



**Annual General Meeting Minutes, Wednesday 8th June 2016
Council Chamber, Octagon Centre, 1pm**

Chair: Craig Brandist, SUCU Branch President

Minutes: Jane Rodger, Branch Administrator

Craig Brandist introduced himself and welcomed members to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last AGM held 10th June 2015

The minutes were accepted and passed from the previous year. There were no matters arising.

2. Local subscription for 2016/17

It was noted that the local subs change at the same rate as the national subs (as agreed at our 2013 AGM) and this year have increased by 1.5% taking effect from 1 September 2016

3. Reports - To acknowledge written reports and take questions on the Annual Report

Craig Brandist introduced the SUCU Annual Report which was circulated and is in the appendix below. Craig read from his President's report highlighting the ongoing pay campaign and that an effective campaign for this issue helps us in all areas of our work. In the last year we have been engaging with University management on a number of fronts such as opposing outsourcing of services (notably the Occupational Health Service); ensuring nobody suffers any detriment for non-inclusion in the REF; continuing to pursue concerns about Performance Improvement Plans (PIPS) and some progress in moving towards agreed protocols. We are also pushing for improvements in policies about stress, and we are involved in monitoring and representing members in a number of reviews and restructures across the institution. Casework continues to occupy much of the time of Committee members since there are widespread problems with performance management, excessive workloads, stress and a range of other management failures across the institution. Craig noted that the threats to Higher Education posed by the White Paper and most notably the proposals for the Teaching Excellence Framework create an even more challenging environment, as the displacement of professional values by metrics will be intensified and become more widespread.

Over the last year we have seen an increase in recruitment and in membership. The increase in membership makes up for and significantly exceeds the numbers we lost when University of Sheffield International College set up their own branch. This is to the benefit of us all, and we need to continue our efforts to grow the branch and the Union nationally. We need to remember that the density of our membership and our level of solidarity is an unspoken factor in all our casework and negotiations. Let us continue to build a strong and actively campaigning union.

Comments and questions from the floor:

- A high profile was given to the green agenda at the UCU national Congress last week, such as green jobs. Interestingly green issues were linked to health and safety concerns such as the promoting the use of risk assessments for stress.

4. Election of SUCU Officers 2016-17

This was over seen by Jane Rodger (Branch Administrator) who acted as Returning Officer. Jane read out the nominees to Branch Officer Positions. Members were invited to raise objections to these candidates. No objections were made and the officers were elected for the next year.

Officers

Position	Name	Department
President	Craig Brandist	Russian & Slavonic Studies
Senior Vice President	Mick Ashman	School of Nursing & Midwifery
Vice President	Jane Simm	Careers Service
Branch Secretary	Sarah Staniland	Chemistry
Education Officer	Vacancy	
Equalities & Diversity Officer	Vacancy	
Health & Safety Officer	Mick Ashman	School of Nursing & Midwifery
Treasurer	Pablo Stern	CICS
Pensions Officer	Matthew Malek	Physics
Membership Secretary	Rob Stanton	CICS
Communications Officer	Sam Marsh	Maths
Anti-casualisation Officer	Sam Morecroft	Politics

5. Election of Ordinary Committee 2016-17

This also was over seen by Jane Rodger (Branch Administrator) who acted as Returning Officer. Jane read out the nominees to Ordinary Committee membership. Members were invited to raise objections to these candidates. No objections were made and the officers were elected for the next year.

Committee members

Name	Department
Nikolay Ogryzko	Dept of Infection Immunity & Cardiovascular Disease
Jon Benson	Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

6. Industrial action

There was a good turn out during the recent two days of industrial action on 25th and 26th May which included co-ordinated action with colleagues from Hallam for a teach-in and

rally. Members of the branch have been surveyed to seek their views for the most appropriate date for the next local industrial action. Craig Brandist announced that 23rd June has been chosen as it will impact the University open day and a number of exam boards. We will be engaging with the students on the open day. Working to contract is ongoing. We disagree with recent statements made by University management about what they claim to be our contractual work. No one should be expected to work more than 35 hours per week on a regular basis. So far eight external examiners for Sheffield have resigned.

Comments and questions from the floor included:

- Does the University of Sheffield have a notice period for external examiners? Ans. No it does not.
- Human Resources should not be asking us whether we intend to take industrial action in advance.
- It is important to have an email auto-response saying that you are working to contract as it makes clear your support of the action.
- It is good practice to monitor how many hours you work each day. This can be used for example in your SRDS.
- Savings made to staffing costs due to industrial action should be donated to a student hardship fund. Ans. Branch Officers will raise this at the Joint Union Consultative Committee tomorrow.

7. Report from UCU Congress 2016

Jane Simm Branch Vice President and Craig Brandist fed back from UCU National Congress which they attended on behalf of SUCU Committee last week. The focus of the first day was equality and diversity issues and was very encouraging. There are more details in the annual report. Amongst the many fringe meetings was a workshop regarding outsourcing and privatisation. One piece of advice was that being asked to review your job description can be a pre-cursor to a Departmental Review. The suggested response to such a request is to ask for an explanation. Other fringe meetings included: how to deal with University reviews and restructures, UCU help with professional development, and overlaps between health and safety and wellbeing. The Higher Education Conference took place on day two of Congress. The branch's motion concerning academic freedom and the Regional Committee motion concerning the pay campaign were both passed. There was a discussion about the industrial action strategy.

Comments and questions from the floor included:

- Does the current strike mandate cover the Autumn term? Ans. Yes it does.
- The marking and assessment boycott starts next term.

8. Any Other Business

None.