

SUSSEX UCU AND YOU

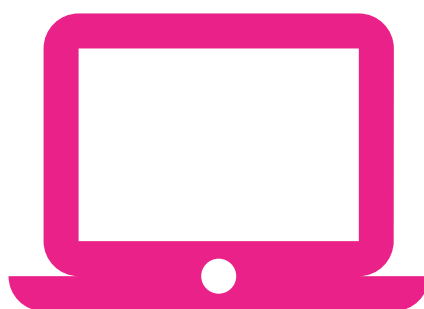
WELCOME TO YOUR SUSSEX UCU NEWSLETTER

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!



REDUNDANCY CONSULTATIONS

Informed by the [Financial Review Guidelines](#) there has been a significant increase in the number of proposed redundancies of Fixed Term Contracts at Sussex. The most affected (by % of staff group) are Professional Support (Research), Academic Research and Academic Education. If you or someone you know is at risk of redundancy (i) get in touch with one of the campus unions (ii) familiarise yourself with the [HR Redundancy Procedure](#) (Regulation 32) which includes: the right to be accompanied at meetings by a Union representative, a clear and fair redeployment procedure, information about appeals.



TEACHING NEXT TERM

Four documents were shared with staff this week relating to teaching planning for next term. There was no trade union consultation in the development of these documents, and UCU has a number of concerns, which it has been raising with the University Executive Group in Joint Negotiating Committees.

If you would like to express concerns about the planning for next term's teaching (including but not limited to workloads, timetabling, equalities, training and pedagogy) please get in touch via the email below.



PGR MATTERS

This week, Doctoral Studies Committee members were asked to deliberate between options for distributing the £250k proposed by UEG, for PGRs whose research has been affected by Covid-19. With funding limited to £250k, none of the options which were suggested allow for all PGRs at Sussex to be supported fully or equally, nor in the way that late-stage UKRI-funded researchers are being supported by their funders – and Sussex – to access extensions of up to six months. Self-funded researchers remain overlooked in the proposed plans for support, and a hardship based scheme is likely to disadvantage a large number of PGRs, including international researchers. We will keep fighting to support all PGRs in difficult circumstances.

25 June 2020



ANTI-RACISM AT SUSSEX

UCU Sussex Anti-Racist Action Group had its first meeting this week, which was well-attended by UCU reps and members, as well as members of Decolonise Sussex and BAME networks and societies. The working group discussed an internal programme of political education which includes a reading group that will start with the book Dismantling Race in Higher Education - if you'd like to join please email ucusussexantiracism@gmail.com.

Also discussed was the external-facing work of the group with sibling groups and organisations on campus to collaborate on gathering institutional evidence of racial injustice and holding the university to account for tackling structures of white supremacy at Sussex and beyond.

Look out for a blog post on this coming soon.

SUSSEX PRECARIOUS ACADEMICS

In line with their petition, Sussex Precarious Academics (SPA) persevere in their fight for protecting the incomes of the most vulnerable staff through the crisis and increased job security for all precarious academics, including doctoral and school tutors.

Understanding practices of hiring tutors in various Schools helps identify the best ways to support precarious academics at Sussex, implement good practices across the university and improve our conditions in a participatory way. To this end, SPA kindly asks you to answer the questions below by sending an e-mail to sussexprecariat@gmail.com

Website ~ Twitter

1. Which School and Department are you doing/did you do your PhD in?
2. Which School(s) and Department(s) are you working in and what kind of teaching and other academic duties (such as lab assistant) do you usually perform as paid work?
3. Has your contract been extended for an additional month (for the month of July 2020)?
4. Has your Head of Department or Head of School approached you to plan the allocation of teaching for 2020-2021 academic year? If yes, what are its terms and conditions? What kind of changes (if any) are there as compared to last year?
5. Would you like to discuss with SPA how you can help to implement some good practices in the allocation of paid academic work at your relevant School?



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 UCU Health and Safety Rep (includes facilities time)
- Get involved in our Teaching Working Group
- Sign the [open letter](#) to the VC on racism at Sussex
- Follow Council Candidate Max Savage on [Twitter](#)
- Get in touch (below) if you have issues to raise to the union's attention.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOUR UNION

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

