

# 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!



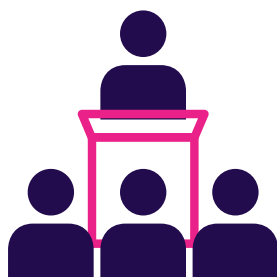
### USS UPDATE

The USS Annual Report out yesterday reports a £13 bn 'deficit'; this calculation uses Test 1 without JEP recommendations. See the FT report on the related funding ratio and the effect of the pandemic. The Times Higher reports on the record low satisfaction with USS and the £200k bonus for the CEO on top of the £480k salary.

The JEP chaired Valuation Methodology Forum of UUK, USS, TPR and UCU have been meeting since the start of the year.

Employers, including Sussex, were consulted on Valuation in May and UUK and USS summaries are here. Sussex's response was not shared with staff and an FOI was, for the first time, refused.

We plan to write to the Information Commissioner about the refusal so if anyone has experience in this area please get in touch with [ucusussex@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:ucusussex@sussex.ac.uk)



### REC UNION REP

The trade unions at Sussex have been invited to nominate a Rep to join the Self Assessment Team of the University's Race Equality Charter. This is an important opportunity to shape the University's approach to tackling institutional racism and racial inequality.

To nominate yourself, please email [ucusussex@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:ucusussex@sussex.ac.uk) by Friday 31 July with a short paragraph explaining why you are interested in this work and what you think you can bring to the role. It should demonstrate a sound knowledge of institutional racism at Sussex and in HE, and you must have the drive and enthusiasm to influence senior managers. We will consider all nominees but for this role BAME staff will be given priority. In the case of multiple nominees, the Equality Reps from UCU, Unison and Unite will together make the final decision.



### HEALTH AND SAFETY REP

Enthusiastic about improving health and safety at our University? If so your union needs your help!

Viki Walden has done a fantastic job as Health and Safety Rep, but is stepping down, so we need a UCU member for this vital role!

Leading on all H&S issues, you'd receive training, a handover, full support and 1.5 days a week / 0.3 FTE backfill for your post.

Previous experience in H&S is an advantage but not necessary, just a commitment to improving the conditions of our colleagues and students.

Email Andrew Chitty ([a.e.chitty@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:a.e.chitty@sussex.ac.uk)) for more.

30 July 2020



# COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

This is the final newsletter to be emailed to members before we take a short break in August, after which we will come back with a revamped format. If you have suggestions for features or content you would like to see in your members' newsletter, or if you would like to contribute to its production, please get in touch by emailing Joanne Paul ([j.paul@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:j.paul@sussex.ac.uk)).

## CONSULTATION MEETINGS

Since 20 July members of UCU Executive have had four informal meetings with members of UEG and/or the Director of Human Resources Siobhan O'Reilly. Minutes of these meetings are not being kept, but those who were at them have shared summaries with the Exec and Departmental Reps.

In addition Health and Safety team leads have been meeting informally with two senior University H&S officers once a fortnight, in between the fortnightly formal H&S committee meetings, to raise any issues of current concern. We will keep our members informed of all such informal meetings.

We will continue to summarise the formal fortnightly CJNC meetings in emailed reports to members, and to publish the official notes of those meetings (once they are approved) on [our website](#). The exception is CJNC 21 last Friday, which was a Q&A session with the Director of Finance whose content he asked us to share only with the Executives of the three unions.

Since the meeting of 28/7 Siobhan O'Reilly has shared a discussion document on Return to Work Guidance which addresses some of the issues raised by last Thursday's [Sussex plans a phased return to campus](#) and asked for the unions' feedback on it.

We are hopeful that this consultation process will lead to a clearer approach from the University on exempting those at heightened risk from Covid-19 from the requirement to work on campus next term.



# 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.
- Volunteer as REC Trade Union Rep (see p1)
- Register for free [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](#)
- Exec and Reps List:  
<https://ucusussex.wixsite.com/ucusussex/contacts>
- Crisis Justice Campaign Twitter:  
[@CrisisJusticeSX](#)

