

# SUSSEX UCU AND YOU

## WELCOME TO YOUR SUSSEX UCU NEWSLETTER

**This newsletter shares with you the work that Sussex UCU is doing on behalf of members and for all staff and students at Sussex. If you have questions, comments or want to get involved, please get in touch!**



### EMAIL TO CHAIR OF COUNCIL

This week all three campus Trade Unions wrote to the Chair of Council, Denise Holt, in response to her news item to all staff on 9th July.

We expressed concerns over her claim that 'personal abuse sent to members of the Executive by colleagues in the wider University community' had not met with 'serious consequences', which implies that bullying and harassment are not being taken seriously at Sussex and may discourage less powerful workers from speaking out. We urged awareness, caution and sensitivity in language when addressing staff in these difficult times.

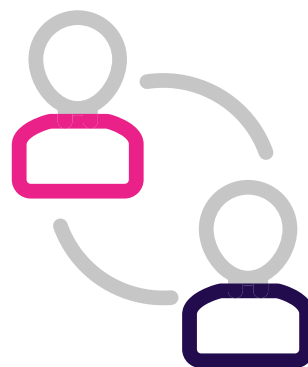


### CRISIS JUSTICE CANDIDATE ELECTED

Many congratulations to Max Savage, who this week was elected to Council on a Crisis Justice platform.

Max is already putting his manifesto into practice and will be writing this week to all independent councillors asking for their support in implementing the Crisis Justice Sussex programme.

More updates to follow, as Max begins his work.



### NEGOTIATION TRAINING

On Friday 7 August, UCU Sussex is hosting free negotiation training for all Trade Union members.

Negotiation is an essential part of our role as members of a Trade Union, and is a skill that requires instruction and practice to build confidence and success. This online workshop will give participants a step-by-step approach to achieving a win-win outcome.

The workshop will be led by Simon Horton, the lead trainer at Negotiation Mastery.

You can sign up for the workshop here.

16 July 2020



# SUSSEX UCU EGM

On Wednesday 15 July UCU Sussex held an Emergency General Meeting via Zoom. Thank you to those who attended and to the reps and executive who orchestrated the meeting and the online voting.

You can see the slides from the meeting [here](#). We adopted the [Model branch rules](#), and appointed returning officer Nicola Stylianou.

The central item of business was the UCU levy. We agreed to reduce local subsidies for a year for all members on annual salaries of under £30,000 by up to £15 in order to cover as much as possible of the levy for those members. We'll be writing to members shortly with further details.

We also discussed a branch donation to the national Fighting Fund, but there was no clear decision. As a branch, our priorities on this matter are consulting with our membership, taking decisions democratically, and protecting our most precarious members from further financial pressure. We will be writing to members with information and options on this.

In the meeting, we also invited members to put themselves forward as deputy returning officer and branch delegates to the UCU Congress, which is likely to be held in the autumn. If you are interested in taking on either of these roles, please email [ucusussex@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:ucusussex@sussex.ac.uk).

## YOUR SUSSEX UCU TEAM: VIV SONI

### **What is your role within Sussex UCU?:**

As recruitment secretary I managing the membership list and recruit new members. As BAME equalities rep I work with members, sister unions and other organisations in Sussex to tackle structural racism at Sussex.

### **What is your role at Sussex?**

I am a PhD candidate in the School of Life Sciences.



### **What have you been working on within the union recently?**

I have been a UCU member since 2018 but this is my first time on the exec!

### **Contact me about:**

Prospective new members, membership queries and recruitment drives, as well as issues concerning equalities and BAME staff.

[V.Soni@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:V.Soni@sussex.ac.uk)

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# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT SUSSEX UCU WORK THIS WEEK



- Support our Crisis Justice Campaign on Twitter and Facebook.
- Read our latest blog posts.
- Email your departmental rep to get involved
- Become a COVID-19 UCU Health and Safety Rep (includes facilities time)
- Get in touch (below) if you have issues to raise to the union's attention.
- Participate in our Negotiation Training.

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## KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR UNION

- Email: [ucusussex@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:ucusussex@sussex.ac.uk)
- Website:  
<https://ucusussex.wixsite.com/ucusussex>
- Twitter: [@SussexUCU](https://twitter.com/SussexUCU)
- Exec and Reps List:  
<https://ucusussex.wixsite.com/ucusussex/contacts>
- Crisis Justice Campaign Twitter:  
[@CrisisJusticeSX](https://twitter.com/CrisisJusticeSX)

