

Help needed

Several long serving and key members have left York St John UNISON committee and we are seeking volunteers to fill those roles.

In particular we need to fill the roles of secretary and membership officer.

If you feel you can contribute, contact any member of the committee to find out what is involved.

A union can only be successful if it's members take part. It might seem a daunting idea to become involved, but the people who take part are ordinary members who contribute a little time each month to help things run smoothly. The more people who take an active role the easier it is for the other members. §

Unison rejects pay offer

UNISON's higher education service group voted on 11th May to unanimously to reject the full and final pay offer made by UCEA, the national higher education employers' organisation.

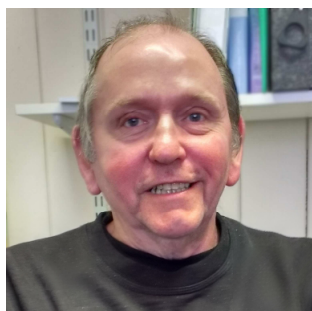
UNISON national officer Ruth Levin, said: "The employers' offer of 1.1% for the vast majority of our members is a pittance. We know that the money is out there in universities and that they can afford to give their staff a decent and fair wage increase this year".

"Over the past five years our members' real term take home pay has plummeted. This year's offer doesn't keep up with RPI and will only compound matters." UNISON has written to UCEA to begin the national dispute resolution procedure.

Branch consultations will follow, recommending members reject the offer and move to an industrial action ballot. UNISON may take industrial action depending on outcome of an this ballot and it will be recommended that UNISON members vote in favour. You have until 1 July 2016 to respond. You should have received an email with details the voting mechanism, if you have not received it or do not have access to email contact a member of the team. §

Meet Dave Thompson, the branch chair

Originally from Thirsk, Dave started work at Ripon and York St John in 1979. He works maintaining the heating and plumbing systems and has been in a union since he started work.



He has had various roles in the union of workplace representative, health and safety officer and for the last 9 years, has been chair of UNISON at York St John. As part of that role he gets to meet with people from all levels of the organisation including regular meetings of the SJCC - Staff Joint Consultative Committees §



Donate Blood

NHS Blood and Transplant teams across England and North Wales collect more than 6,000 units of blood a day. However, there has been a sharp drop in the number of new donors. The NHS Blood and Transplant service needs new donors to come forward to provide the right mix of blood to match patients' needs and replace those who can't donate any more.

The service is particularly looking for new donors who are young, Black and/or of South Asian family origin to reflect the changes in demand from hospitals and make sure that patients have access to the blood they need, when they need it.

By donating blood, you will be doing something amazing, feel good and save or improve the lives of other people. UNISON is the only union to have a partnership agreement with the blood and transplant service – find out more at <http://blood.co.uk> or call 0300 123 23 23§



School Uniform Grants

A programme has been put in place that will assist our most vulnerable members with the cost of purchasing school uniforms.

They have one-off grants of £40.00 per school age child, up to a total of £120.00.

To be eligible you must be financially responsible for the child/children and not eligible for funding for uniform costs from your Local Authority

To find out more including detailed eligibility requirements go to the UNISON web site §

Member benefits

As well as representation at work, and a voice in local and national negotiations, UNISON members can benefit from a range of services, including:

- Legal representation inside and outside work,
- Good deals on car, home or pet insurance,
- Savings on holidays and travel insurance,
- Educational and training opportunities,



- And much more...

Meet the team

These are your key contacts if you need advice or have any concerns or suggestions. UNISON prides itself on being "your friend at work", and we need to know what you are thinking if we are going to represent your views in the University.

Chair: Dave Thompson (Maintenance, x6668)

Deputy Chair: Hazel Eldred (Registry, x6926)

Treasurer: Jo Ripley (Registry, x6670)

General enquiries: unison@yorks.ac.uk

Health and Safety: Dave Thompson (Maintenance, x6668)

Rebekah Dale: Equality and Diversity (Admissions x6970)

Communications: Marcus Green (ILS, x6367)

Workplace reps: Sally Rollinson (Grounds, x6508)

Simon Davis (Grounds, x6508)

Keith Vasey (Maintenance, x6668)