**UCU Annual General Meeting – 27 September 2017**

**Constantine Lecture Theatre**

**Draft Minutes**

**In attendance:**

As 35 members were in attendance the AGM was quorate.

**Apologies** as sheet

**Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted as a true record

**Regional Officer Report**

Dr. Terry Murphy spoke about the challenges facing Higher Education and Further Education. He urged staff to enforce their own contracts and to take their RSA/SMSA. He addressed the rumours regarding changes to the contract, which have been circulating around the University. He reiterated that there had been no changes in the national contract and no changes in the allowances, therefore the status quo remains until negotiations with UCU have been held. He urged colleagues not to work in excess of their contractual limits as it only masked the problem of staffing levels. He closed his report by thanking all who had helped in running the branch in this very difficult year.

**Notification of Branch Officers 2017/18**

Chair Terry Murphy

Vice Chair Paul Errington

Secretary Erika Downs

Treasurer Vacant

Recruitment and Membership Secretary Emma Teare

Equalities Officer Vacant

Ordinary Members x3 Phil Brooke

Julie Turnell

Carol Dell Price

Tyrone Davison, the returning officer, explained that all the above officer positions had been uncontested and asked if any member would be interested in being nominated for the vacancies of Treasurer and Equalities Officer.

Ultan Gillen was nominated as Treasurer – proposed and seconded by Glyn Davis and Richard Sober.

Margaret Hems was nominated as Equalities Officer – proposed and seconded by Glyn Davis and Norma Sutcliffe

**Endorsement of Local Rules**

Erika Downs, Branch Secretary had previously circulated the Branch Rules. These rules had been changed to reflect the decisions made at Congress. She further asked if the AGM could be held in May as this would help with the work loading allowance etc. A show of hands was held and this was carried.

**Treasurers Report:**

Erika Downs, Treasurer, reported that there is an electronic version of the accounts on [ucu@teesside.org.uk](mailto:ucu@teesside.org.uk)

**Chair’s Report**

Numerous pieces of casework were ongoing, including the high profile Professors issue. General feedback from members is that workload is too excessive, disparity amongst schools exists and that Deans are putting their own interpretation of allowances into practice prior to negotiations. Members need to challenge any changes and bring them to the attention of UCU. For example, allowances are evidence based; eg. a definition of the role and what allowances have been allocated must be agreed. Please contact UCU.

Concern was also expressed over the staff survey and the reluctance of management to share these results university wide. A debate followed and the members asked if the following motion could be brought to management’s attention.

MOTION - UCU Executive to contact the Governors and ascertain why the staff survey has not been released. If no reply is forthcoming within three weeks then ask for this again as a Freedom of Information request.

**Membership Report**

Emma Teare, Membership Officer, reported on the recent voluntary severance and how that impacts on our membership density. Our records show that we are still strong but must continue to grow our numbers. UCU National had recently launched a campaign to support education workers at the start of their careers. As of October 2017, free membership was available to the graduate tutors. All graduate tutors have been made aware of this and the branch has been inundated with requests to join.

**National Review**

Paul Errington, Vice Chair but also a member of the National Ratification Panel, advised the AGM of issues within the sector. The reduction of CAT TWO hours, the erosion of terms and conditions at Leeds University, job losses at Manchester University, changes to sector infrastructure, changes to the research funding landscape, two-year degrees and so on.

There being no more business the chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.