

# UNISON, York St John University Branch

## Annual General Meeting

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 10:30am.

Fountains Lecture Theatre

### Minutes

#### Apologies:-

Apologies were received from a number of members unable to attend due to other commitments:- Gareth Jenkins, Tony Storey, Neil Rogers, Janet Ramsey, Mick Tillet, Pete Leighton, Keith Hutchins, Mark Cooper and Pieter Smit.

### Minutes

The 2011 minutes were accepted as correct by members.

### Matters Arising

Any matters arising would be addressed in the Chairs report.

### Chairs Report

Dave Thompson (Chair) opened by stating how busy a year it had been for Branch Officers. Who continue to meet monthly with HR, UCU and different members of Management to be kept up to date with reviews and the Universities plans? John Gallagher also comes to the meetings, when necessary to give updates on the Universities finances.

At the moment there are several reviews on going.

In Art, IT and Library, HR, Registry, Exec Admin and basically all that comes under Sue Reece.

The Exec have concerns that they are being consulted a bit late on some of these reviews and those concerns have been raised with HR

Dave reported that we had sent delegates to National and HE conferences to try to keep up to date with all that is happening.

Also training for Reps and Officers was continuing, so as to give the best service possible to members.

Reps had been involved with several cases throughout the year for our members, and anybody with any issues were encouraged to approach their Reps.

## Treasures Report

Ken Scott (Treasurer) formally presented the Branch's balance sheet to members and invited any questions. Ken pointed out that the level of Honoraria had not risen but the amount was so high as it had not been paid for 2 years.

A question was asked about the reduction in Branch retention and Ken said he would look into it.

## Health & Safety Report

Dave told the meeting that unfortunately Monty (H&S Rep) was off ill. He stated that we do attend Health & Safety committee meetings and have raised several issues on behalf of members. Linda Wilson (H&S Rep) was going to start doing inspections with Neil Rogers (H&S Officer).

An issue was raised about fumes from the generator outside the music block. Staff said they had raised the issue with Estates and got no response. It was agreed that in future it may help to take issues like this forward through the Union.

## Other Items

- 1 Amendment to branch constitution to allow multiple people to hold role of branch secretary (Gareth stepping down)

Amendment :- At the discretion of the branch committee both essential and other positions may be held jointly by several members. The election for such posts will be held as per the arrangements above. All nominees for the post must be happy with a shared position and both branch committee and the membership present at a full meeting may veto a joint arrangement.

This was proposed , seconded and passed

- 2 Honoraria :-

Members were asked to vote that the current outstanding honoraria be paid this year and that a mandate be given to the Exec to come back to next year's AGM with a proposal on how the payments to Officers and Reps should be made.

This was proposed, seconded and passed.

### 3 Pensions and Pay :-

Dave thanked everybody who had taken part in the industrial action over pensions, as this had brought about serious negotiations between the Unions and the pension bodies.

Negotiations were still on going and members would be balloted on the outcome of the negotiations.

On pay the HE conference had voted to put a claim in for above the cost of living to try to make up for the last couple of years poor rises.

With Unison pushing for no members to be paid less than the living wage.

### 4 Smoking Policy

Concerns were raised about the new no smoking policy. Members felt that you could see more people smoking round campus now than before. The gardeners complained strongly about the amount of cigarette ends they were being asked to clean up. They had also been asked to clean up outside the University but had correctly refused to do so.

All points were noted and Anna Herbert ( Vice Chair) said she would raise them at the next Smoking Committee meeting.

### 5 Changes to Car Parking Policy

Members had heard that there were going to be some changes to the car parking policy. They had seen that new lining had been carried out and understood that new fines were coming into place from April.

The chair agreed to get in touch with Nick Coakley, who oversees the car parking policy, to gain some clarity.

## Election of Branch Officers and Reps

Paul Oldroyd was stepping down as a rep for garden department but gardeners Simon and Sally were proposed, seconded and voted in as workplace reps

Dave Thompson was re-elected as Chair

Anna Herbert( Vice Chair), Ken Scott (Treasurer), Linda Wilson (Health & Safety Rep), Monty Feather (Health & Safety Rep), Pieter Smit (Membership Secretary), Gareth Jenkins (Workplace Rep), Hazel Eldred (Workplace Rep), and Keith Vasey (Workplace Rep) were all re-elected.

It was proposed and passed that the Secretary's role would be shared between Exec committee members.

## Any Other Business

It was proposed by the Exec that the branch should pay for members to become Retired Members when they retired from the University. This was voted on and passed.

Dave asked for any suggestions from members as to how the branch funds could be used for the benefit of members. It was suggested by one member that some sort of reward be offered for recruiting members.

There been no further business Dave thanked everybody for coming and brought the meeting to a close, I inviting members to join the Exec for a coffee.