

## Bath UCU Annual General Meeting (Hybrid Meeting)

29<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**48 members in attendance** (15 in person, 33 online)

The meeting started at 13.20. The first part of the meeting featured the Vice-Chancellor Prof Phil Taylor and the Director of Human Resources, Richard Brooks, engaging in a Q&A session with members. It was decided that this part of the meeting would not be minuted.

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Following Q&A session with the VC and RB, the Chair (Ben Ralph) officially opened the AGM meeting. It was noted that the meeting was quorate (following the branch's local rules, it was noted that attendees equalled and exceeded the size of the branch's committee plus one).

Apologies were received from the following Committee members: Mihika Chatterjee, James Davenport, Fran Amery.

### 2. Officers Report

The Chair proceeded to present the [Officers' Report](#), inviting the Officers to comment on their respective report.

The **President** (Ben Ralph) briefly summarised his report and briefed members about the recent UCU national Congress' highlights. In particular, the President noted the presentation of a motion (<https://uonucu.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Motion-2-Support-a-Trade-Dispute-with-Secretary-of-State-for-Education-over-Funding.pdf>) that would allow the union to open a dispute over the HE's funding model with the Secretary of State (as opposed to UCEA). The President noted that although primarily investigative in nature, this motion could potentially be a positive development prompting the government to profoundly re-think HE's funding model.

The **Membership Secretary** (Kate Ehrig-Page) noted that there have not been drastic changes in our membership numbers from last year, aside from an increase in membership from DdAT staff and PGR students. The uptake of the **membership support fund** has been very limited to date, with only 67 pounds being allocated so far. The Membership Secretary noted that the low uptake supports this initiative's sustainability, and formally asked members to vote about continuing to provide this in the upcoming year.

With a clear majority of votes in favour, the proposal was approved, and the **Membership Support Fund** will be made available to members also in the next academic year.

As the **Equality Officer** (Fran Amery) had sent her apologies, the Chair summarised her report.

The **Health and Safety Officer** (Michael Carley) note that a key initiative this year has been an investigation into the safety culture within the H&SS faculty. HR have been very supportive of this initiative. On a different note, the Health and Safety Officer reminded members of the campaign on heat in the workplace (<https://heatstrike.uk/>). The Branch has some thermometers available for members who wish to monitor their offices' temperatures. BR also reminded members of the [University's thermal comfort policy](#).

The **Green Rep** (Sandhya Moise) noted that she sits on various environment-related committees, including the Travel Committee. Members are welcome to contact her with any relevant concerns. A key upcoming development is the launch of the new travel policy, which is going to involve some relevant changes, including a reduction in parking spaces.

As the **Pension Officer** (James Davenport) had sent his apologies, the Chair summarised his report.

The **Treasurer Officer** shared the financial account document via the meetings' Teams chat, noting that from a financial perspective this has been a satisfactory year, with subscriptions only slightly decreasing. Currently, we have an excess of 35,000 pounds sitting in the unreserved fund (partly as a result of members paying back their MAB support). The recommendation is to keep the local subscription rate unchanged for the upcoming year, with the suggestion of rediscussing this next year.

Members were asked to formally vote on this proposal, which was unanimously passed.

### **3. Election of new Committee**

The Chair thanked Sabina Gheduzzi for acting as Returning Officer and proceeded to summarise the election rules.

SG presented an overview of received nominations. 15 positions were filled, with eight remaining vacant. All nominations were submitted on time and met the necessary requirements.

For the remaining vacancies, SG invited volunteers to put themselves forward. Joel Lazarus put himself forward for the role of **Anti-Casualisation Officer**. His nomination was formally proposed by Ben Radley and seconded by Fulvio Pinto. As a result, Joel Lazarus was officially appointed.

No other volunteers came forward, leaving seven committee positions vacant.

## **AOB**

The Secretary (Galadriel Ravelli) announced that the branch will run three themed-socials between June and July – invites will be sent soon, and members are welcome to join.

The Membership Secretary reminded members that they can volunteer to become workplace contacts in their Department/Section. If interested, members should contact Kate Ehrig-Page.

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 14.36.