

# ICUCU Newsletter No 2

## UCU Office, Imperial College

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### Winter 2015/16

**Welcome** to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the newsletter for Imperial College UCU members.

### Introducing your Branch Committee

In each edition of the Newsletter we will include a short biography of a member of the Branch Committee.

#### **Roddy Slorach, Diversity Officer of ICUCU**

Roddy Slorach, is the Branch Equality & Diversity Rep and is a self-confessed 'political animal.' He has been an active trade unionist and socialist for over 30 years. With a background in welfare and disability rights, he joined the College's Disability Advisory Service in early 2014. Roddy is currently vice-chair of the national UCU Disabled Members Group. His publications include new book "A Very Capitalist Condition: a history and politics of disability". He is also an active supporter of the Stand Up to Racism campaign, promoting solidarity with refugees and opposition to racism and Islamophobia.

### UCU Campaign Update

#### **The Prevent Duty**

The Prevent Duty refers to Section 26 of the counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 which contains a duty on universities among many other organisations to have '*due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism*'. For example universities should have proper risk assessment processes for external speakers. If you want to know more UCU have produced an excellent guide for branches and members which can be found on UCU's upgraded website at: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/> then key in 'prevent duty' on the search bar.

#### **HE Green Paper**

UCU responded to the BIS consultation on the government's 2015 higher education green paper saying that the voice of academic and academic-related, professional staff is missing from the entire paper, including the proposals for the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) which offers very little for staff who do the teaching and support learning in higher education. To read the briefing on the paper or their full consultation response, go to: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/hegreenpaper>

#### **Annual Pay Negotiations**

At Imperial unlike other universities, pay is negotiated at a local level. Representatives of our local UCU branch together with members of Unite and UNISON will soon be entering into the 2016/17 pay negotiations with the management at Imperial. According to UCU nationally, since 2009, the cumulative loss to your pay (compared to rises in RPI) is 14.5%. However each year, over this period, Imperial has had large annual surpluses of income compared expenditure and could easily afford to address

some of decline in the real value of your pay. The more support we have from members, the stronger we are in these negotiations.

### **Imperial Named and Shamed**

Imperial was one of only 18 out of 159 UK universities that refused to respond to a recent Freedom of Information request from UCU on the cost of salaries, flights, accommodation and other expenses of the Head of the University and other senior post-holders and also on management consultancy expenses.

<https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/8092/The-UKs-least-transparent-universities-named-and-shamed>

The full report of this survey is at

[http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/7870/transparency\\_at\\_the\\_top\\_2016/pdf/VC\\_pay\\_and\\_perks\\_FINAL\\_VERSION21.pdf](http://www.ucu.org.uk/media/7870/transparency_at_the_top_2016/pdf/VC_pay_and_perks_FINAL_VERSION21.pdf)

### **Trade Union Bill**

UCU is opposed to the government's plans to undermine the role of trade unions by restricting their ability to mobilise effective industrial action. The right to strike is a fundamental right and UCU believes that these proposals are a serious attack on unions which will strain industrial relations and weaken the position of employees in dealing with inflexible employers.

### UCU Recruitment Campaign

#### **What can you do?**

If you know of any colleagues who are not yet members please encourage them to join:

Online: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/join>

Phone: 0333 207 0719 (9.15am-4.45pm Mon-Fri)

### UCU Services to members

#### **Legal help for you and your family**



UCU is committed to providing members and their families with a wide range of legal help. UCU Law Extra is a dedicated team of highly trained and professional lawyers who can help with a range of everyday legal services:

- Wills
- Lasting Power of Attorney
- Probate
- Financial mis-selling claims such as PPI
- Buying a newly built home
- Conveyancing

These services are offered at reduced prices and, as UCU can share any profits generated, we can use that income to support our front line service to members.

To make an enquiry now go to:

[https://ucu.custhelp.com/app/ucu\\_law\\_extra](https://ucu.custhelp.com/app/ucu_law_extra)