

University of Bath UCU

Minutes of branch meeting Wednesday 3rd June 1.15 1E2.4

1 20 members present, 9 apologies for absence.

2 Minutes of branch meeting 7th May 2015 agreed

Several members who had seen The Liberty Tree said it was a good production.

3 Report from UCU Congress

Michael Carley outlined the main decisions taken at this year's Congress and HE Sector Conference in Glasgow 23-5 May.

Bath UCU motion calling for a ballot of members, in the absence of a pay offer that restores lost value of pay, with a recommendation for strike action, was agreed.

(Note: the employers have increased their pay offer to 1%)

Bath UCU motion on facilities time for hourly paid staff was also agreed.
(This will now be pursued with the TUC).

Bath UCU amendment calling for lecture recording to continue on an opt-in not an opt-out basis was also agreed.

(Note: see report from JACNC below)

Bath UCU amendment calling for further joint work with Students' Unions, but for SUs not to be involved in bargaining processes was agreed.

USS: the motion calling for a legal challenge to the USS Trustees for failing to act in the best interests of scheme members was defeated.

(Note: the employers' consultation on proposed changes to the scheme closed on 22 May. 74 members /potential members responded in Bath (about 5% of the total eligible). Only one of these responses expressed support for the proposed changes.

Members also noted reports of high numbers of redundancies across both HE and FE – 800 + in FE in the South West region alone.

Agreed to send a message of support to London Met University in their campaign to save 169 threatened jobs

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/stopthelondonmetcuts>

4 Report from JACNC meeting

Casualised staff: no further progress, but there will be another meeting with HR about the assimilation of hourly paid staff. Harry Pitts has created a mailing list for early careers (including hourly paid staff) members and has been circulating news and updates, such as the recent national UCU report [Making ends meet: the human cost of casualisation in education](#)

Lecture recording: University management have accepted UCU call for lecturers to continue to opt in to lecture recording rather than opt out.

Progression from Grade 6 to Grade 7: following correspondence with HR, where UCU claimed that anyone in a Grade 6 role in 2008 should have progressed to Grade 7, UCU has submitted two requests for information:

How many Grade 6 roles were covered by this agreement when it was signed off in 2008 ?

How many of those roles are still filled at present ?

HR have invited UCU to discuss the matter further.

Resident tutors

A number of resident tutors who are Tier 4 visa holders have received a letter to say that their voluntary (in return for accommodation) work as RTs will now count towards the number of hours they are permitted to work under Home Office regulations. This would mean that they would have to give up any paid work they do as TAs etc., and may mean that some would have to give up their studies.

UCU has made representations on their behalf, calling on the university to take steps to mitigate any detrimental effect on our student members, and university managers are engaging in a dialogue with UCU to do so.

University Remuneration Committee

Has its annual meeting on 9th July. Agreed to write to them as we have done in the last five years, protesting the widening pay gap between high earners at the University and everybody else. Decision on how to publicise this to be discussed further in branch committee.

5 TeachHigher (Warwick University) demonstration against casualisation

Harry Pitts reported that the proposal by Warwick University to create a new agency for casualised HE staff, with poorer terms and conditions of employment for the staff involved, and which could be rolled out nationally, had been [defeated by a strong campaign](#), including the threat to hold a national demonstration at Warwick's next Open Day on 19th June. Members agreed to congratulate Warwick UCU and [FACE](#)

Any other business


The new joint TU office (1E2.1) is in use.

End Austerity national demonstration Saturday 20th June

After the General Election tell the new government...

END AUSTERITY NOW

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
Saturday 20 June 2015
Assemble 12pm
Bank of England (Queen Victoria St) City of London
Nearest tube: Bank
Organised by The People's Assembly
WWW.THEPEOPLESASSEMBLY.ORG.UK



THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

UCU is supporting this demonstration. With a Conservative majority in the Commons, it's vital we make it clear the government does not have a mandate to raise tuition fees, further cut education spending, introduce £12 billion welfare cuts, abolish the Human Rights Act, or privatise the NHS and other public services. This demonstration will be a big affair, with a large contingent from Bath – so come along and make your voice heard.

Bath Against Cuts and Bath Students against Fees and Cuts are organising a coach from Bath, supported by Bath UCU, UNISON and Bath Trades Union Council. It

will depart Avon Street coach park at 8:30 and depart London at 16:30. Tickets are £8 return waged, £4 unwaged.

To reserve a space, please email bathstudents@gmail.com with your name, contact number, and the amount you will be paying.

More info here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/687828528011384/>

<http://www.thepeoplesassembly.org.uk/>

Future events

1 day Casework training event at Bristol University 12th June

This is for Reps who deal with casework at their Branch. If you are taking on casework or are likely to be taking on casework in the future it's a really good course to attend so you get the gist of what it will entail.

Places are on a first come, first serve basis

The date for this training is 12th June and the time of the course is 9.30am-4.30. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

If you would like to attend this course please do so by registering through this link <http://www.ucu.org.uk/bristolcasework>

#loveFE - Lobby of Parliament – 16th June

UCU will be holding a lobby of parliament at Westminster on the afternoon of Tuesday 16 June. The aim of the lobby is to impress upon newly elected MPs the value of adult learning and ask them to support increased investment in the further education (FE) sector.

Confirmed speakers to date include Caroline Lucas MP, Paul Blomfield MP, Peter Pendle (Association of Teachers and Lecturers) and Joe Vinson (National Union of Students). As agreed at congress, the union is supporting travel arrangements for members who are able to attend and you should contact your regional official for information regarding coaches. Additionally, on this occasion, where a coach is not a viable option the union will look to support alternative travel arrangements for as many members as possible – please contact your regional office for details. We are encouraging all branches to contact your college principal and students' union to arrange a joint trip, united in defence of adult education. If you need help liaising with your local students' union, please email campaigns@ucu.org.uk.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- Assemble 14:00, Parliament Square and then lobby and meeting with speakers between 15:00 and 17:00 at Houses of Parliament.
- To help us gather an idea of numbers it would be really helpful if you could tell us if you are able to attend and who your MP is; [let us know here](#).

Film: We Are Many 14th June, Bristol

On 15th February 2003, 2 million people in the UK and up to 30 million around the world marched in protest against the threat of war in the Middle East. Amir Amirani's highly acclaimed new feature length documentary WE ARE MANY, filmed over 9 years and all 7 continents, is the remarkable inside story behind that first ever global demonstration and its surprising and unreported legacy. It is not just a fantastic record of the demonstration but a passionate argument for the the power of protest. See the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOpa8y2Tly8>

Cube Microplex, Bristol - Sunday 14th June 5.45/8 pm

<http://www.cubecinema.com/programme/event/we-are-many,8035/>

Booking for all showings is advisable.

Walk: Fundraiser for Southern Africa. 14th June, Priddy

Members may be interested in taking part in or supporting the annual ACTSA walk for Southern Africa, a 10 k walk from Priddy in the Mendip Hills, which this year is on Sunday 14th June. ACTSA is a solidarity campaign and the funds from this year's walk will support projects in Southern Africa including: Amai Mussanhani, Beira, Mozambique; Treatment Action Campaign, South Africa; and, Dignity. Period! Appeal, Zimbabwe, Swazi UDF. For details contact Sheila Roberts sheilamaryroberts@btinternet.com