



Members' Newsletter - January 2025

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year.

We begin 2025 with the higher education sector in the middle of a funding crisis. Many universities are declaring redundancies and cost-cutting measures because their real terms income has come down, mainly as a result of the government failing to fund higher education properly.

Brighton has only weathered the storm by making compulsory redundancies, of mainly academic staff. UCU put up a titanic battle, but ultimately, the University got away with this by careful timing (leaving UCU to fight during the summer).



The current situation is that the University made the first surplus for many years, as per the 2023-24 accounts, which gives some hope for optimism, but this is offset by the message that there's still a need to be careful about what we spend and that savings still need to be found.

Of course we understand that the University has to manage this properly, although we obviously oppose all compulsory redundancies.

What we want to see though, is more vocal and joined up campaigning from Vice-Chancellors about what's required to fix higher education - adequate funding, not from higher tuition fees, but from general taxation.

UNISON is planning a campaign of lobbies and demonstrations through 2025. We can't allow this new government to prioritise "growing the economy" at the expense of funding public services properly. We don't accept the argument that one has to come before the other. There's enormous wealth in Britain, but a small number of individuals and corporations sit on it all. Rather than trying to bribe these people to invest i.e. exploit us more for more profit, we should be taking back what we need and using it for the benefit of all.

UNISON's programme is for proper funding of all public services, including higher education, and for those who deliver them to be properly rewarded. We'll be making that case throughout 2025 and beyond. If you agree with us, please join us and get involved.

Join the union!

Scan here:





UNISON Members' Survey

Our members' survey was launched just before Christmas, but we're keeping it open into 2025, so if you've not yet filled it in, please do.

All the questions are optional, so it will only take a couple of minutes, or even less depending on what you want to tell us.

You can find our survey on our blog.

2025 Annual General Meetings

Our three meetings for 2025 will take place as follows:

Monday 24 March - City Campus, Grand Parade Boardroom, M2

Tuesday 25 March - Falmer, Checkland A403

Wednesday 26 March - Moulsecomb, Watts 509



All three meetings will start at 12.30pm with the option to join us for a free buffet lunch at 12 noon beforehand. We'll also make all the meetings hybrid so that members can join via Teams.

An invite has now gone out and obviously, we'd like everyone to attend one of the meetings (it doesn't matter which one).

Our AGMs vote on important stuff and confirm the election of the branch committee. All members can stand for any roles, which are all up for election, and any member can propose a motion for the meetings to consider and vote on.

More importantly, we can discuss the direction of our branch and what we want to be concentrating on during 2025 and beyond, so please make every effort to attend if you can.

If you give them sufficient notice, your manager should allow you to attend the meeting in work time. If you have any issues with that, please get in touch.