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Or call 0333 2070719

UCU is the voice for all academic and academic-related members of staff.

lecturers, professors, researchers, computing staff, tutors, librarians, managers, postgraduate tutors...

UCU Glasgow branch newsletter

Autumn 2018

Next UCUG GM Tue 23rd October 1-2pm in the Boyd Orr 222 Lecture Theatre 2

Guest Speaker: Vicky Knight, UCU National President

Please do come and join us MEMBERS WELCOME. These are important meetings to hear what your local branch has been doing and how you can get involved.

Joint Expert Panel Reports

Pension Dispute: It’s great to be able to kick off the new session with some good news. The JEP has published its first report and it should come as no surprise to find that everything we said prior to, and during, the strike was shown to be correct. The unanimous view of the panel is as follows. The valuation mechanisms are flawed; UUK misrepresented its member’s views on risk; Test 1 has far too much weight; USS is good for another 50 years; Defined benefits are affordable. There is a lot more in the report and it is a very satisfying read. We won a huge battle and we should all be very proud of what we achieved for ourselves and those who will follow.

Pay Negotiations: We are currently in the middle of a ballot on pay and it is essential that each of us uses our vote. We must make it over the 50% threshold or we will not be eligible to participate in any direct action. Our colleagues in UNITE and UNISON are also balloting on the same pay deal and we look forward to standing with them against this truly miserly 2% pay offer. We will be organising a meeting of all 3 unions in early October and will keep you posted on that. Now that the employers will be saving a packet on pension payments (thanks to the JEP) they can surely up their pay offer!

Job Seekers Register: During the summer it became apparent that changes to the JSR (replacing it with a redeployment register) would have more effect on staff than was at first anticipated. There appears to have been a failure to communicate the details from senior managers down to relevant staff members. As soon as the alarm was raised HR consulted with the affected staff and branch officers and we agreed that the changes should be halted, and the process reviewed further. We will update members as events progress.

UCU Glasgow needs You

We are looking for more people to become involved with your branch. UCUG is run for the members by volunteer reps. The more people we have active and involved the more able we are to campaign effectively and gain results for members. Become involved as Area Rep or Health & Safety rep. The roles are not onerous If you are interested please contact: Maggie McMurtrie 0141 330 5375 or email: ucug@gla.ac.uk

Your UCU Glasgow

President: Jeanette Findlay
Hon Secretary: Craig Daly
Hon Treasurer: Julie McAdam
Membership Sec: Jan Culik
Employee Rep on Court: Dave Anderson
H&S: Julie Summers
Equalities rep: Sylvia Morgan
GTA reps (shared role): Amy Tibbo & Sean Watson
Fixed-Term rep: Maureen McBride

More reps details available on the UCUG web page: https://www.gla.ac.uk/services/organisations/ucug/committee/index.html

UCU Glasgow, here for you: supporting and representing academic and academic-related staff
GTA & Anti-Casualisation sub-committee update:

To address the complications which arose in the 2017/2018 academic year with regard to contractual processes and late payment of wages for GTAs and Demonstrators, UCU Committee Reps have been involved in working group discussions with University HR and management to review the annual engagement process for these members of staff. As a result, procedural and guidance documentation relating to engagement of GTAs and Demonstrators have been developed. These are detailed at the following link: https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/humanresources/mgrs-admin/extended/ewpgguidelines/

Thanks to feedback from UCU members, substantial concerns have been highlighted relating to issues such as preparation time, marking and other duties within the GTA and Demonstrator roles. These are terms and conditions issues for our members and UCU Committee Reps are now in discussions with University HR and Vice Principals to address this. Over the coming weeks, UCU Committee Reps will convene a meeting with members to discuss these issues in greater depth and provide an update on the working group discussions. The location, date and time of this meeting will be confirmed.

In addition, UCU Committee Fixed Term and GTA Reps have set up an anti-casualisation sub-committee with the goal of setting up a wider anti-casualisation group within the UCU branch. This is a work in progress and further information on the group, future meetings and workshops will be provided in due course.

UPCOMING REPS TRAINING:

UCU Equality Session: Trans and Gender Diverse Staff and Students.
11am – 1pm Friday 12 October 2018 at Unison Offices, 60 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3UQ

The TransEDU project from Strathclyde University will participate in the session which will include:

- An introduction to issues of trans identities and gender diversity
- Details on the TransEDU project and its findings
- Discussions on barriers/challenges/support for trans or non-binary staff and students.

All branch reps, equality reps, activists and interested members are encouraged to attend. Tea/coffee from 10.30am and lunch will be provided at 1pm.

To attend, please register with Dan Schirn – dschirn@ucu.org.uk by Mon 8 October 2018.

OR if you are interested in hearing about more training events as they are planned. Email Margaret at the UCUG Office on ucug@glad.ac.uk

UCU immigration helpline launched

In the light of recent developments following the Brexit vote, UCU are offering members access to advice for EEA or non-EEA nationals on their right to work, or continue working, in the UK.

UCU have teamed up with Bindmans LLP, a law firm with a national reputation for its immigration law team, to provide the advice service. More details available on: https://ucu.custhelp.com/

Your Branch Administrator is Maggie McMurtrie
Office hours: Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri 9am-1pm