**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE UCU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**11 OCTOBER 2023**

**In attendance**

As 29 members were in attendance the AGM was quorate.

**Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM was accepted as a true record.

**Ratification of Branch Officers**

Chair – Terry Murphy

Vice Chair – Emma Teare

Branch Secretary – Julie Turnell

Treasurer – Ultan Gillen

Equalities – Zoulika Lamamra

Green Officer – Ian Sturrock

**Ratification of school Reps**

TUIBS - Kevin Ions

SOHLS - Graham Jones

SSSHL - Leanne Bibby

SACI - Charles Tait

SACI - Mark Beckwith

SSSHL - Charlie McGuire

SCEDT - Martin Kane

**Chairs Opening Remarks**

Dr Terry Murphy, Chair welcomed those in attendance. He explained the process of the AGM and introduced Jon Bryan, UCU Regional Officer who was here to give a regional report.

**Chairs Report**

The year started with the branch going into dispute regarding changes to the leave year. Happy to say dispute was effective and areas of concern were resolved to the satisfaction of UCU. We continue to have problems with the management of the workload system as hours are still not being recorded. Please keep evidence of any inaccuracies as this then can be challenged.

He urged staff to stay within the national contract and take their RSA. He reiterated that working in excess of contractual limits masked a problem of staff levels.

TM gave a comprehensive report on the National Dispute and the strategy of the HEC. He acknowledged that the beginning of the strike here at Teesside was supported more strongly but thanked everyone for all their efforts.

The last two strike days in October 23 were on a opt in/out basis and following a full branch meeting, a survey of members and a full executive the numbers were 2-1 in favour of not striking here at Teesside.

UCU is now in the process of balloting its members again for a mandate to continue to strike. He urged everyone to use their vote as it was very important to have your opinion on this registered.

TM and ET urged all present to work to contract this does not involve pay deductions but does require assertiveness. If you don't work to contract you are working for free.

The chair thanked all those that have assisted in running the branch during the year and asked if anyone wished to get involved in helping to run the branch please get in touch as the more activists a branch has the stronger it becomes.

**Casework Overview**

The branch continues to be extremely busy and has dealt with numerous pieces of casework throughout the year. General feedback from members is that workload is too excessive, not enough staff, concerns regarding allocations for module leadership and marking have been particularly problematic.

The Branch has held a number of the Know you Contract meetings which have been well received and the branch intends to continue with these meetings.

**Treasurers Report**

The branch was in a strong, robust financial position and the accounts were shared and agreed by all those present.

**Regional and National Update**

Jon Bryan thanked TM for his overview on the challenges and differences on the strategy of the dispute. He accepted that some members will be ballot weary but urged all to use their vote.

Region now has appointed a new Regional Lead who is replacing Iain Owens who is retiring soon.

He congratulated the branch on its successful campaigns throughout the year and thanked the officers and reps for their hard work and commitment to the branch.

**AOB**

The below motion was proposed and seconded. A vote was held, and the motion was carried.

FOSSIL FREE BRANCH UNION MOTION, 2023

This Branch **notes** that**:**

1. Fossil fuel companies were responsible for 71% of global carbon emissions between 1988 and 2017.
2. Unless other projects are phased out before the end of their lifetime, all new fossil fuel infrastructure built after 2017 will violate the Paris Agreement.
3. The extractive operations of fossil fuel companies cause direct social harm: displacing communities, destroying livelihoods, demolishing sacred indigenous sites, murdering trade unionists, and leaving workers and communities with severe health problems.
4. Frontline and Indigenous communities are continually forced to resist the destructive business models of fossil fuel companies operating on their lands.
5. In 2016, the UCU congress passed into national policy a motion supporting fossil fuel divestment: recognising the importance of fossil fuel divestment as part “of combatting climate change”. They instructed the National Executive Committee to “produce resource materials to support members and branches engaging in divestment campaigns”, “work with students to campaign” and “ensure that the divestment process is carried out in a way that does not disadvantage any members, for instance those researching fossil fuels.”
6. Since 2013, the student-led Fossil Free movement has actively campaigned, with support from People & Planet, to demand universities exclude fossil fuel extractor companies from their current and/or future investment portfolio(s). Over half of UK universities now hold a Fossil Free commitment.

This Branch **believes** that**:**

1. Unions, workers, and affected communities should be at the heart of campaigns for climate justice and the Just Transition to a low-carbon world.
2. We should act in solidarity with the trade unionists around the world who are fighting the extractive industry for health protections, environmental protections, and compensation for their communities - and often paying with their lives.

Ending this university’s investment relationship with the fossil fuel industry is an effective method of showing solidarity with the communities and trade We should support the struggle of frontline and Indigenous communities in their resistance against fossil fuel extractor companies.

1. Our universities must be a part of the solution and act against these injustices by severing investment ties with the fossil fuel industry.
2. University commitments to climate action - such as carbon neutral/net zero strategies - should extend to their investment portfolios and policies.

This Branch **resolves** to**:**

1. Publicly support the student-led Fossil Free campaign and demands that our university adopt the People & Planet Fossil Free campaign and demand that our university: 1. exclude the fossil fuel industry from their investment portfolio; 2. introduce a publicly accessible ethical investment. policy excluding the fossil fuel industry; 3. commit to, and fully divest from all fossil fuels within 3 years.
2. Actively work with students campaigning on Fossil Free and People & Planet to support their grassroots campaign for the demands above.
3. Use relevant Union social media channels to amplify petitions, statements and other calls to action from the Fossil Free campaign.
4. Work with student campaigners and the students’ union to lobby for and secure student and staff representation on all university investment-related committees.
5. Put up a website statement announcing the passing of this motion and the support of the union for this campaign.
6. Write to university management outlining our support for the Fossil Free campaign and request a meeting, alongside student representatives, to discuss the university’s progress towards committing to be Fossil Free.
7. unionists impacted by both fossil fuel extraction and climate change.

**UCU LOCAL LEVY**

UCU at Teesside is one of the many branches that have in place a local levy for branch use. Currently all members pay £1. Discussions followed and a vote was carried, and it was agreed to raise to £2 per member.

As there was no other union business the chair thanked all for attendance and closed the meeting.