



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BRANCH NEWSLETTER June 2011

Pay and Conditions

Will reported that an offer of 0.3% had been summarily dismissed by the union side. UCU are already in dispute over this. National negotiations are ongoing.

Review of IT Infrastructure and Support

Call for evidence: Any member of the University with observations that will assist the Review Committee should send them to Dr Jim Bellingham, Secretary of the School of the Physical Sciences (email jrb13@cam.ac.uk) by 31 August 2011.

Among other things, the Review Committee will consider “whether there is scope for cost savings and/or service improvements through greater sharing of services, or out-sourcing”.
From: *Reporter* 8 June 2011

Meeting and rally to defend public services

At the last branch meeting on 6 June, Adam Booth highlighted the forthcoming Public Meeting in Cambridge on Monday 20 June and March and Rally on Thursday 30 June.

Teachers, lecturers and civil servants from NUT, ATL, UCU and PCS unions are proposing a one-day strike against governments attacks on pensions, and services. The events is being organised by the Cambridge and District Trades Council and it was agreed that a donation of £25 would be sent to them to fund the sound system. The rally will feature speakers and music and is designed for all the family. Full details under *Diary Dates*

Pensions

CU Assistants' CPS: proposed changes: Branch reps met recently to consider proposed changes to the CU Assistant staff Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS). An internal draft consultation pack has been drawn up outlining future changes to benefits.

At the Universities Assistants Joint Board (UAJB) it was stated that the University hoped to begin the consultation concerning changes to the CPS in July.

CPS: election of Active Member-Nominated Director, Managing Committee

Dennis Appleby retires from this position in September 2011 after 9 years and his replacement is currently being sought. The Member, who is a Trustee of the scheme, would be required to serve on the Managing Committee for up to 3 years but would be able to stand for re-election. Regular attendance at trustee meetings is required, and training will also be given.

Those interested in becoming a Trustee are advised to consult the Pensions regulators website at: <http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/> for information about what is expected of trustees and to speak to Dennis. Nominations close on 30 June 2011.

Retail Prices Index (RPI): 5.2%
Consumer Prices Index (CPI): 4.5%
Source: Office for National Statistics (ONS)
www.statistics.gov.uk

Lion Yard toilets update

Protesters who campaigned for the Lion Yard public toilets to remain at ground floor level were pleased (and surprised) when Cambridge city council leader Sian Reid announced that she will recommend refusal of the proposal to relocate the toilets to the first floor.

Thousands of people signed a petition against the relocation and disability campaigners protested outside the Guildhall. Aberdeen Asset Management own the facilities and submitted the proposal and could yet come up with other alternatives.

Cambridgeshire Libraries Opening Hours Consultation

As part of the Library Service Review a consultation was held on proposed new opening hours for Cambridgeshire libraries with questionnaires and details of the proposed opening hours and containing a series of points for feedback. The consultation took place from 31 May - 18 June

Cambridge grocer stands for chancellor

A shopkeeper has decided to stand for the post of chancellor at the University of Cambridge. Abdul Arain, who owns Al Amin in on Mill Road, has gained "well in excess" of the necessary 50 nominations enabling him to stand. The current chancellor, the Duke of Edinburgh, is due to retire from the post at the end of June.

"It's time to get the common man back in touch with the university, and the other way around," said Mr Arain. The University's official candidate is Lord Sainsbury. Following a Facebook campaign led by students, the actor Brian Blessed has also been nominated.

Nominations close on 17 June. The successful candidate will be announced by the university senate in October.

Unite 4 our NHS: blood donations

Winning the battle: the good news is that the government now looks unlikely to go ahead with plans to sell off the blood service. Some 74% of people are against profit being made from blood donations.

However the bill to reform the NHS goes to its third reading soon so please add your name to Unite' campaign against this flawed bill if you have not already done so. The petition is at: http://www.unitetheunion.org/sectors/health_sector/unite_4_our_nhs.aspx

University of Sheffield strike over pensions

Staff at Sheffield University took 24-hour strike action on 3 June in a dispute over pensions. Technical staff, porters and security guards are furious at the creation of a two tier system by downgrading the pensions of lower paid staff, whilst keep a defined benefit scheme for the higher paid staff.

The university is ending the final salary scheme for workers on grades 1 - 5, replacing it with an inferior cash balance scheme. However, higher grades will keep their defined benefit scheme. This is a huge blow to lower paid members of staff and the university's own equality impact assessment identified women as disproportionately affected as they are heavily represented in this group.

Unite regional officer, Chris Daly said: "This is extremely unjust. It's shameful that the university's senior management can continue to enjoy their charmed lives, whilst actually targeting the pensions of the lowest paid, with women disproportionately affected. Our members are determined to win back pension's justice and are ready to take further strike action to protect their pay in retirement".

Glasgow's half pay plan for new teachers

Union bosses are urging Scotland's largest education authority to clarify its call for all probationer teachers to be put on half pay. The Glasgow Council plan would see staff classed as probationers for two years instead of one and be on £10,700 for two consecutive years.

The Education Institute of Scotland said the country-wide plan was a worry. It has been submitted to the Scottish government's inquiry into the profession's pay and conditions. The EIS said that if the suggestion was adopted, low pay would be an added burden for new teachers who may have student debts and significant problems finding work.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13704176>

Archbishop criticises coalition policies

The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned that the government is committing Britain to "radical, long-term policies for which no-one voted". Writing in the *New Statesman* magazine, Dr Rowan Williams raised concerns about the coalition's health, education and welfare reforms.

Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13706710>

Cambridge University Press

At the recent AGM, the outgoing committee were re-elected.

The Press are running a session on 'workplace survival and training'. The session aims to give information and guidance so that when issues arise, members they will feel confident about when to get a rep involved. Seventeen members have so far signed up to take part.

Regional News

Congratulations to Ian Maidlow who has been promoted to Acting Co-ordinating Officer for the London and Eastern region. We are pleased that Ian will continue as our Regional Officer.

A regional meeting took place on 3 June. Will reported that many universities are facing challenging times. The petition from the joint unions from University of East London, circulated at the branch meeting on 6 June, highlights the situation where security staff there are undergoing a review and the likelihood of being outsourced.

Similar concerns have arisen within the university and the possibility of restructuring and outsourcing of services will be raised at the Partnership Working Group. (See also *Review of IT infrastructure and support on front page*)

Branch Training

Change at Work 11-15 July 2011, Eastbourne

A 5-day Unite Education training course for reps; travel costs are provided from Unite regional centres and all accommodation and meals. Sessions include disciplinary and grievance handling and legislation surrounding redundancy. It also hopes to examine pension provision within the Education Sector, how national and local negotiations take place within HE/FE, and vital aspects of organising and membership recruitment.

Please contact Will if you are interested in attending

Motions

No motions were put forward at the branch meeting on 6 June 2011.

Branch News

Andrew Moss was elected Acting Chair. Nominations and voting for a new Branch Chair to succeed Robbie will take place at the next branch AGM.

Regional restructuring is continuing and the Cambridge Unite branch has been asked to put forward recommendations about restructuring.

There is a possibility that the Cambridge University Press will become a branch in its own right.

Diary Dates



Defend our pensions, defend our services

Public Meeting

Monday 20 June 2011 at 7.30 pm

Guildhall, Small Hall, Market Square

Come and hear about the issues involved, and join the discussion about how to fight against government cuts to public services, pensions and welfare. Includes speakers from ATL and NUT teaching unions. Organised by Cambridge & District Trades Council. More info at: www.cambstuc.org.uk

Rally, March & Music

Thursday 30 June

Assemble midday Parker's Piece

Come along to Parker's Piece as teachers, lecturers and civil servants take action against the government's attacks on pensions. There will be a march around the town at 1 pm followed by an afternoon of protest, speakers and more. For all the family. Organised by Cambridge & District Trades Council. More info at: www.cambstuc.org.uk



Unite Women's National Week

Sunday 19 June - Friday 24 June 2011



CU Assistants' CPS Members' Meeting

Wednesday 6 July 2011 at 1200 noon

Babbage Lecture Theatre
New Museums site, Downing Street

If there is something you would like raised, please contact Sue Curryer: sec28@cam.ac.uk



Royal Norfolk Show

29 - 30 June

Unite will have stalls at the Royal Norfolk Show so if you are attending, please come along and say hello. Regional officers and others available for on hand for information and advice

National Officer for Education Sector:
Mike Robinson

London & Eastern Regional

Regional Officer: Ian Maidlow
Transport House, 101 Madingley Road
Cambridge CB3 0EL

tel: 01223 353 048 fax: 01223 311 081

Acting Regional Secretary: Peter Kavanagh
"Woodberry", 218 Green Lanes, London N4
2HB tel: 020 8800 4281 fax: 020 8809 6501

For national news and issues please visit
the *Unite the Union* website at:
<http://www.unitetheunion.com/>

More information and links

Information on the branch including details of
working groups, branch structure and Minutes
of monthly branch meetings can be found at:
www.amicus.cam.ac.uk

For national news and issues please visit the
Unite the Union website at:
<http://www.unitetheunion.com/>

Branch Meetings

Branch meetings take place on the first Monday of the month (except when a Bank Holiday occurs) at 12.45 pm in the Bramwell Lounge, University Sports and Social Centre (USC)

UNITE Cambridge Website

The Unite / Amicus web pages are
available at: <http://www.amicus.cam.ac.uk>
Website co-ordinator : Cathy Salkield.
Items for inclusion - please contact:
webmaster@amicus.cam.ac.uk

Use your website: copies of draft Minutes
from monthly Branch meetings can be
downloaded from the website and taken along
to Branch meetings: this will help cut down on
photocopying costs for the Branch.

Branch Newsletter

Please display a copies of Newsletter in your
workplace. If you need additional copies
please contact Will. Please pass copies of
your Newsletter to colleagues who may not
be union members to show them what Unite
can do for them. Any items for inclusion in the
Newsletter to Juliet Barrows at:
newsletter@amicus.cam.ac.uk

Branch Officials and Organisation: contact details

Name		Email
Andrew Moss	Acting Branch Chair Individual Cases	chair@amicus.cam.ac.uk
Sara Bennett	Vice Chair	
Will Smith	Branch Secretary Recruitment & Organisation	secretary@amicus.cam.ac.uk
Paul Stokes	Branch Treasurer Pensions	treasurer@amicus.cam.ac.uk
Andrew Moss	Training Officer	rep-training@amicus.cam.ac.uk
Nik Zolman	Job Evaluation	job-evaluation@amicus.cam.ac.uk
John Baldwin	Retired Members	
Adam Booth	Student Liaison	
Vacant	Personal Case Coordinator	
Vacant	Health & Safety	health-safety@amicus.cam.ac.uk
Vacant	Lifelong Learning	staff-dev@amicus.cam.ac.uk
Vacant	Equal Opportunities	dignity-equality@amicus.cam.ac.uk