Ann Pettifor).

Action: KS to contact Richard Murphy regarding UCU membership and speaking at the meeting.

c UCU mental health training

CH can possibly attend.

Action: CH to check overlap with recent health and safety training and book if appropriate.

Action: MP to inform HR of staff trained in mental health awareness, after completed.

d National Hate Crime Awareness Week

MP noted this begins on Saturday 10 October and suggested a Twitter poster campaign to mark the week.

Action: MP to publicise to members with a blank poster to write an anti-hate-crime message on and tweet to @UCU and #NoPlaceForHate.

Action: MP to circulate to committee details of LGBT+ network's event.

5 Facility time

The committee had intended to discuss this at the meeting but JS sent his apologies and asked for it to be discussed fully at the November executive meeting.

KS gave a short update of the situation regarding the branch's facility time allocation for 2015-16. The branch currently has 1.0 FTE and historically it has not always been fully used, although now we could easily use more. We will need to request an increase in facility time but difficult to justify this while other unions do not use their more limited allocation.

The current issue with allocation of facility time highlights the need to clarify the branch's position on how HPLs claim facility time.

Action: KS, CF and MP to address and follow up with JS.

6 Proposal for regular joint-TU meetings

KS proposed to instigate regular joint-TU meetings between UCU, Unite and UNISON.

7 UCU representation on staff support groups

KS would like to increase the committee's engagement with and representation on staff representation groups such as the new BME network, Women At City, and the LGBT+ group (which is already active and has representation).

Action: CH to follow up on status of Women at City group as there was a question as to whether it is still current.

Action: MP to include in next members' update.

MP also raised the need to engage with the Muslim SU over the Prevent Strategy agenda. GW noted there has already been contact and advised going through the Students' Union in the first instance.

Action: GW and MP to discuss and make a recommendation to the next committee meeting.

8 Gender and other inequalities in promotion

AM raised the issue of the announcement in CityWire of appointment of someone without any academic experience in teaching or research to a paid part time professorship in SHS. The announcement said he would be involved in both teaching and research. The announcement had given rise to considerable concern in SHS.

Action: AM to prepare a request to HR for information about the process by which this appointment was made.

9 Reports

a London Region AGM and Pay Briefing

Please see separate reports.

b Gender Equality Working Group (GEWG)

KS and RL attended. The meeting included a presentation by the Women at City group and a discussion about the recent unsuccessful Athena SWAN application.

The branch's position is that change needs to be implemented before another Athena SWAN application is made.

c Academic Contracts

Please see separate meeting notes.

d Scoping meeting between TUs, HR and UET

Please see separate meeting notes.

e University of London/Careers Group

Please see separate meeting notes.

10 Corporate staff induction

KS and CF can attend to give presentation on 22 October.

11 Any other business

None.