

UCU Executive Committee, 1 March 2016, AG02, 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
Keith Simpson (KS)	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
Chris Flood (CF)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Rebecca Lewis (RL)	A	P	P	P	A	P	P
Morris Pamplin (MP)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Greg Wellington (GW)	P	P	P	A		P	P
John Saunders (JS)	P	A	P	A	A	A	
Chantal Hill (CH)	A	P	A	A	P	A	A
Martin Chivers (MC)	A	A	P	P	P	P	P
Grietje Baars (GB)	P						
Rachel Cohen (RC)	P	A	P	A	P	P	P
Alison Macfarlane (AM)	A	P	P	P	P	P	P
Leon Cuthbertson (LC)	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
Hayley McBain (HM)	A	P	P	A		A	A
Swetha Bobba (SB)	A		A				

1 Apologies

Apologies received from KS and CH.

2 Minutes of last meeting

Item 3: MP updated the committee on the final blankets delivery which was made to the Hereford Veterans Support Group. They are making another trip to France to deliver the blankets. MP invited the committee to contribute to the expenses if they still wanted to donate. The branch was successful in getting the university to agree to offer 3 scholarships to refugees.

Item 4: RL had spoken with Peter Brooks in HR regarding setup of the Employee Relations Sub-Group to JCNB. Dates for meetings need to be agreed.

Action for MP.

Item 5: MP had heard back from other UCU branches regarding Facebook and the consensus was to set up a page which the branch can use to communicate with members using Facebook.

Item 8: CF and RL began work on their review of other universities' policies.

Action carried forward for CF and RL.

3 2016/17 budget

LC noted the university has released the financial statement for 2014/15 which gives more detail on the surplus achieved last year. There was the potential for schools to be required to make cuts as well as Professional Services. For example at Cass staff have been told that new posts will not be approved and in some cases new posts were dependent on other departures e.g. through retirement. Financial pressures were now beginning to affect academics directly. The change was towards continuous cuts and non-recruitment of vacant posts as a form of cuts.

While there were not consistent approaches in all schools there were reports of similar offers of early retirement in other schools.

4 Retirement

This was covered in discussion under the previous item.

5 UCU Congress 2016

The committee provisional delegates for 2016 Congress. RL has requested to attend. MC would like to attend but has asked to be a delegate for the LGBT+ Standing Committee so may attend in that capacity. LC and CF can attend if a place remains available.

6 London region pay briefing and branch meeting

MP gave a summary of the London Region pay briefing on 18 February which he and MC attended. Publicity leaflets and posters are now available in the union office.

Action: MP to arrange for committee members to leaflet members and put up posters, and to send leaflets to Cass.

Four unions (UNISON not yet included) have submitted a pay claim for 2016/17. Details are in the UCU circular HE263 <http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/7821/UCUHE263/pdf/UCUHE263.pdf>.

The branch's meeting on 23 February was not well attended but useful for those who did attend.

CF raised the consultative ballot which was held in February and its relationship to the pay campaign. They are related in that the results of the ballot will inform the negotiators' positions in the JNCHES meetings.

7 Any other business

RC attended the 2nd Convention on Higher Education on 27 February. The convention will be producing an alternative white paper to coincide with BIS's white paper in May.

LC queried the position on London Weighting with the progression of City to joining the University of London. Other institutions in UoL are submitting for a raise to the London Weighting. Currently City has consolidated the London Weighting into salaries. RL noted that City's consolidation of the London Weighting had been discussed between the three unions and making a claim was a possibility but it would require a long negotiation with the university.

GW raised the question of the London Living Wage and queried whether the University will need to review wages in line with the raise in the Minimum Wage.

MP noted the UCU have launched a workload survey which is open until Friday 4 March:

<https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2565015/Workload-survey>.

MC confirmed that the TUC's LGBT survey is open until 31 March at

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TUCLGBT>.

Action: MP to circulate to members.

MP reported on progress with Education-Only contracts for academics. KS and CF had met with Greg Barnett and a meeting was scheduled with management for 7 March. This would aim to reach agreement on the new contracts and re-open discussion on related issues of role profiles and promotion processes.

LC questioned whether there had been any update on Prevent. The university appears to be complying with Prevent.

Action: MP to catch up with the SU President.

RL noted that the university has been shortlisted for the "Buildings that Inspire" category of the Guardian University Awards.