

Lancaster UCU e-Bulletin (April 2015)

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May Day 2015: Fighting for Trade Union Rights

Welcome back to the summer term and to the second edition of our e-bulletin. On Friday, May Day -International Workers Day, we commemorate the historic struggles and gains made by workers and the international trade union movement (see below for local details). We also note how fragile some of those rights have become and how we have no choice but to defend even the most basic tenets of trade unionism within our universities.

In our region, we have two disturbing cases of UCU members fighting against unlawful dismissal. At the University of Salford, two staff, who had raised concerns about 'restructuring', were summarily dismissed. Hundreds of their colleagues went out on strike last Thursday in protest at their treatment and their case is being fought nationally. Please sign their petition and see below for press details.

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/fair-treatment-for-salford-staff>

At the University of Bolton, the UCU branch secretary, Damien Markey, and his partner, Jennifer Markey, a Unison member, were both summarily dismissed. UCU and Unison have launched a joint petition and we urge each of you to sign it and see below for press details.

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/reinstatethemarkeys>

On **Wednesday 3 June 2015** at 1pm we have Jo McNeill, who is our elected NW rep on the UCU National Executive Committee coming to speak at a LUCU general meeting. Jo is President of Liverpool UCU and a dynamic and inspiring trade unionist. Please come and hear her in the **Cavendish Lecture Theatre** and ask her any questions you may have.

We look forward to seeing you there.

CAMPUS NEWS

Members sought to join the casework team

Sometimes members find that they need advice, someone to accompany them to a meeting, or individual representation to ensure that they are being treated fairly, equitably and reasonably. To support these members, we call on the services of the branch casework team. The casework team comprises of individuals who volunteer their time and skills to support fellow UCU members. We really need more members to please step forward and volunteer to become part of the caseworker team. Training and ongoing support will be provided. Please contact Louise Banton (lbanton@ucu.org.uk) for more information.

Seeking a Prof to sit as UCU Rep on the Academic Promotions Committee from 1st August 2015

The Academic Promotions Committee is made up of three subcommittees:

1. the [Academic Probation](#) Sub-Committee which considers academic probation cases in line with our academic probation policy. It is due to meet 4 times next academic year - UCU vacancy.
2. the [Academic Promotion](#) Sub-Committee which considers cases for academic promotion to grade 9, Readership and Chair level in line with our [academic promotions criteria](#). It is due to meet 5 times next academic year - UCU vacancy.
3. the [Professorial Review](#) Sub-Committee. In even years, it considers professorial cases for salary movement within professorial bands. In odd years, it considers professorial cases for promotion to band 2 and band 3. It is due to meet twice next academic year and the UCU rep on the sub-committee is Professor Bob Jessop. Please let us know if you are interested.

Policy Negotiations

We're initiating policy discussions with management on the following two areas: Fixed-term Contracts; Career Development and Protection of Research Staff. If you're on a fixed term contract or a researcher (probably also on a fixed term contract) - please come along to an open discussion on Friday 8th May at 1-2pm in Faraday Seminar Room 4 to share your experiences and observations. Please RSVP to Louise Banton (lbanton@ucu.org.uk).

REGIONAL SOLIDARITY

Unlawful Dismissals at Bolton and Salford Universities: Press Coverage

Times Higher <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/ucu-furious-over-bolton-sackings-for-alleged-press-leaks/2019335.article>

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/news/salford-staff-to-strike-over-sackings/2019856.article>

BBC <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-32412953>

Bolton News

http://www.theboltonnews.co.uk/news/education/11888681.Protestors_demonstrate_against_the_sacking_of_University_of_Bolton_colleagues/?ref=mac

Manchester Evening News <http://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/bolton-university-lecturers-sacked-loan-8925591>

Socialist Worker <http://socialistworker.co.uk/art/40243/Reinstate+UCU+activists+Damien+and+Jenny+Markey>

NATIONAL NEWS: The Legal Corner

Personal Injury Claims - If you have been injured at work, travelling to or from work, or in the course of a work related activity such as a field trip or conference, you may be able to claim compensation from the party responsible for your injury. UCU members get free legal advice and representation from the union's specialist lawyers for personal injury claims - see: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articlid=2426>

TUC Employment Law Quiz -

see: https://www.tuceducation.org.uk/pluginfile.php/84614/mod_resource/content/1/story.html

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: May Day 2015 Celebrations

Saturday 2nd May 2015

Come and celebrate International Workers Day in Lancaster and join us under the LUCU banner!

11.30am Assemble at Dalton Square, Lancaster

12 noon March with music

1pm Rally at Dalton Square with speakers from local, national and international campaigns

Organised by Lancaster and Morecambe Trades Union Council

On the same day, for a fantastic line-up of meetings, films and music there is the Manchester May Day Festival, organised by the Manchester Trades Union Council, see: <https://mtuc.wordpress.com/may-day-2015/>

Best wishes from your editorial team here at Lancaster UCU
