

## Lancaster UCU Newsletter - Tuesday 2 March 2021

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#### 1. **Getting the vote out - post your ballot paper today!**

Time is running out to vote in the Lancaster UCU dispute over workloads and the lack of an opt-out for in-person teaching during the pandemic. Please post your ballot paper TODAY to be sure that it will arrive by noon on Friday and be counted.

Whether or not you feel strongly about the issues that we are in dispute over and the potential for industrial action, it's important to vote so that you don't disenfranchise those members who do feel strongly. We have to get a turnout of at least 50% for the result to be legally valid. Thank you to everyone who has already voted.

If you have a question about the dispute, ballot or what strike action and ASOS might involve, please see our [FAQs here](#) or contact our Branch Secretary - [e.heath@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:e.heath@lancaster.ac.uk)

#### 2. **New LUCU email list for research staff, and anti-casualisation meeting this Friday**

Our anti-cas rep Erik Jellyman has set up a new email list in order to provide specifically relevant information to our research staff members, and better support them as union members. If you are interested, please sign up to this new mailing list via <https://lists.lancs.ac.uk/lists/lists/ucu-res>

Also a reminder that there is a LUCU meeting for casualised members at 9am on Friday 5 March, for discussion of issues and priorities, and election of two delegates to send to a national UCU meeting for casualised members on 13 March. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87806512135?pwd=c0ZoYlRUakhtbHJrWUFxQnFyQldBdz09>

#### 3. **LUCU's response to LU's draft strategy**

Senior management is currently consulting about a draft strategy for the University. We're sure you have all had plenty of time on your hands to sit down and reflect, and contribute to this well-timed initiative: <https://portal.lancaster.ac.uk/intranet/news/article/first-look-at-the-new-university-strategy>.

The draft strategy contains welcome commitments to values such as diversity and community. But there is also plenty of content that instead points towards top-down management internally for muscular competition on the HE market externally, embodied not least in further “high-impact, high-value” initiatives in areas of perceived strength.

See a fuller [comment from LUCU here](#).

#### **4. Open letter initiative to help fight 47 redundancies at Liverpool**

In January the University of Liverpool announced 47 redundancies of academic staff. These staff were identified by grant income and citation metrics, and sent letters notifying them they had been targeted for redundancies without the opportunity to review the criteria or the specific information held about them. The University has not made allowance for individual circumstances such as workload or sickness which might have affected these metrics, nor has it given any indication of any meaningful plans to make allowance for such factors. [Please sign the open letter sign the open letter](#) to help persuade Liverpool to change course, to save those jobs and to avoid setting a dire precedent.

#### **5. UCU Conference on Climate & Sustainability**

UCU's first climate & sustainability annual conference, open to all members, will take place on 17 March 2021, 11am-4pm.

Members will share progress against Green New Deal demands; organising regional networks and discuss plans for the year ahead in preparation for UCU Congress 2021 and in the build-up to COP26 and our Decarbonise and Decolonise 2030 campaign. The aim is to support members to share learning and build momentum for action. Join us to hear from an exciting range of speakers including and Green reps and activists from across the union.

Register here: <https://www.ucu.org.uk/article/11414/UCU-climate--sustainability-conference?list=7340>

#### **6. Any problems getting to campus?**

Are you working on campus and having any problems with getting there by bus? Bus service frequencies have been reduced, and capacities are limited due to social distancing - we would like to know if this is causing problems for anyone. Also are there any UCU members who purchased a bus pass at the start of the year but have been mainly driving to work for safety reasons (and therefore having to pay for parking as well as the bus pass)? If so, please get in touch with Emily via [e.heath@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:e.heath@lancaster.ac.uk) so that any accessibility and cost issues can be raised via the Sustainability Management Group's Transport forum.

#### **7. Research on social class and staff well-being during Covid-19 - invitation to take part**

"We are a team of researchers based in the Department of Psychology at Durham University. Our latest research explores the impact of social class on the wellbeing of UK university staff during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Help us understand the experiences of university staff across the UK in our online survey that has just launched:

- It will take approx. 10 minutes to complete, and all responses are anonymous.
- To say thank you, you can enter a prize draw to win up to £50 of Love2Shop vouchers.

To impact policy, we need to hear from staff at a range of universities and employed in a wide variety of roles.

Take part in the survey

here: [https://durhampsiychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3EMRN22EFebji2u](https://durhampsiychology.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3EMRN22EFebji2u)

Our research has been approved by the Durham University Psychology Department Ethics Sub-Committee. For more information about our research, please contact [isla.l.dougall@durham.ac.uk](mailto:isla.l.dougall@durham.ac.uk)."