

Minutes

UCU Glasgow General Meeting

Wednesday, 20 September 2023

12noon – 1.30pm, Online

Chair: Scott Hurrell

Minutes: Lina Nass

Present: Over 145 UCU Glasgow members

1. Welcome and introductions

Scott Hurrell welcomed members. He advised all members to not wait until UCU was in touch before filling out the USS consultation that will open shortly. Maha Rafi Atal, UCU Glasgow Migrant Members' Rep, encouraged members to fill out an open survey about visa costs.

2. Industrial Action

UCU HEC has given branches until 2pm on Wednesday, 20 September to consult about the upcoming five days of national strike action. UCU Glasgow took two days of action already this week (Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 September).

The branch discussed whether or not to take industrial action next week. The meeting decided in favour of taking strike action next week, with 79 in favour, 56 against and 13 abstentions.

There was another vote on how many days of strike action to take, with 65 people voting for one day, 12 for two days and 66 for three days. There was then a challenge to the chair, asking for a re-vote. This passed with 104 members in favour, 40 against and 8 abstentions. Subsequently, there was another vote to decide between one and three days of strike action. 76 members voted in favour of one day, 67 members in favour of two days, and 10 abstentions.

The one day of strike action will take place next Wednesday, 27 September 2023, as University Court meets that day.

3. MAB update

a. Reasonable marking periods

Officers are in negotiations with the University, and reasonable marking periods should be set by schools/departments. If there are any concerns, please email ucug@glasgow.ac.uk. It is also up to LM etc. to decide what marking to prioritise (e.g. PGT or UG).

b. Collective grievance

UCU national and Scotland is looking for members to join a potential grievance against employers about MAB deductions that have not been reimbursed. Interested members should contact ucug@glasgow.ac.uk.

c. Finance update

The University has confirmed that reimbursements will be part of this months pay package. All members should double-check their payslips. The committee will be in touch in October with those who claimed from the fund, and members who have donated to the local hardship fund.

4. Local motions

Local motion 2 passed

Local motion 1 passed

Local motion 3 passed

5. AOB

- a. USS: Members advised to hold off responding to consultation for a few days after it opens, so the Committee can be in touch.
- b. Migrant Member Survey on visa fees is open until Friday.
- c. UCU Rising re-ballot papers are arriving from today onwards.

6. DONM: Wednesday, 25 October 2023

Motions

Motion 1 – Glasgow National Park City

Proposer: Chrissy Sanachan

Secunder: Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

UCU Glasgow notes:

1. The work of the National Park City Foundation (<https://www.nationalparkcity.org/>)
2. The campaign to recognise the city of Glasgow as a National Park (<https://www.glasgownationalparkcity.org/>)

UCU Glasgow believes:

1. The values and ambitions of GNPC align with those of UCU Glasgow and student-led Green New Deal that we have endorsed, as well as the University's sustainability and climate ambitions.
2. The entire University community would benefit from the designation of Glasgow as a National Park.

UCU Glasgow resolves to:

1. Affiliate to the GNPC campaign through the Sustainability subcommittee
2. Encourage our sister trade unions, student societies and the University to affiliate to GNPC
3. Strengthen connections with other local organisations that share our vision for a healthy, equitable, sustainable and just future for all of Glasgow

Motion 2 - No Confidence in the General Secretary Jo Grady

Proposer: Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

Seconder: Maria-Daniella Dick

UCU Glasgow notes:

1. Censure of GS at Congress on 27 May because of repeated 'delays in balloting and then notifying employers of industrial action' for two years; pausing industrial action 'without consultation with negotiators or the HEC'; and 'undermining UCU's democracy and undermining our disputes'.
2. The GS and HEC's subsequent failure to enact HESC decision HE19 carried at Congress on 28 May to 'ballot members for industrial action in a long ballot commencing as soon as possible and ending in September 2023'.

UCU Glasgow believes:

7. The delay in re-balloting created a damaging gap between mandates.
8. Communications at a national level have lacked clarity and strategic direction.

UCU Glasgow resolves:

1. No confidence in the GS: she should resign with immediate effect.
2. To write to HEC requesting a SHESC to determine strategy to win and re-ballot extension until early January to overcome demoralisation and maximise turnout.

Motion 3 - Glasgow City Council Cuts

Proposed: Dave Featherstone

Seconded: Diarmaid Kelliher and Lazaros Karaliotas

UCU Glasgow notes with extreme concern plans by Glasgow Life to cut what Unison estimates as 30% of jobs in the Glasgow's Museums and Collections sections. This will affect key venues such as Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and innovative outreach projects such as the Open Museum.

As well as involving damaging redundancies, the cuts will have serious negative impacts on cultural access and social inclusion in Glasgow and on collaborations with staff at the University of Glasgow.

UCU Glasgow resolves to:

- Write to Glasgow Life Chief Executive, Susan Deighan, Councillor Annette Christie Chair of Glasgow Life and Councillor Susan Aitken leader of Glasgow City Council expressing significant concern at these proposals.
- To support ongoing protests to reverse these damaging cuts;
- To support the Unison strike fund.