



Our newsletter is free to all members.

If you're not a member, we want you to join us. Scan this QR code, or ask a steward for a paper form.



Get organised, join a union!

University of Brighton Branch Newsletter

February 2023



Hi everyone, and here's February's newsletter.

The pressure of events means that I've struggled to get this out a) on time and b) with the number of articles that I'd like, hence the brevity. After our AGM in March, I'm hoping we'll have a dedicated Communications Team so that we can make sure all our members are fully up to date with all the things we're up to. We're about to launch our Instagram site and WhatsApp group. More to follow...

Some of us recently spent time at our annual higher education conference, and obviously the continuing battle over pay is taking up most of our efforts.

If you've not yet signed up to attend any of our AGMs in March, please do. You can find more information on this and everything else in our blog.

Follow us...

Our blog: unison.brighton.ac.uk (sign up to subscribe)

Twitter: [@UniBtonUnison](https://twitter.com/UniBtonUnison)

Facebook: [UniversityofBrightonUNISON](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofBrightonUNISON)

Pay Strike Action:

Thursday 16th, Friday 17th, Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st February

So, we're striking again over pay. If you work directly for the University, please try to do what you can. It's the same arrangements as last time - pickets at each site from 8am on each day, apart from Eastbourne where we're only picketing on the 16th.

On Thursday 16th, we'll be meeting at Brighton Station from 11.30 to march down to Victoria Gardens at 12 noon for a rally. If you get chance to join us, it will be great to see you. All welcome, including children, pets etc.

Every strike day, you're welcome to join us for lunch. Details to be confirmed on the day.



Pay negotiations have now moved on to ACAS, which means that instead of the (largely pointless) dispute meetings with the employers, both sides are currently meeting, with ACAS mediating. Whether this results in a positive outcome remains to be seen, but the pressure of strike action from our union, UCU and others, will no doubt have an effect.

As a result of the action taken so far, the offer of between 5% and 8% that has been made, is well in excess of what we would have been offered.

However, in our on-line consultation, our branch rejected this with 79% of those voting, since it's still well below inflation and represents another real-terms pay cut. Thanks to everyone who responded.

Our mandate for strike action runs out in a few weeks, so this planned action is the last we can take without a new ballot. We'll be seeking a ballot as soon as possible, but please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.

Our Annual General Meetings 2023



Our Annual General Meetings this year will be in the week commencing 6th March.

All the information about them is available on the AGM page on our blog, which you can find from Staff Central. We need to know if you're coming in person, or virtually, so that we can order the catering and send you the meeting links.

Our meetings are on the following days:

City Campus	12 noon/12.30pm, Monday 6th March	Grand Parade 204
Falmer	12 noon/12.30pm, Tuesday 7th March	Checkland E423
Moulsecoomb	12 noon/12.30pm, Wednesday 8th March	Mithras House G4
Eastbourne	12 noon/12.30pm, Friday 10th March	Aldro Building 112

Our dedicated blog page also has the nomination form for branch officers and details of what you can do if you want to propose a motion or ask a question of the branch committee.

It's all here: [Annual General Meeting\(s\) 2023 | University of Brighton UNISON Branch](#)



Why we think you need to join a trade union



If you're reading this, the chances are you're already a member of UNISON, but whether you are or not, it's in all our interests that we strengthen our branch and our union by recruiting more members.

Trade unions are not groups of people who moan about everything, or clubs for lazy workers. We're organised workers who see the need for workplace organisation that's based around mass membership and collective interest.

We support all members with their individual problems at work, but the main reason we're all members is that we can do so much more when we have the weight of hundreds of members with us.

Many people working at the University will be concerned about what's round the corner. Universities like ours are facing all kinds of uncertainty. Public services in general are being cut, sold off and privatised. Workers' terms and conditions are being attacked, as those in charge are forced to run things as "efficiently" as possible. In short, we're all expected to work harder for longer and less money.

The entire system means we have to fight back. Trade unions are about working people seeing that we're much stronger together. You can fight and win on your own, but you're much more likely to win if you're fighting alongside hundreds and thousands of other people like you.



Please make sure you join a trade union and stick up for your rights at work.

If you're already a member, please ask those working alongside you to join as well.

You can join UNISON on-line, here:
or ask a steward for a paper membership form.

