

u+we in solidarity

Newsletter of UWE Branch of the UCU

9th October 2012

Linked Branch Meetings

On Wednesday, for the first time ever, this branch will be holding a single and unified branch OGM using video-conferencing over several sites simultaneously. If this experiment is a success, then it will enable members from all sites to attend branch meetings locally without having to make the trip to Frenchay each time.

The branch meeting will be held this Wednesday, 10th October from 1315 in the following rooms:

- 2A027 at Frenchay
- 2B08 at Glenside
- Library viewing room at St Matts.

Unfortunately, we were unable to arrange a room at Bower Ashton but we hope to remedy this for subsequent meetings.

The agenda will include discussions on the Library Reorganisation and the latest news on the Workload Model. Minutes of previous meetings have already been circulated to all members.

Sickness absence reporting

Please note that the minimum requirement for sickness absence reporting by staff is for that staff member (or a nominated representative) to telephone their line manager (or other nominated person where such arrangements are in place). Staff should not be expected to access and use their work email accounts or the internet to send email notification of sickness absence.

Branch General Meeting

Date: Wed 10th October 2012

Time: 1315 – 1600 (latest)

Room: 2A027 (Frenchay)

2B08 (Glenside)

Library viewing room (St Matts)

All members invited

Weekend Working

Most academic staff at UWE have contracts that do not require weekend working. There are one or two colleagues who have Saturday working built into their contracts because of a need to provide CPD on Saturday mornings. Colleagues agreed to this during the application process.

If you are asked to work at weekends, say for a Welcome Weekend event, Open Day or to provide Saturday teaching then you can reply that the manager may be asking you to work beyond contract, which is not acceptable behaviour by a manager at UWE. No coercion or implied threat is acceptable and should be reported immediately.

However, job descriptions do form part of the terms and conditions of your contract and you might have applied for a post which specifically stated that weekend working would be occasionally required. If you accept this requirement in your job description say for a promoted post or for a post such as Programme Manager, the terms of which acknowledge that weekend work may be required then you have accepted a variation to terms and conditions of your contract.

Check your contract and your job description and seek the support of a local UCU Rep.

Emergency situations

This branch has previously received reports of emergency situation response times being poor on some UWE campuses. A key example of this has been where the 9999 number has been used to call for an ambulance via the UWE telephone system, and the ambulance has been delayed in reaching the appropriate area on campus for various reasons, one being where the ambulance personnel were not in direct contact with the people at the scene in order to receive accurate and timely directions. This obviously can impact on the potential outcome of such a situation for the person in need of assistance. Please let the branch know of any incidences where this or similar situations of concern occur.