

UCU UWE BRANCH Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM BRANCH CHAIR, ROBERT PARDOE

Programmes “at risk” as a result of NSS scores:

Concern has been raised by members regarding the use of the term “at risk” when describing programmes achieving scores of 75% or less in the latest NSS. We have sought clarification on what the term means and have now received the following statement from Jane Harrington who is the PVC leading on this piece of work. Her statement indicates that

“...whilst the NSS Task Force has highlighted programmes scoring 75% or less satisfaction scores, the work that is being undertaken this year with these programmes is considering all factors (NSS, SES, recruitment, programme on a page data and trend data). The intention is to work proactively with programme teams to address the issues and support them to make the appropriate changes where at all possible. At risk signifies that there is a concern with these programmes currently and that it is highlighted to indicate that changes need to happen and attention needs to be focussed on these issues...I think it would be an unusual university that wasn't focussed on improving the student experience and ensuring that our programmes were of the highest quality.”

This appears to offer a more constructive and less demoralising perspective than might be understood by “at risk”, which was the short hand message that Steve West shared with colleagues in his VC update. Some members – particularly those whose programmes fell into this category - were clearly and understandably perturbed by this original message. We have challenged management on their choice of language in this context and have let them know, in very clear terms, that if they want to motivate and encourage staff to work towards such improvement then choosing language that is motivating and encouraging would clearly help. We will continue to work on your behalf to scrutinise and challenge all unhelpful communications.

Recruitment– be a part of the Action

Expect to see your UCU Reps working particularly hard now to raise the profile of UCU over the next few months. Recruitment to the Union, to strengthen our organisation, is a top Branch Priority this year. There will be main events on the 05/11/15 (Frenchay) and 02/12/15 (Glenside), which will combine Rep Surgeries with recruitment stands. There will be attendance from the UCU Regional office at these events. We will keep you posted on how these plans develop. You can all be part of this process. There are posters attached to this newsletter, which you are all encouraged to print off and put up. Also you could ask a colleague to join; put up a poster on their door, or in their office; ask members to change their email signature for the week to include that they are a UCU member and giving a reason why and asking non-members to consider joining.

Thank you !



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Special points of interest

- Anti-casualization
- Work related stress– email in your views
- Tell us about your experiences of bundle issues
- TU Bill



Check your WAMS for Gremlins!!!!!!



REMINDER!

Important Update from Harriet Bradley , Branch Secretary:

RACISM AND REPRESENTATION

At this year's Congress members from minority ethnic groups once again raised the issue of racial discrimination in universities and colleges, citing problems of gaining secure jobs and getting promoted. They urged branches to do more to help BME members with workplace problems.

With this in mind we would like to encourage BME members at UWE to take an active role in the union,

either by joining our friendly Executive Committee, or by becoming a caseworker. Minority ethnic members do often have a preference for being represented by somebody from within their own communities and that is something we cannot offer at present. UCU provides excellent training for caseworkers and management are obliged to allow time off for training.

Please consider helping your UCU branch to promote diversity in this fashion. Your faculty reps will be happy to discuss with you what might be involved. This is particularly crucial given the rise of UKIP and growing hostility to immigrants as reflected in the election results.

We are planning for a UCU UWE Branch Social Networking event this academic year. Any ideas as to venue and catering for this please contact the Recruitment Officer on Nicky.Goodall@uwe.ac.uk.

In future newsletters we will be reminding everyone of upcoming events to meet and discuss current branch priorities.

Branch Executive Contact Numbers:

Branch Chair: Robert Pardoe– 88447

Vice Chair: Elaine Hall– 88781

Secretaries:

Harriet Bradley- 871150

Nicola Goodall– 88559

Negotiating Secretary : Andy Tubb– 82487

Treasurer: Matthew Godsell-88553

Health & Safety: James Costello- 82498

Faculty Reps:

Glenside Sandy Thomas– 88626

FBL Ana Lopes - 83781

Christopher Mason– 82949

Frank Maddix– 85510

Bower Ashton Terryl Bacon– 84428

FET Maggie Weber– 56261

STRESS.....

The Branch will continue to prioritize campaigning on work-related stress. The results of the recent local surveys on workload indicate that this remains a significant issue for many staff. This is just one of the tangible consequences of working within the current workload model. It is important to be able to identify signs of stress in ourselves and others. Equally important is building the capacity to address this on a collective level. Please do let us know what the issues are for all of you.



Feeling under siege?

- **Overbundled?**
- **Feeling stressed?**
- **Worried about the NSS?**
- **Need support?**
- **On a casual contract?**

COME TO THE OGM! >>>>>>

Details on Page 4.....



PROTEST AGAINST THE TRADE UNION BILL

Yes 2 workers rights, No 2 the Tory TU Bill #Right2Strike

Monday 2nd November 5.15pm

Cascade steps, the Fountains, City Centre (opposite Hippodrome)

www.facebook.com/events/928639907230549/

Action called jointly Bristol People's Assembly & South West TUC with support from regional Trades Council & unions Unite, Unison, UCU, FBU, PCS, NUT

The government's 'Trade Union Bill' seriously attacks the hard-fought-for *right to strike* as well as organise for proper standards, pay & conditions at work.

Join us for this vibrant Protest (coinciding with TUC lobby of parliament as it votes on the bill) with music, giant banners, spectacle, speeches and all!

Our theme will be Workers' Rights (or 'What have the unions ever done for us?' - tongue-in-cheek there!)

So please come out laden with your home-made placards & banners (& union banners/gear!), if possible bearing #NoTUBill or #Right2Strike...

Eg. YES TO ONLINE BALLOTS! #NoTUBill

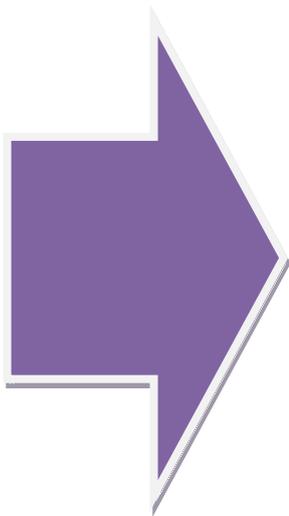
Whether you're in one or not, this full-on assault on our unions is designed to undermine resistance to the Tory agenda of austerity, privatisation and a low-pay, rights-free workforce, so let's all show our solidarity!

We're hoping for a massive turn-out - please invite all your friends - and who knows, the protest may have to go on the move...



www.facebook.com/events/928639907230549/

UWE Branch Ordinary General Meeting



**Wed 18 Nov
1.00 – 3.30 pm**

Academic Staff

This meeting is for you!

**All welcome to join us for
a FREE lunch and Open Meeting**

-members please bring a friend, non-members welcome

Room 3A022 Frenchay

***Please RSVP to Christine.Taylor@uwe.ac.uk by 13 November,
indicating numbers attending***