



University and College Union

Glasgow Caledonian Newsletter November 2014

AGM Invite

2 pm Wednesday
Week 12

Nothing is 'Business as usual' in the UCU@GCU.

We pride ourselves as being a branch that really does try to represent the views of our members. We have been trying to get round all the schools and central departments to make sure that **your** issues are the ones we've been working on.

To make sure that continues, **we've changed the date of our AGM - bringing it forward from February to December** to allow our members more say in what (and who) we send to our Scottish and UK Congresses (and who is 'lucky' enough to be on our committee.....)

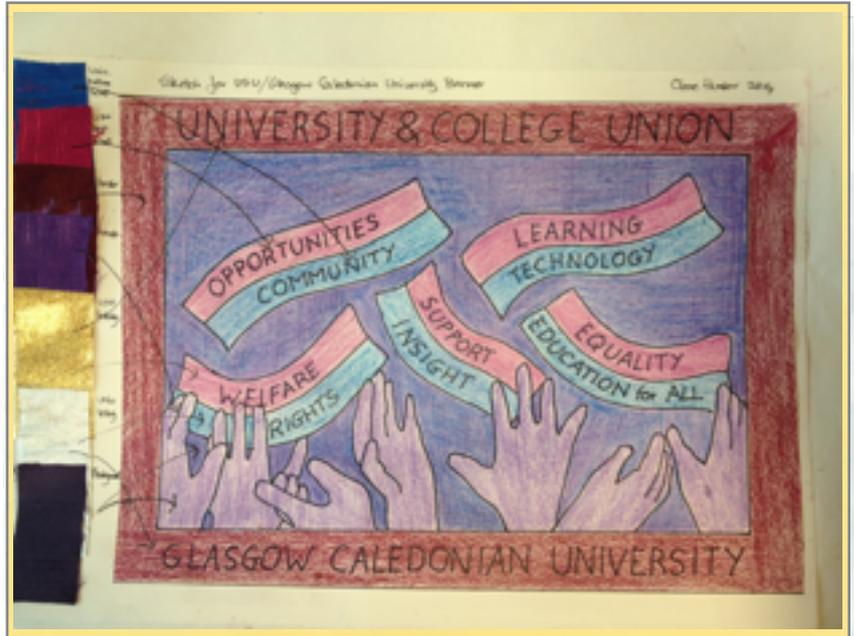
But union activity isn't just business - that's why we've organised this trimester's union social event immediately after our AGM. We want to say thanks, and in the social event we want to relax a bit, and get on with being part of a community, over a drink and a chat. You can influence what we discuss at the AGM - **our first thoughts are overleaf - but you can change them.**

Please come along and join in.

And if you have a colleague who isn't in a union yet - **please invite her or him along to see what we do.** We'll also have application forms there at the ready!

Please put the date in your diary

Wednesday 10th December at 2pm in W110



Help design our banner

We've contracted leading TU banner maker Clare Hunter to design a banner fitting for the aspirations we have at GCU and wider afield.

Above you can see her first outline suggestions

What you can do....

Clare has adopted a mixture of colours - representing GCU and UCU. After initial discussions she's suggesting we think about the values we

cherish. The ones in blue are possible ones to associate with the university. The ones in gold are possible ones to associate with our union.

Are these the right ones?

We'd like you to come along and discuss this at the AGM. We've invited Clare to be present and talk about this - we want to take ownership of the concepts in the banner - and to do that we need your views.

Action on Secure contracts - see what we've been doing inside

All the unions in GCU have been campaigning against the use of zero hours and for the regularisation of the existing 'casualised contracts' currently operative. Inside you'll see just some of the activity our branch has been carrying out on the issue. Meanwhile - if you have a colleague on a 'casualised' or 'atypical' contract make sure you let us know about it.



Free UCU Coffee/Tea mugs for the first 20 to arrive

Your coffee or tea is guaranteed to taste sweeter in a customised UCU mug. We have 20 free for the first to arrive at the AGM. **We also have 20 'Build the Union' bags also free to early arrivers.**

What happens at an AGM? - mostly it's up to you.

