

SEPTEMBER 2023

## A NEW YEAR STARTS.....

Hello, this is my first newsletter as Branch Secretary and for those who don't know me, I am Sarah Harding, and I am a Senior Lecturer in Adult Nursing. I have been at UWE Bristol for 10 years. I am keen to support our Branch and keep members informed about campaigns/events/CPD and more..., ergo, my plan is to provide a quarterly newsletter (September, December, March, and June) covering a range of topics. I would welcome contributions from members so please do email me any contributions or topics you would like me to cover.

First things first: A reminder of UWE's Branch Exec:

- Chair Phil Sayce
- Vice-Chair Chris Mason
- Branch Secretary Sarah Harding
- Treasurer Grant Howie
- Branch Organiser & ROCC Chair Carolyn Sissoko
- Recruitment Officer Andy Mathers
- Case Worker Lead Clive Warn
- Equality Committee Chair Anne Foley
- Health and Safety Officer Phil Sayce

A full list of all UCU branch officers is available [HERE](#)

I look forward to working with you as the UWE Branch Secretary. You can contact me on

**[UCUSecretary@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:UCUSecretary@uwe.ac.uk)**

The [elected representatives on UCU's higher education committee \(HEC\)](#) voted to begin a marking and assessment boycott (MAB) for the pay and working conditions dispute from Thursday 20 April 2023. [Following a consultation with the membership](#), the MAB has been withdrawn on Wednesday 6 September 2023.

However, **strike ballots will open at 143 universities across the UK from Tuesday 19 September in a long-running dispute over, pay and conditions.** The ballot will run until Friday 3 November and is aggregated. A successful ballot will renew the union's existing strike mandate and allow staff at every university being balloted to take industrial action well into 2024.

**How often would you like a members meeting?**

Click [HERE](#) to vote or scan the QR code.



Not a member yet?  
[JOIN HERE](#)

## **Training update:**

### **UCU Rep 1 – Induction – online**

**31<sup>st</sup> October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 or 31 January and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

The course will give you a good grounding in the role of a UCU rep. You will be expected to complete this Rep 1 course prior to applying for the 'UCU rep 2: handling complex cases' course. You may also want to consider doing the 'Introduction to case work' course when available in your region, and will cover:

- Union movement history
- UCU organisation and democracy
- Your rights as a rep and how to apply them.
- Communication with members
- Recruitment
- Members issues
- Collective responses
- Responses to Covid-19 for reps.

**Please register via this link: [UCU - Rep 1 - UCU reps induction: 31, October, 1 & 2 November 2023, Online, South West,](#)**

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### **UCU Rep 2 – Representing UCU member – venue TBC.**

**8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

This is open to all reps who have completed Rep 1. This course will cover:

- Recognising and acting on discrimination
- Define and recognise workplace bullying and harassment.
- Identify work organisation and staffing issues that contribute to bullying and harassment.
- Understand how employment law principles and health and safety legislation apply to workplace bullying and harassment.
- Understand the employment tribunal and ACAS Early Conciliation process.
- Understand the law relating to dismissal.
- Dealing with disciplinary cases
- Reviewing and improving sickness absence policies
- Improve negotiating skills.
- Organising a campaign to improve workplace policies.