



Our newsletter is free to all members.

If you're not a member, we want you to join us.

You can still join UNISON easily on-line.

Just follow the link from our blog on Staff Central.

University of Brighton Branch Newsletter

November 2020

Welcome to the November issue of our monthly newsletter.

As I write this, it's still not exactly clear what the plan is in terms of students remaining here until the end of the month, getting tested (possibly) and then going home early, bearing in mind that for many of our students, Brighton or Eastbourne is already home.

Whatever happens, the issue remains of members of staff being expected to work in conditions which are problematic as far as Covid goes.

We're concerned that whether a class needs to take place or a service provided on-site or virtually is now down to the judgement of an individual head or director, leading to a load of inconsistent decisions being made. We think that those closest to the delivery i.e. the people who do the work, are best placed to determine what's appropriate from a health and safety point of view. If people feel that they are being put at unnecessary risk, either

because what they are doing is not essential, or because the risk factors have not been sufficiently mitigated, they should discuss this with their line manager and if necessary, contact us for advice. Whilst the risk may be relatively low, nobody should be working, or commuting when they are worried about catching a potentially deadly illness.

There are two important votes and ballots taking place this month.

1. The consultative vote on the 0% pay "rise". Please make sure you respond to the email and tell them we're rejecting it!
2. The massive postal ballot of 1.3 million members to determine who the next general secretary will be. Please make sure you vote!

Ivan Bonsell, Branch Secretary

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Pay Consultation



Throughout November, University of Brighton employed members will be emailed a vote, asking for their view on the pay deal. In case you missed it, we were “offered” 0%, and so our wages went up by precisely naff all in August 2020.

We all know we’re worth more than this imposed real-terms pay cut and so voting to reject the “offer” is a straightforward choice and what we recommend, but obviously it’s up to you.

The more pertinent question is what are we going to do about it, and how are we going to mount an effective and credible campaign when Covid has made the future so uncertain?

We think that sending a clear and loud message to the employers that we’re prepared to take action is necessary, so please make sure that you respond to the email (which will have gone to the email address held on UNISON’s membership system.)

If you don’t have it, please get in touch and we’ll sort that out.

You can still [vote on-line here](#), using your membership number or NI number.

You have until 5pm on 30th November.

General *Secretary* Election - make sure you use your vote!

Throughout November, over a million members get to democratically decide who gets to be the next General Secretary of UNISON.

You should, by now, have received a ballot paper. This will have gone to your home address on UNISON’s membership system, so if you don’t have one, either you joined after the cut-off point (28th July) or your address details are out of date.

If you think you should have a ballot paper, or you’ve misplaced it, you can ask for another one by calling

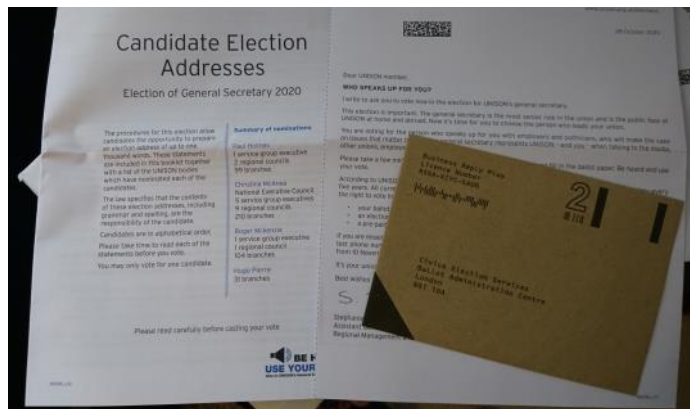
0800 0 857 857

If you need to get in touch with us to check your details, feel free to give us a call or drop us an email.

Please make sure you vote. The results of this election will have an effect on the direction over the union for the next period and we rely on our members to decide what direction that is.

BE HEARD USE YOUR VOTE

Your ballot paper will look like this:



Please don't forget to post it, to be received by **5pm on Friday 27th November**.

Some examples of people using the postal system:



Join us online for the Regional Women's AGM!



WHEN: 5pm - 6.30pm on Thursday 14 January 2021
WHERE: The meeting will be held online using Microsoft Teams.

All women members of our branch have an opportunity to attend the Regional Women's Annual General Meeting.

Our branch is entitled to send five delegates but we can also send visitors, who are able to observe but not participate in the meeting.

We need to register a delegation and visitors by 10th December, so if you're interested in attending, just email us at iadb@brighton.ac.uk and we'll add you to the list.



LOOK OUT FOR YOUR **PACK**



The **BIG** Vote



TAKE YOUR **PICK**



POP IT IN THE **POST**

