

UCU OBBS and Health and Safety Representative Report Back of Activity 2023/24

OBU Representative Health, Safety, Welfare and Strategic Committee

I am one of two UCU Reps on the OBU Health, Safety, Welfare and Strategic Committee (HSWSC).

The HSWSC is chaired by Brendan Casey and meets quarterly.

As a new representative (I became a Health and Safety Rep last September) I have been grappling with the obscurity and bureaucracy of the various Health and Safety committee structures and remit. Essentially my concern is that the HSWSC does not incorporate welfare and workload matters in its discussions. As a consequence workload is not seen as a health and safety matter, and statutory responsibilities are diluted across a variety of sub committees and working groups. This is a matter of profound concern in the current situation at Brookes and I have put this point on record at each meeting attended. I will be submitting a report in June to obtain a formal response from the committee and VCG.

My experience leads me to take the position that we must be more proactive in using Health and Safety legislation to protect not only our physical environment but also our emotional wellbeing. I have therefore strongly supported the Executive's Workload Claim against the University. I will continue to support this activity (and to attend training on H&S legislation) over the next year if I am able to remain in role.

OBBS Representative for UCU

As OBBS representative I have:

Supported the marking boycott as part of the industrial action, and taken part in other strike activity

Communicated regularly with OBBS members about current issues and problems relating to industrial action.

Provided support to specific members with their own workplace problems including representing colleagues in meeting with management, and negotiating over 'space' allocations.

Provided support for members in response to the current situation of financial crisis at Brookes.

Supporting UCU campaigns that aim to address workplace challenges in the Business School and at Oxford Brookes.

I will continue with these activities if I continue with the OBBS rep role as I would like to do.

Jill Millar

10 May 2024