It's really up to yourselves how we run it

However, there are certain issues all AGMs have legally to deal with. Adoption of our treasurer's report. Election of a 'committee of the willing' to help represent us till next year. Expressions of interest in representing us at our Scottish and UK Congresses in 2015. Adoption of resolutions to send to Scottish and UK congresses.

However we can also invite speakers, or look at other issues that we might want to focus on in the coming year. That's up to you.

We really are open to suggestions on this - we have a draft agenda on the next page - let us know what you think of that - and also if there's anything else that you want us to look at.

Here are some details of what we are proposing and why:

1. Approval of the annual accounts

Our treasurer Caroline Tuff will give us details of how we are

doing financially. She'll also answer any questions on our finances

2. Election of a branch committee

We've agreed under our local rules that the following officers will be elected to the Committee at an AGM.

The Branch President: Normally represents the branch, chairs its meetings and speaks on it's behalf when necessary

Vice President: Deputises for the President when necessary

Secretary: Contacts members, deals with correspondence (and much more)

Treasurer: Monitors the accounts

Equality/Diversity Officer: Makes sure the branch has these issues high up the agenda

Health and Safety Officer: Represents the health and safety needs of staff.

Membership secretary: Point of contact for new members and keeps tabs on our membership size.

We can also 'co-opt' others onto the committee with different remits.

3. Election of Congress delegates to Scottish and UK Congress, and adoption of branch resolutions to these congresses

Are you interested in any of these positions?

We've enclosed a form with this mailing to help you express interest in any of these position.

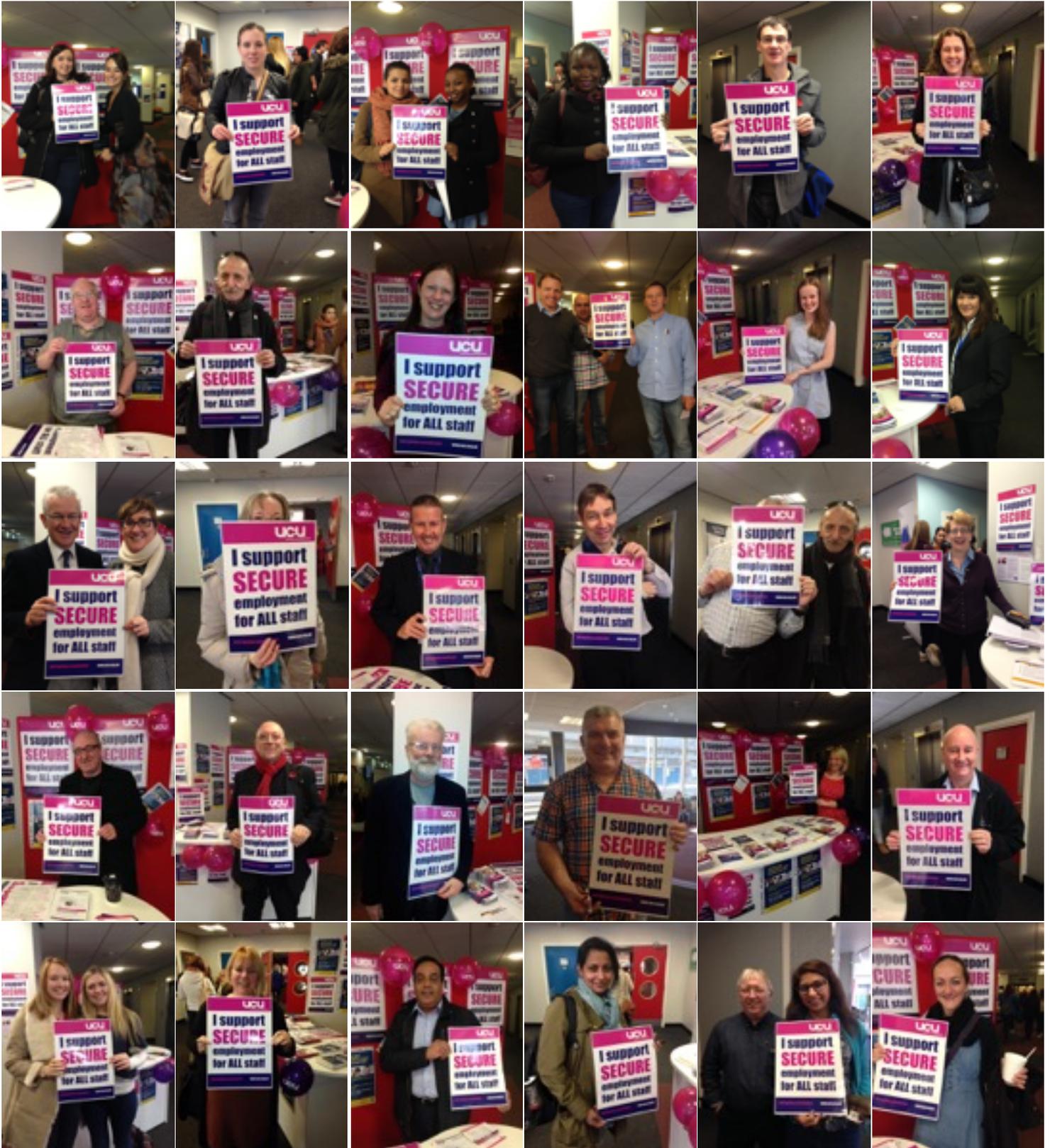
We've also enclosed details of the type of resolutions we've put in to Scottish Congress to the past, and some suggestions (from the committee), of areas that we would suggest it might be good for us to try to write resolutions on.

