

## Brookes Student Union Statement of Solidarity for #UCUStrike

*On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, Brookes Union's Student Council passed the following motion of solidarity with the University and College Union (UCU) members and the planned USS industrial action.*

Oxford Brookes University is a post-1992 institution and as such our staff will not be striking, however staff from 61 universities across the country. Including the University of Oxford, are undertaking 14 days of sustained industrial action after the UCU members were balloted and voted overwhelmingly (88%) in favour of industrial action when negotiations over proposed pension changes to the USS scheme ended without agreement. The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is the main pension scheme for academic and related staff in the pre-1992 institutions.

The Universities UK (UUK) proposed changes to staff pensions would mean formerly guaranteed pensions become dependent on stock market performance. This will prove hugely damaging to the livelihoods of lecturers and the wider university sector. According to a UCU Statement, in a sector where many would earn more working in the private sector, the USS pension has provided compensation for relatively modest salaries and has acted as a magnet for talented overseas staff. First Actuarial estimates that a typical lecturer will receive £208,000 less under the proposals than presently. When university staff aren't fairly reimbursed for their hard work, students suffer and the sustainability of university education is in jeopardy. Threats to staff working conditions are part of a wider picture of cuts to education funding and marketisation. Over the years UCU have consistently supported students campaigns and actions and we stand in full solidarity with the union and their striking members in their fight for fair pensions. In sending our full solidarity, Brookes Union would like to draw attention to the upcoming events and pickets from the Oxford UCU branch that students are encouraged to attend.

## Branch Officer Elections

We would like to encourage everyone to consider submitting for Branch Officer elections. Calls for nominations should be made by 20 March to [ucu.brookes@gmail.com](mailto:ucu.brookes@gmail.com), so that we can declare nominations to all members by 17 April. A list of roles can be found on the Brookes UCU website (URL below). Confirmation and election of positions will be made at our **AGM branch meeting on 2 May**.

*[oxfordbrookes.web.ucu.org.uk](http://oxfordbrookes.web.ucu.org.uk)*

## NEXT MEETING

### Branch AGM

Date: 2 May 2018,  
1200-1400

Location: JHB 203

## *Not a member yet?*

Here's how to join:

<http://join.ucu.org.uk>

Or call: 0333 207 0719



## #UCUStrike

Although Brookes is not is not part of the USS dispute, we'd really like to thank Brookes staff for supporting striking staff at Oxford University, and institutions across the UK. If you would like to donate the fighting fund at: [ucu.org.uk/fightingfund](http://ucu.org.uk/fightingfund).

## Reports Summary

The Workload Planning Committee met on 16 January 2018. Discussions involved tariffs and allowances for such things as supervising ALs, time for module leadership, time for field visits, and marking allowance. Currently, most of these will have to be negotiated at an individual level with line managers. If such negotiations over workload become an issue, please contact your faculty rep or other branch officer for support.

The Branch Exec met with HR on 8 February 2018 to discuss the University's Associate Lecturer policy. Several issues remain unresolved before the branch feels that it can recommend ratification of the policy. The use of ALs, by HR's calculation, has increased from 771 to 1028 over the last year, and no clear reason for the increase has been provided. Moreover, only a very small number of ALs have been transferred to fractional contracts, and the Branch Exec has asked for clarification on transfer to better contracts for ALs.

Further details on these reports can be found on the Brookes UCU website.

## Brookes UCU Exec Officers:

Chair: Alan Reeves

Vice-Chair: Bob Langridge

Co-Secretaries: Maia Pal, Andy Kilmister

Treasurer: Stephen Hurt

Equality Officer: Sola Adesola

Health & Safety Rep: John LoBreglio

Faculty Representatives:

HSS: Juliet Henderson, Alon Lischinsky

HLS: Stewart Thompson

Business: Andy Kilmister

TDE: Tim Jones

Brookes International: Garry Maguire

Branch Administrator: James Leveque

