



Welcome to the York St John UNISON newsletter – February 2010!

We are committed to looking after our members during the challenging times that the University continues to face. We want to keep you up to date with our latest news and encourage non-members to join us to ensure non-academic staff at York St John get the best possible deal at work.

YSJ UNISON 2010 Annual General Meeting: 3rd March – make sure you can be there!

The YSJ Unison Annual General Meeting will be held on the 3rd of March at 10.30 – 11.30am in DG 017. All staff who are Unison members are entitled to attend. If you have any difficulties getting released from work for the hour please let your local Rep know who can remind your manager of this entitlement! Come along to hear how your union Rep's have been working to ensure the staff voice has been heard during a very difficult year, and raise any issues you feel need to be discussed. There will be branch updates, discussions and votes about who will be representing you in the year to come.

If you are particularly interested in either equalities or staff learning issues at the University let us know – we have two new Rep positions we are looking to fill – could one of them be yours?

DG 017 is on the ground floor of the new De Grey building. To find it you will simply need to follow the signs to the Unison AGM or ask at reception.

Unison frustrated by disappointing pay award

The 0.5% pay increase was implemented last month. From Unison's perspective this was a very disappointing settlement – particularly as (at the time of writing) the rate of inflation is 2.9%. In plain English this means that your day to day living costs are increasing more than the pay rise you have been awarded, leaving you worse off! Unison's national negotiators accepted the pay offer through gritted teeth - and are sending a clear message to the employers that they will strongly oppose a similar poor offer for next year.

Overtime / TOIL / Flexi review to be undertaken

HR are about to undertake a review of the flexi-time, overtime and time-off in lieu systems. The aim is to harmonise how overtime is worked across staff groups at the University. Your Unison Rep's will be responsible for representing your voice before any agreement is reached – so we need to know your views and concerns about this issue.

What works for you? What doesn't? Let us know! You can e-mail unison@yorks.ac.uk or speak to any of the YSJ Unison Team.

Restructures, Redundancies, Re-gradings

– The impact of the University's Financial Resilience Programme

The University is continuing with its Financial Resilience Programme and several more departments are undergoing restructure, with staff ending up either redundant or in lower graded jobs.

Unison is there at each stage of the process demanding transparency and accountability. We are also supporting staff that face redundancy to help them understand their options and ensure they get the best possible outcome in a difficult situation. Staff Development are also offering intensive support to staff at risk of redundancy and, following a request from Unison, HR have put in place guidance to manage the negative impact of redundancies on those remaining in post.

If you feel that the ongoing reviews and restructures have negatively impacted you or your job role please contact us (details below) to see if we can help. We are particularly keen to hear about issues concerning the grading or re-grading of current or new posts.

Your YSJ Unison Team

These are your key contacts if you need advice or have any concerns about work related issues. Unison prides itself on being 'your friend at work' and we encourage you to seek out your local Rep if you need advice or want us to make sure your views are represented in University decision making processes. Your YSJ Unison team is as follows:

Chair:	Dave Thompson
Deputy Chair:	Gareth Jenkins
Secretary:	Lis Johnstone
Treasurer:	Simon Coulson
Health & Safety Officer:	Linda Wilson
Health & Safety Officer:	Monty Feather
Membership Secretary:	Adrian Simmons

Workplace Reps:

Linda Wilson	01904 644578
Paul Oldroyd	01904 410180
Keith Vasey	x 6668
Monty Feather	x 6706
Hazel Eldred	x 6926
Anna Herbert	x 6542

Contact us!

You can contact your Unison team on unison@yorks.ac.uk or speak to any of the team members on the phone or in person if you prefer!

Visit us online!

A new YSJ Unison website is under construction. You can find it through the link on the staff homepage. Keep checking in to get lots of information on branch activities and your Rep's.

If you would like to see the bigger picture of the union you belong to there is also lots of information on the national Unison website:

www.unison.org.uk

Not a member yet?

If you are interested in finding out more about Unison at York St John contact unison@yorks.ac.uk or speak to one of the team!

****Don't forget the 2010 YSJ Unison AGM! 10.30am on 3rd March in DG 017****