If you'd like to help with that - please do get in touch.

UCU DAY OF ACTION ON SECURE CONTRACTS

What a tremendous day with support from staff - not only in UCU - but also in EIS Unison and Unite - plus students supporting our campaign to regularise contracts for all staff at GCU and to achieve secure employment, stamping out anything that looks like zero hours.

Our drop in session was well used, giving us lots of details of staff and PhD students whose contracts need regularised. We're discussing this now with Peoples Services.



Keeping your views



Scottish Official Mary Senior and Scottish President David Anderson at the UCU Fringe meeting

In the Public ...and Government's gaze

Following the referendum and the publication of our manifesto we have kept up the pressure.

This is an exciting time for Scottish politics, with an increased attention paid to all matters democratic.

The UCU in Scotland have continued to be at the forefront of arguing for a well resourced and democratically run HE sector.

We had a very successful fringe meeting at the SNP conference (see pictures above) where we argued for the Scottish Government to continue the process of reform to the Governance of the university sector.

As well as our fringe meeting, we managed to have brief discussions with leading members of the SNP including the new first minister Nicola Sturgeon and outgoing Education Cabinet Secretary Mike Russell. We also look forward to an early meeting with Angela Constance, the new Cabinet secretary for Education.

UCU Scotland put in a submission to the Smith Commission on matters relating to Higher Education under advanced Devolution, and we look forward to continuing this dialogue.



Branch President, and Scottish VP Douglas Chalmers, with the new First Minister



Outgoing Secretary for Education Mike Russell shares a joke at the UCU stall

UCU to keep pressure up for better Governance of universities

Following the publishing of the review of university governance chaired by Ferdinand Von Prondzynski (Download at <http://bit.ly/1vVpK3a>) the UCU has been pushing for its full implementation.

The Scottish Government have now published a consultation paper on this (<http://bit.ly/1uRLExp>) and have asked for comments by January 30th.

As might be expected, Universities Scotland have argued that the best situation is no further change, and have defended their (minimal) progress since the original report (<http://bit.ly/13H2o53>).

UCU Scotland will be putting in a submission to the Government, supporting their consultation, and arguing for the proposals to go even further. We hope the branch can do the same.



Successful joint conference on 're-imagining Universities'

Kezia Dugdale, Labour's shadow spokesperson on Education (pictured above) joined Mike Russell and a range of other speakers, in 're-imagining' Scotland's university sector, at a conference recently organised by UCU and the other Scottish education unions.

