

UCU London Retired Members Thursday 29th June 2017 2pm

Apologies

Matters arising

Sen's dismissal

Annual report - propose "circulate in November and place on website"

Date of AGM (propose to add "or as soon as possible thereafter")

PictureHouse dispute - update, including boycott

Christians in Middle East - *MENA solidarity journal report*

Report back from UCU Congress - *Congress delegates*

Political situation after the general Election - *General Discussion*

Attack on Finsbury Park Mosque - *Secretary, Chair and Vice-Chair report of action taken*

Grenfell Tower and housing crisis - *Secretary report on action taken*

Solidarity with Egypt's Torah Cement workers - *Dave*

Security workers' action at University of London - *Dave*

UCU London Retired Members Monday 10th April 2017 2pm

Adam Lincoln - UCU officer with responsibility for matters relating to Climate Change spoke at the meeting at 3pm

Apologies - Kate, Norman, Andy, Greg, Lesley, Richard, John, Richard, Phillip, Gareth

Minutes and matters arising

Lucas Plan conference in November

Climate change motion passed at London NPC

Ken Montague memorial

Sen has been dismissed

Kensington and Chelsea College - site has been bought but campaign continues

Cradle to grave conference - Meg report

Iranian teachers' leader - petition is important

AGM - Elections of officers and delegates

Chair - Jan, Vice Chair - Marilyn, Secretary - Steve, Treasurer - Geoff, Congress

Delegates - Steve and Pete, Walks - Dave, NPC - Meg & Janet

Committee - existing committee plus, Murry, Eugene, Barbara, Greg, Frank, Maggie

Website meeting should have been in March, Secretary and Treasurer did not write reports.

Syria - *Pete*

This branch condemns two recent events in Syria:

The use of chemical attacks on people in Syria early this month

The attack by the US on land in Syria.

These have not helped in solution of the war in this country.

We call on our Secretary to express our view to the relevant bodies

Carried

Issues of free speech on Israel and Grenada

Recalling the experience of Fraser vs UCU, we call upon the NEC to take a position against any university management that react to spurious accusations of anti-semitism by banning speakers who are opposed to the policies of the State of Israel but who have not in any way expressed racism against Jewish people. - *unanimous.*

Our amendment to UCU Congress

This branch supports the invitation of Bernard Coard to launch his account of the Grenadian revolution – *Carried*

Support Chris Stephenson, a signatory of the petition of Academics for Peace, has been dismissed – *Carried - Secretary to write to Embassy*

Picturehouse BECTU

Two years ago workers at the Ritzy cinema organised a high-profile campaign for the London Living Wage. We struck 13 times in total and won a 26% pay rise - a huge victory, but still not a Living Wage. In the renewed dispute this year, Ritzy workers have been joined on strike by workers their sister site, Hackney Picturehouse. Picturehouse is owned by Cineworld, a huge multi-national, that takes many millions of pounds in profit each year. We're asking for some very simple things: that they pay us enough to live on, and value us for the work that we do. No one should have to choose between making rent or having time off when sick. No one should have to live on less than £140 a week when on maternity leave. With your support we believe we can achieve our demands and, hopefully, prove to low-paid, precarious workers in every industry that, if they organise, unions can fight and win for them too.

Letter of Support and banner on picket lines ask if they wish a boycott of Cineworld. Ask what we can do?

Action for Rail Access

The treatment faced by so many disabled and older travellers on our railways is unacceptable. Train guards exist for passenger protection; terrorist incidents remind us of this. Guards have months of training & 35 safety-crucial competences. Southern want Driver Only Operation & have excluded RMT from negotiations. Southern has just announced 33 stations where disabled passengers can no longer arrive on the Turn-Up-&-Go basis that non-disabled passengers enjoy - outright discrimination! Privatised train companies prioritise profit over passenger safety and equality.

As passengers, we support RMT demands to Keep the Guard on the Train and note the spread of their dispute to Arriva Rail North & Mersey Rail. We support disabled and older passengers Right to Ride.

Include mention of station staff

Save Central European University deplore the closure

Other business

Haringey so-called Development - deplore and circulate

Pensioners Parliament - Meg as delegate on same basis as last year

Vigil in Croydon several members supported

Leeds University changed dismissal reasons - Secretary to write

Persecution of Christians in the Middle East