

## Notes from Annual General Meeting held on 5 June 2007

The meeting was chaired by Steve Ludlam who welcomed all members to the AGM of Sheffield University University and College Union (45 members present). He welcomed Ronnie Kershaw, UCU full time official to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the AGM held on 8 June 2008 were received and accepted

### 2. The following reports were received:

- President Steve Ludlam asked for thanks to be recorded to committee members who have moved on during the past year, Donald Hislop, Kevin Farnsworth) to welcome Kaye Carl, Erika Strenski, Craign Brandist and Hamish Dunningham. He also asked that special thanks to Daragh O'Reilly and Steve Collier for putting together the UCU Bulletin be recorded. Congratulations to Angela Shann on her election to UCU NEC and to those involved in bring health and safety issues to the fore starting with the Health and Safety Inspection of the Arts Tower that took place in December.
- Membership The membership report produced by Gillian Brown was received. It was noted that it is now possible to join UCU online ([www.ucu.org.uk/join](http://www.ucu.org.uk/join)).
- Personal case Mick Ashman reported over 100 personal cases had been taken on by members of the committee during the past year. He noted that there has been a change in emphasis in the type of cases being brought to UCU for support and it would appear the university are using more compromise agreements as a way of dealing with employment issues.
- Treasurer Jonathan Perraton presented the audited and certified accounts of the branch to the meeting. It was noted that the surplus balance is held in a current account and it was agreed to identify reasons for this.

### 3. Election of Officers

Election of the following Officers was agreed:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date appointed</b>
President	Steve Ludlam	June 06
Senior Vice President	Tracey Clarke	June 06
Vice President	Geoff Turner	June 06
Vice President	Steve Collier	June 06
Honorary Sec	Gillian Brown	June 05
Assistant Honorary Secretary (personal cases)	Mick Ashman	June 05
Honorary Membership Secretary (membership/rep liaison)	vacancy	
Honorary Treasurer	Jonathan Perraton	Feb 06
Equalities/Diversity Officer	Jane Simm	June 06

#### **4. Election of committee members**

Committee members

Hamish Cunningham	June 06
Angela Shann	June 03
Andrew Madden	June 06
Kaye Carl	June 06
Craig Brandist	June 06
Daragh O'Reilly	June 06

Co-opted

Erika Strenski	June 06
Vacancy	
Vacancy	

It was noted that the committee would be looking to recruit more committee members in the near future.

#### **5. Hourly Paid negotiations**

Steve Ludlam gave a brief overview to the background and progress made in hourly paid staff assimilation to the Framework Agreement negotiations currently taking place stressing this is an important national and local issue. HR have now conceded these negotiations apply to all categories of staff, not just teaching staff.

Kaye Carl told the meeting that although progress in agreeing a multiplier and processes on how staff will be assimilated there is a commitment from HR to move this forward as quickly as possible. The university is still not able to confirm exactly how many people will fall into the categories of staff who will have to be assimilated.

## **6. UCU First Annual Congress**

A number of members of the committee had attended the first annual congress of UCU in Bournemouth the week before the AGM.

Steve Collier gave some overall impressions and said that although it is obvious that a lot of work is still needed to bring the two predecessor unions into one there is a recognition that the merger was the correct way forward and there was commitment from delegates and full time officials that this will happen.

Steve also talked about a motion that had been discussed that had been misrepresented in some media. A motion had been passed to ensure that discussion took place in branches encouraging members to engage in the issues raised by the call from Palestinian trade unions to boycott work with Israeli academic institutions. A full and practical policy of greylisting universities and institutions was also approved and will be circulated as soon as possible.

Steve Ludlam went on to talk about the success of the motion taken to conference by this branch. The motion called for a move to simplify the way personal caseworkers received legal support from UCU.

## **7. Recruitment**

Ronnie Kershaw talked about the importance of recruiting members and of ways that members could encourage their colleagues to join. He said one of the main reasons non-members quote for not being in a trade union is because nobody asked them!

## **8. Any Other Business**

Steve Ludlam thanked all present for attending and all the membership for their continued support and positive feedback during the year.