

Bath UCU, Branch Meeting

25 October 2024

1. Update on national bargaining (Ben Ralph)

Final offer received from UCEA of 2.5% for Grades 6 and above, staggered with £900 in August and the remainder in March. A number of universities have decided to defer the increase until July 2025. Also includes other pay-related issues.

Branch Delegates Meeting indicated dissatisfaction on pay offer, but more of a mixed response on pay-related elements leading to a rejection of the former and accepting the latter.

Consultive ballot (online, not postal) expected soon to gauge membership views on next steps. BR thinks it unlikely we will see industrial action this academic year.

Discussion centred around member views on whether to move forward with a focus on pay only, or also to keep workload and other '4 Fights' issues on the agenda.

2. Motion on membership support fund (Kate Ehrig-Page)

With Kate as proposer and Ben Ralph as seconder, Kate presented a motion to introduce a Membership Support Fund based on the observation that members who leave frequently cite "cannot afford membership fees" as the primary reason for leaving.

Discussion was generally supportive, and centred around whether £60k was too high a ceiling and the practicalities of how it would work.

Kate and Ben emphasised in response the fund would be a pilot for review, before and at the time of the next AGM.

Amendment proposed by Michael Carley and seconded by Ben Radley: Fund will only cover the UK subscription (minus political fund) and not the local subscription.

Amendment and the amended motion were both passed, the amended motion with just one vote against and no abstentions.

3. Encouraging new staff to join UCU (Sofia Doyle)

Sofia encouraged members to speak to all new colleagues and invite them to join the branch, and reminded all of the weekly socials on Friday at 1:15PM in Claverton Rooms.