

# 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!**



### CRISIS JUSTICE

Last week CJS hosted a well-attended discussion on redistributive pay at Sussex, with participants from all three unions. The meeting revealed a strong case for redistributive economic justice at Sussex embedded in a robust framework of equalities and financial transparency, with debates testing out a range of worker-led models for achieving this vision. Notes from this meeting have been circulated to all union memberships by email. A follow-up meeting focussed on developing concrete strategy in consultation with memberships is scheduled for next Thursday 18 June, 1-2pm. You are warmly invited to attend and contribute to this collective project.



### BLACK LIVES MATTER

This week UCU Sussex released a statement of solidarity with all Black staff and students at the university. We also stand with all those protesting against police brutality and working to dismantle white supremacy within Sussex, the UK, the USA and worldwide. The full statement is available [here](#). This will soon be followed by an action plan outlining a set of commitments and streams of work we will be progressing as a branch, working in collaboration with our sibling unions, members and wider local communities. We will be establishing an anti-racism working group to manage this work. Please get in touch via email if you would like to be involved.



### TEACHING NEXT TERM

This past week UCU's negotiating team met with Kelly Coate, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Students to express concerns about student expectations, recording of seminars and workloads in the planning for the autumn term. Draft Principles for teaching have now been published on the [Senate website](#) (S-261-3) and we have asked for further and more direct consultation on the plans for teaching this autumn.

If you have thoughts or concerns about the return to teaching, please get in touch via email.

11 June 2020

# BLACK LIVES MATTER

UCU Sussex stands in solidarity with Black staff and students at the University. We also stand with all those protesting against police brutality and working to dismantle white supremacy within Sussex, the UK, the USA and worldwide.

We ask you to sign [this open letter](#) addressed to the Vice Chancellor Adam Tickell, organised by Sussex PhD students. This is the first in a series of anti-racist actions we will encourage members and colleagues to take in the weeks and months ahead.

We applaud critiques of the University's position on racial inequality made by UNISON Equalities Officer and co-leader of the BAME Staff Network, [Victoria Babatunde](#), and fully support the statement made by [Decolonise Sussex](#). As the USSU notes in its own strong [statement](#), the University is not, and cannot be, a neutral space. It reproduces forms of knowledge rooted in imperialism and secures forms of structural violence across its institutions and practices, including anti-Black racism.

Please get in touch if you have issues to raise about racism in our workplace or ideas to share about anti-racist activism the branch could support or get involved in.

In solidarity, now and always,  
UCU Sussex Executive and Reps

You can read the full blog post [here](#).

## YOUR SUSSEX UCU TEAM: JO PAWLIK

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

I work with my branch to advocate for equality with the employer and union members, and to promote and enable participation in the union for women, BAME, LGBTQ+ members and disabled members.

### What is your role at Sussex?

I am a lecturer in Art History.



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

I have been closely involved with cross-unions activity on campus, namely the working group for the merger of schools into MAH, as well as the crisis justice campaign.

### Contact me about:

Flexible working, absence management, discriminatory practices, equal pay, equality impact assessments.

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



- Support our Crisis Justice Campaign on Twitter and Facebook.
- Sign and share the Crisis Justice petition.
- Read our latest blog posts.
- Email your departmental rep to get involved
- Become a UCU Health and Safety Rep
- Sign the open letter to the VC on racism at Sussex
- Get in touch (below) if you have issues to raise to the union's attention.

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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)

