



Branch Annual Report 2017

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Recruitment activity

Recruitment activity took place on several occasions last year with recruitment stalls in Holgate and a breakfast morning in the Students' Union. The breakfast morning proved to be a good recruiting tool and we intend to hold these again in the coming year. Other recruitment events and drop in surgeries will also be held. It is essential for the branch to recruit more officers onto the branch committee. As you may know, Rebekah left the University in late 2017 and so the responsibility for representing members with issues lies solely with the branch Chair, with help from region.

Membership

The branch has just fewer than 100 members. This year we have recruited around 30 new members yet about the same number have left due to retirements and staff still leaving as a result of the university restructure.

Conferences

Conferences attended during the year on behalf of the branch are:

- Dave Thompson - UNISON Higher Education Seminar in Belfast and the National Delegates' Conference in Brighton.
- Rebekah Dale – UNISON Higher Education Seminar in Belfast and National Delegates' Conference in Brighton

Education and training

We will continue to send our reps. and officers on training courses so that they are able to carry out their roles and represent members properly. If any members wish to take up officer or reps. roles then full training and support will be provided to them.

Your Branch officers



Branch Chair

Dave Thompson
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Department

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Treasurer

Joanne Ripley
Academic Quality Support
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Health & Safety Officer

Vacancy

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Committees

UNISON meetings

Officers regularly attend YSJ Committee meetings on behalf of members. Dave Thompson, as branch Chair, attends the regional meetings in Leeds and also national meetings such as the annual conference. He also meets regularly with the regional representative and networks with other local branches. He chairs the branch meetings and provides support to branch officers.

Health & Safety Committee

Dave Thompson has been attending all University health and safety meetings on behalf of the branch and its members.

Staff Joint Consultative Committee

The Committee meets quarterly and is concerned with the conditions of service and related employment issues relating to the University's staff. UNISON officers attend this meeting, providing regular consultation between the University and the trade unions on terms and conditions of service and health and safety matters.

SJCC Liaison Committee

These take place every month and are meetings between HR, UCU and UNISON. The purpose of these meetings is so that HR can keep the unions up to date with any restructures, reviews or any intended policy changes and for both of the unions to raise any issues they might have.

Regional Higher Education Service Meetings

Dave Thompson usually attends these meetings between regional organisers and representatives from all universities in the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

Significant areas of work

University-wide and individual casework

Officers have dealt with various concerns from individuals over the year including matters of redundancy, alleged bullying, flexible learning and equality and diversity. Some of these were via a quick

Your Branch officers



[Workplace representatives](#)

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phone call whilst others were of a more serious nature and included negotiation before resolution. Officers attend all meetings on the restructuring and review of departments and all job re-grading panels.

Branch accounts

The branch accounts for this year will be presented to the meeting by our treasurer Joanne Ripley.

Communication

Communication with members has been mainly by email and by notice boards. We have also started producing newsletters. For this we can thank Rebekah Dale who, unfortunately for us, has left the University so we will be looking for someone else to do this work for us. We are also trying to improve our blog so as to keep members more up to date with what is happening. We must also say a big thank you to Joanne Ripley for carrying out most of the communications to members. It would be helpful if members would update their details with us (UNISON@yorks.ac.uk) if they have moved house or moved departments at work.

Social

Christmas party

The branch Christmas party was held in the Students' Union building on 21 December 2017 and was catered for by The Pantry. A raffle was held with some excellent prizes. Everyone who attended enjoyed the food and games (Twister). Thanks to Tony Storey who contributed his winnings to the Spark Foundation.

Joint branch assessment

The branch has met with the region to undertake the annual joint branch assessment. A financial management checklist was also undertaken as part of this exercise. The assessment will be signed off at the next branch meeting in early March.

Ongoing in 2018 - surgeries

A regional UNISON officer will be on campus for several surgeries where staff (both members and non-members) can go for advice. This will be helpful for those not wishing to speak with a member of staff initially (although all matters are treated confidentially) and can be used for simple queries or for more serious matters. We will inform all staff of the dates, times and rooms once set up.