

UCU Glasgow General Meeting

Minutes

28 February 2024

12noon – 1.30pm

Chair: Matt Mahon

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Minutes from last meeting - Minutes GM 24 January 2024.docx

Minutes were accepted.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

4. Branch updates
 - a. Visa fees

Maha Rafi Atal, Migrant Members' Rep, updated from the work of the Migrant Members Working Group around visa application fees. The University agreed to three of our demands and details on these were sent out to all members recently. There are other demands that we are currently in negotiations over, partially because we are waiting on the Home Office to publish guidelines around visa applications under the new legislation. For questions members should contact the UCU Glasgow Office.

5. Local motions (full motion texts copied below)

Motion 1 – University links to the Arms Trade was proposed by Divya Persaud and seconded by Vladimir Unkovski-Korica. The motion passed.

Motion 2 - Support for Muhammad Rauf Waris, University of Stirling was proposed by Matt Mahon and seconded by Maha Rafi Atal. An amendment to make a £100 donation was accepted by the proposer of the motion. The motion was subsequently passed.

Motion 3 - Call for Special Sector Conference. It was explained to members that a similar motion was not accepted by UCU due to the word 'requisitioned' not being used. The motion was then proposed by Vladimir Unkovski-Korica and seconded by Duncan Lowther. The motion passed.

Motion 4 - Royal Society of Arts Boycott was proposed by Matt Mahon and formally seconded by Christmas Sanachan. The motion passed.

6. UCU Congress delegates

UCU Glasgow can send up to four delegates to UCU Congress. So far, only two members have expressed interest. If anyone would like to join the delegation, they should email ucug@glasgow.ac.uk

7. AOB

- a. Caseworkers – UCU Glasgow is urgently looking for members to be trained as caseworkers. If anyone is interested, they should contact ucug@glasgow.ac.uk.

8. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 26 March 2024, 12noon – 1.30pm

The meeting ended at 12.53pm.

Motions

Motion 1 – University links to the Arms Trade

Proposer: Fred Carter

Seconder: Dave Featherstone

UCUG notes:

1. In response to calls from Palestinian trade unions, UCU voted at national & branch level to take action against Israeli genocide by breaking ties with the arms trade.
2. Since 2022, the University has increased investment in arms to £6.8 million and currently receives more than £60 million in UKRI research funding in partnership with arms companies
3. The University has direct links to the development of military technology through research and development (R&D).

UCUG believes:

1. The University must take immediate action to end its links with the arms trade, including investment, recruitment, educations, and research, as a crucial step toward a just transition.

UCUG resolves:

1. To conduct research and local campaigning against the University's R&D links with arms companies.
2. To support divestment campaigns led by GAAF.
3. To support members exercising their right to refuse work which would risk complicity in genocide.

Motion 2 - Support for Muhammad Rauf Waris, University of Stirling

Proposer: Matt Mahon

Seconder: Maha Rafi Atal

UCUG notes:

University of Stirling student Muhammad Rauf Waris was detained by the Home Office in 2023 and spent 70 days in Dungavel House Immigration Removal Centre for an alleged breach of visa conditions.

Now released on bail, he is barred from employment while his case proceeds. Although Stirling confirmed he could continue his studies, Muhammad was informed on 12 February that he was deemed

withdrawn for unpaid fees. This will compromise his ability to remain in the UK, as his visa is dependent on his student status, as well as depriving him of the opportunity to complete his education.

UCUG resolves:

1. To write to the Principal of the University of Stirling demanding that they offer Muhammad tuition fee amnesty and support him through the Student Assistance Fund, rather than allow the university to weaponise Muhammad's precarious on-going immigration situation with the Home Office to withdraw him at this urgent time.
2. To make a donation of £100 to the Muhammed Rauf Waris fundraiser.

Motion 3 - Call for Special Sector Conference

Proposer: Marion Hersh

Seconder: Vladimir Unkovski-Korica

UCUG notes

1. Continuing pay erosion, equality pay gaps, increasing workloads, casualisation and cuts.
2. The possibility of redundancy threats in response to increasing costs of the post-92 pension schemes.
3. The lack of an agreed strategy on winning the Four fights dispute.

UCUG requisitions a SHESC under rule 16.11 on the future of the Four Fights/JNCHES disputes, including a potential TPS dispute, and resisting redundancies.

Motion 4 - Royal Society of Arts Boycott

Proposer: Matt Mahon

Seconder: Chrissy Sanachan

UCUG notes:

1. Staff at the Royal Society of Arts (RSA) have been campaigning for a fair pay rise reflective of the cost-of-living crisis.
2. RSA's response has been at odds with its values and its public image. Their offer is equivalent to just 2.3% for some of members, with no improvement of pension contributions.
3. Management are refusing to negotiate, even after strike action, and outside pressure from organisations with whom RSA collaborate is needed.

UCUG resolves:

1. To boycott any activity involving the RSA until the union's demands are met and the dispute is resolved;
2. To write to the University and urge they boycott the RSA, and write to RSA CEO to encourage a resolution;
3. To send a message of solidarity to the RSA pickets;
4. To make a donation to the RSA strike solidarity fund of £150.