

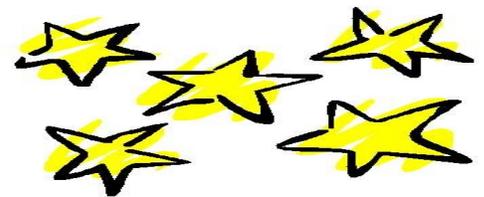
UCU UWE

LISTENING TO, WORKING WITH, PROMOTING THE NEEDS OF MEMBERS.....
MEMBERS AND STRIVING FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

Branch news December 2016

As we approach the winter holiday.....things to celebrate

*Greetings from the Branch Chair,
Professor Harriet Bradley and all of the
Branch
Executive.*



- ◆ *Each month the Branch membership is growing, thank you to all our members and welcome to our new joiners*
- ◆ *UWE UCU is one of the largest branches in the South West*
- ◆ *The Branch is in regular communication with the NUS. Harriet Bradley and Andy Mathers are leading on this for UCU*
- ◆ *UCU continues to campaign on anti-casualisation and the gender pay gap*
- ◆ *The branch will be hosting CPD events in 2017*
- ◆ *The next Regional UCU meeting will be on Saturday 21st January 2017 and will be hosted at UWE!*



The NUS are currently calling for a boycott of the National Student Survey.....

Here are seven reasons why this is such a cause of concern, so the Branch will keep you up to date regarding these plans....

1 Scores in the NSS will be used to justify future tuition fee increases.

2 The NSS treats students like customers rather than learners.

3 NSS scores are used by universities to justify cutting courses, shutting departments and sacking staff.

4 The distribution, collection and analysis of NSS scores is a waste of time and money that could be better spent on education.

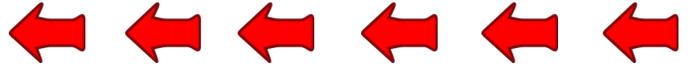
5 Both the national organisations representing staff (UCU) and students (NUS) oppose the NSS in its current form.



News from the UCU web.....



Higher Education and Research Bill



House of Lords second reading briefing from the University and College Union (UCU) - December 2016

The University and College Union (UCU) is the UK's largest trade union for academics and academic-related staff in higher and further education representing over 60,000 members working in UK universities. We also represent over 30,000 members working in further education colleges, many of whom teach undergraduate and other HE courses.

The Higher Education and Research Bill proposes significant changes to the regulatory and financial framework of UK higher education. UCU is concerned that the proposals will not achieve the government's stated aim to improve the quality of, and access to, higher education in the interests of students. Following the vote for Brexit, UCU also believes that this is the wrong time for a major overhaul of the sector, and has called for the bill to be halted.

The UK's university sector is world leading and makes a substantial social and economic contribution to the UK. If the UK is to retain its global position it must continue to be a place where academic staff and students are able to work and study. The government needs to recognise the international nature of this important sector and act to ensure that EU nationals and indeed those beyond Europe continue to feel welcome at our universities.

The current system is not perfect, but this is the wrong bill at the wrong time. The UK is home to some of the world's best universities, and higher education is one of our most successful exports. In the current climate of political and economic instability, we need to avoid further uncertainty and ensure that government reforms don't undermine the reputation of the sector or leave students in the lurch.

Newsletter Editor: Nicky Goodall, Branch Secretary



NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS?

Be Assertive
Express what you *think* and *feel* in a positive way. Create mutual respect.



HOW DO YOU
CELEBRATE?