

# UNISON NEWSLETTER



## Annual General Meetings

Thanks to everyone who made it to one of our AGMs. It's always really good to see lots of familiar and some new faces every year and we hope you all got something out of it. We discussed the continuing crisis in higher education funding and what this may mean for the fortunes of our university. Doing things differently with less money seems to be the idea, which is a pragmatic approach to things not getting better in the short term. Obviously we want to see a significant increase in funding for the sector, and not just by increasing tuition fees, so we're planning a Spring and Summer of campaigning to put pressure on the government to fund higher education properly. The Branch is now in a very strong position with over 10 people getting active in the branch. We still however have vacant positions in which to fill. These vacant positions are listed on our new reps list within this Newsletter. If you are interested in these roles or wish to become more involved in YOUR union, please email the branch on [unisonjmu@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:unisonjmu@ljmu.ac.uk) and we will be more than happy to discuss what is involved and how you can make a difference.



### The branch reps are:

**Chairperson:**  
Nick Hall

**Branch Secretary : Vacant**

**Assistant Branch Secretary : Vacant**

**Branch Treasurer : Cathy Corke**

**Women's Officer: Deborah Anderson**

**International Officer: Vacant**

**Equality Representative: Emma Ashman**

**Health and Safety Representatives: Rob  
Knipe/vacancies**

**Young Members' Officer: Dan Roberts**

**Retired Members' Secretary: Keith Wright**

**Learning Representatives: Deborah Anderson,  
Jessica Swainson**

**Education Co-ordinator: Vacant**

**Communications Officer: Vacant**

**Membership Officer: Dan Roberts**

**Welfare Officer: Cathy Corke**

**Health and Safety Officer: Rob Knipe**

**Environmental Officer: Sarah Pumfrey**

**Labour Link Officer: Vacant**

**Auditors (2): Vacant**

**Life Long Learning Co-ordinator : Sian  
McDonald**

**Stewards: Jas Kaur, Helen Busuioc, Janine  
Johnson**

## FUND OUR FUTURE

Higher education is in crisis. The combination of tuition fees, Brexit, declining international student numbers – exacerbated by the last government's hostile environment towards immigration – and inflationary pressure has placed some universities in incredibly challenging circumstances.

Across the sector, we are seeing cuts and redundancies at an alarming rate, and UNISON members are feeling the devastating effects of closures, cutbacks, and withdrawal of services. Many UNISON branches and regions are running excellent campaigns in response to proposed cuts, and many more will be launching campaigns in the near future.

An estimated 70 institutions are reducing staffing numbers to cut costs. And even prior to the current situation, our members have seen their pay and conditions decline continuously for the past fourteen years. Since 2010, the pay our members receive has reduced by 28% in real terms, with an alarming 75% of our members telling us they are concerned about coping with the cost of living and affording necessities such as food, energy, and housing. The Office for Students expects that in 2025-26, 72% of universities could be spending more money than they have coming in.

## UNISON's campaign

The Higher Education Service Group is launching a national campaign called 'Fund Our Future'. The campaign is calling for fundamental changes in the way HE is funded. We will be supporting branches in your local campaigns fighting cuts. A range of campaign resources and initiatives will be available in the coming weeks and months. This will include national political activities, training, guidance and more. For more information please scan the qr code below



## Branch contact

[unisonjmu@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:unisonjmu@ljmu.ac.uk)

**UNISON DIRECT**

**08000**

**857 857**



It's really important we have the most up-to-date information about you. It means you are continuously covered by us and we can make sure you're not paying too much for your membership!  
If your details ever change, please ring our free helpline on 0800 0 857 857.



7 reasons to join UNISON

Each of our 1.4 million members has their own reasons for joining UNISON. But every one receives our help and support.



**Legal Help**  
For you at work and your family at home



**Financial Assistance**  
And debt advice in times of need



**Compensation**  
for you and your family



**Discounts**  
including money off cars and holidays



**Helpline**  
Our helpline is open until midnight weekdays, and 4pm on Saturdays, closed on Sundays



**Training**  
to help develop your career



**Support**  
we'll be with you when you need it most

Retired? Stay in UNISON

RETIRED?  
STAY IN  
UNISON

Just  
**£15**  
one off  
payment

You can qualify to become a retired member if you were a UNISON member continuously for at least two years on the day that you retired.

A one off payment of £15 is all that is required.

there  
for you

supporting UNISON members when life gets tough

- Financial assistance
- Debt advice
- Wellbeing breaks
- Support and information



If you are a UNISON member struggling through an unexpected crisis **There for You** is here to help

Speak to your branch welfare officer or call **020 7121 5620**

For immediate debt advice call **0800 389 3302**

[www.unison.org.uk/thereforyou](http://www.unison.org.uk/thereforyou)



Registered charity number 102302 Scotland SC03800

Workplace  
Steward

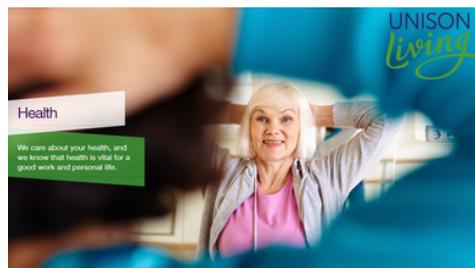
The branch now has a number of workplace stewards. They are all a fantastic addition to our branch and support to our members. Their main role in your workplace will be to -

- make a positive difference to people's work lives
- learn new skills and meet new people
- help create a fairer society



Travel

When it's time for your holiday, UNISON Living will make sure you get much more for your money.



Health

We care about your health, and we know that health is vital for a good work and personal life.

Welcome to UNISON Living, where you can find great deals on insurance, holidays, cars and more.



Home offers

Take advantage of our mortgage offer to get that dream house, and see how much you could save on home insurance.



Motoring

Whether it's your transport to work, or transport to the beach, we'll get your transport sorted.



Shopping

Get cashback on every shopping with our pre-paid card, or see what savings you can make with UNISON rewards.

Branch email : [unisonjmu@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:unisonjmu@ljmu.ac.uk)

[northwest.unison.org.uk/get-involved](http://northwest.unison.org.uk/get-involved)

