

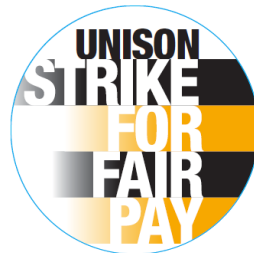
Pay dispute update

With mixed feelings in many cases UNISON members have taken part in two days of action on campus jointly with Unite and UCU.

A third strike day has been announced by UNISON for Thursday 6 February.

Please check the branch blog for more information including Frequently Asked Questions:
<http://tinyurl.com/unisonatukc>

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We need a Treasurer!

At our Annual General Meeting held on 14th January (see page 2)



we were delighted to be able to fill most of our Branch Committee seats... but we really need a new Treasurer.

Could you spare a few hours per month?

Several of our Committee roles are shared by two people and perhaps two willing volunteers could job-share this vital role if one member can't take sole responsibility.

**Got a question or an idea?
Could you volunteer some time?**

Get in touch:

UNISON office
N2.N6 Rutherford College
Tel 01227 82 3203

email: unison@kent.ac.uk

UNISONmatters is online at

<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/unison/>



Branch Committee

At our AGM held on 14 January (minutes will be sent out soon) we were able to fill most of our Branch Committee seats.

Here is an up-to-date list:

- Chairperson - Elaine Gilman
- Branch Secretary - Tom Barker/Karen Adams (job-share)
- Treasurer - vacant (see page 1)
- Communications/Publicity - Derek Baldwin
- Equality and Diversity - Ben Tipple
- Health and Safety - Chris Thornton/Peter Walker (job-share)
- Recruitment/Membership - Derek Baldwin
- Welfare - Sara Molyneux
- Young Members' officer - Tom Barker
- LGBT coordinator - Ben Tipple
- Retired Members' coordinator - Annie MacDonald/John Whyte

Stewards

- Karen Adams
- Patrick Clark
- Christine Hooper
- Phil Rogers
- Chris Thornton
- Mark Vella
- Peter Walker



**There's always up-to-date news
and information on the
UNISONmatters blog**

<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/unison/>

REGIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY COURSE

21nd—23th March 2014

T&G Centre, Eastbourne



If you are a woman member we may be able to sponsor your attendance on this course. More information: <http://tinyurl.com/unisonwomen>

Please get in touch by 18 February.



Noticeboard monitors

A number of members (and in some cases sympathetic non-members) very kindly maintain our UNISON noticeboards around the campus, but we have a few vacancies and would appreciate help...

Items for noticeboards are sent out to monitors using internal mail. It usually only takes a minute or two to take down old notices and replace them with new ones. Monitors also remove any "rogue" notices put up without permission... these seem to proliferate at Kent Union election time, for example.

Areas we need a hand with are:

- ◆ **Eliot college**
- ◆ **Keynes college**
- ◆ **R&D Centre**
- ◆ **Marlowe building**

Pay dispute (continued)

The branch understands that members have very mixed feelings about the HE pay dispute. This is a national issue and it was supported (and rather narrowly at that) by a national ballot. That result does not necessarily reflect how our own members feel.

It is very important that we make clear that we will not ostracise or make life uncomfortable for members who do not wish to join in industrial action.

We ask our members who do not agree with the industrial action and who do not want to participate in it to respect the views of members who feel differently and, most importantly, **please stay with UNISON.**

Some members have wrestled with their consciences and decided they would rather leave UNISON than cross a picket line, for example. But there is no need to do so, all our members are valued equally and we wish to keep sight of the longer-term picture: UNISON enjoys constructive relations with the University and both parties recognise that strong trade unions with diverse memberships representing a broad cross-section of staff serve all our interests. This will remain the case long after the current dispute is resolved.

Taking part or not... let us know your thoughts

A member writes:

"I've been attending a training course (seven or eight half-day sessions) over the last few weeks. The exam takes place on the day of proposed strike action. I'm worried that all of those sessions would be wasted if I don't show up on February 6th."

It's important that **all** our members are listened to and we will pass on any comments you'd like to share with us, on an anonymous basis.

Email [**unison@kent.ac.uk**](mailto:unison@kent.ac.uk).