Exploring alternatives to the Westminster business driven models, the conference was well attended and a report is in preparation

What we're proposing for the agenda - is it what you want? Let us know

2.05 pm. Douglas Chalmers, Branch President "The state of the two nations" address. In the light of university strategy what should our priorities be for the coming year?

2.15 Branch reports:

Branch Secretary - Brian Pillans (to be circulated beforehand)

Branch treasurer - Caroline Tuff

Membership secretary - Catriona Mowat

Equality and diversity rep - Emily Thomson (to be circulated beforehand)

Health and safety rep - Iain Aird (to be circulated beforehand)

2.30 Election of branch committee for 2015 (nominations to be circulated beforehand)

Adoption of resolutions for UCU Scottish Congress 2015 (to be circulated beforehand)

Adoption of resolutions for UCU UK congress 2015 (to be circulated beforehand)

Election of (3) delegates to UCU Scottish Congress 2015

Election of (1) delegate to UCU UK Congress 2015

2.50 A banner for the 21st Century - Clare Hunter (discussion of design of proposed banner)

3.15 Greetings from Scottish President David Anderson/ Scottish Official Mary Senior

3.30 Social event.

WHO'S WHO IN YOUR LOCAL BRANCH COMMITTEE?



President
Douglas
Chalmers
x 3350



VP and
Membership
Secretary
Catriona Mowat
x 1104



Treasurer
Caroline Tuff
x 1277



Secretary
Brian Pillans
x 3424



Equalities
Officer
Emily Thomson
x 3233



H & S Safety Rep
Ian Aird
x 3941



This could be you
Get in touch!!

There's an open meeting of your branch committee - usually every second Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. If you're interested in whats happening, get in touch.

Interested in being elected to our committee - or helping us express our opinions to our Scottish or UK Congress?

Branch positions

All branch committee positions are open to any members of the UCU branch and are elected by the AGM every year. If you think you might want to stand for any of the positions, and want to know what it involves, please contact the branch secretary Brian Pillans (x3424), or president Douglas Chalmers (x3350) to find out more about any post, and what it might entail.

Scottish Congress delegates or UK Congress delegate

The branch has the right to send **three** delegates to Scottish Congress - to be held in Stirling on 27th March 2014. In addition, our current branch rep. on the Scottish Executive (Catriona Mowat), is automatically a delegate, as is Douglas Chalmers (currently Scottish Vice President). If you're interested in being one of the 3 other delegates, please contact the branch secretary Brian Pillans (x3424), or president Douglas Chalmers (x3350) to find out more about what's involved

Our branch has the right to send **one** delegate to the UK Congress (to be held in Glasgow in May 2015). In recent years this has been the branch president, Douglas Chalmers, however this is not an automatic entitlement - so if you might be interested to be considered, please contact Brian Pillans to discuss what it might involve.

What is a branch resolution and how do we create one?

UCU policy is decided at Scottish and at UK Congresses, and depends on resolutions that branches submit.

Our branch has the right to send an unlimited number of resolutions to be considered at Scottish Congress, and 3 resolutions to be considered at UK congress (one for the overall Congress and two for the Higher Education part of it).

If you think you'd like to get Scottish UCU or UCU at a UK level to adopt a resolution from us, then best practice is to send a draft resolution (max 300 words?) to the branch secretary Brian Pillans, who can circulate it beforehand to members, and then we can discuss it, possibly amend it, and then adopt it at our branch AGM. If you want advice on any resolutions you might wish to present for consideration, please contact any branch committee member and discuss it with them.

In the past, we have had resolutions adopted as Scottish UCU policy on the following topics:

[Independent review of HE Governance](#); [Glasgow Caledonian University Staff Survey](#); [Into at Glasgow Caledonian](#); [GCU London](#); [University Governance](#); [Credit Unions](#); [Solidarity with Staff at overseas Campuses](#), and [Associated Organisations](#); [Winning an Industrial Dispute](#)

We have not yet submitted a resolution to UCU UK congress - but this year we could change that - any suggestions gratefully received.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU AT THE AGM
PLEASE PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY NOW!
WEDNESDAY 10TH DEC. 2PM W110**

The UCU@GCU - its not 'Business as Usual'

