



u+we in solidarity



Newsletter of UWE Branch of the UCU

21st December 2011

Strike in Defence of Pensions November 30th

Our thanks and congratulations to all those members who went on strike on the 30th in defence of our pensions. We had very successful and well-attended joint pickets at all University sites and then the demonstration and rally in Bristol was an impressive show (25,000 marching) of how much ordinary working people are angered by this raid by Government on public workers' pensions. We believe it was a solid strike turnout from UCU at UWE and had no reports of members crossing picket lines. Thank you once again.

Module Leader's Role and new H Grade Programme Managers' Posts

UCU Exec Officers and Reps continue to check that there is consistency across the University when Faculties and Departments publish role specifications and expectations for Module Leaders and Programme Managers. Members are encouraged to inform their Reps when these descriptions are issued or distributed. Together we can check that such descriptions do not go beyond the H grade role descriptors contained in the National Academic Role Profiles (NARPS) to which the University signed up.

Workload Allocation

We note that Heads of Department have still not published full details of individual and departmental workload allocation despite our repeated requests. John Rushforth (DVC) has assured us that this would be done across the University at the beginning of December but there is no sign of Heads of Department providing clarity and transparency to workload allocation. Members should now ask their Heads of Department for a summary of their personal workload showing clearly the work they are doing and the bundles that have been allocated. We will continue to press for publication of the workload allocations across departments. Our next meeting with Senior Management in connection with workload allocation and the University Workload Model will be on January 4th 13.30 to 15.00. If you would like to attend Mal Hughes would like to hear from you (we

can take a couple of 'observers'). Email Mal on Mal.Hughes@uwe.ac.uk if you would like to come along or if you have something you would like raised at the meeting. If you prefer you can email responses to mal.ucu@fsmail.net from your own private email.

Political Payments and Subscriptions

From time to time the branch Executive Committee receives requests from other organisations and groups for contributions to funds and running costs. As this is becoming more common, we checked with our Regional Official, Nova Gresham regarding UCU advice to branches. The Regional Official indicated that there was no document to refer to but that we should, "avoid anything which is 'party political' or could be seen as pursuing a partisan quasi-party political cause (e.g. anti or pro Europe groups). Things like Amnesty, anti-racism, etc. are fine." When in doubt we were to check back with Regional Office. We will be taking these guidelines into account for all future requests for funds.

Union Meetings

The Negotiating Secretary had written to Management regarding undertakings in our Recognition Agreement to keep union Branch meetings dates clear of teaching and the custom and practice that managers will not schedule other meetings for calendared General Meetings of the Branch. The Head of Human Resources has confirmed that no teaching will be timetabled to clash with calendared Branch General Meetings.

Travelsmart

You will shortly be receiving by email from the Organising Officer, Andy Tubb the full proposals for the *Travelsmart* project which will steer travel and car parking arrangements at UWE for the foreseeable future. The proposals include moving quickly to a ban on all staff and students bringing a car onto University premises if they live within 3 km of the site where they work. There are many other proposals with implications for us all.

You will be invited to send your responses to Mal.Hughes@uwe.ac.uk who will 'anonymise' and summarise for a collective response from the Branch by the 20th of January when the consultation period closes. If you prefer you can email responses to mal.ucu@fsmail.net from your own private email.



Best wishes to all our readers

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

From the UCU Branch Executive.

