

UCU London Retired Members 12th October 2017 2pm

Apologies *Demetrios, Ian, Maggie, Geoff, Geraldine, Dorothea, Tony, John, Gareth, Richard* **Minutes and Matters Arising**

Definitive answer on Intro Sen

Trades Councils - Harrigey - Janet, Tower Hamlets Sybil, Hackney - Richard to discuss with Gareth.

Meeting with NUT Retired Members - *Steve*

Invite Bernard to launch his book on the Balfour Declaration

Access to Teachers Pension Scheme - *Erica*

Accessing the scheme a nightmare. Complain to TPS at lack of functionality. Only on-line for P60, need printed. Secretary to complain through UCU pensions officer and trustee. Uneven response.

CWU strike - Solidarity with CWU in the face of court attack. Parallels with our own experience. Selling off Crown Post Offices. Problem of union recognition. Draw attention to local campaigns. Need to broadcast and get involved in local campaigns.

UCU Retired Members Annual Meeting

Possible Motions: *[we are allowed 3] We can also send a motion to the NPC Conference*

ESOL and the older migrant - *Merilyn*

Given the rise of Islamaphobia and other forms of racism, this branch calls for the Government to immediately fund free ESOL classes in FE colleges and elsewhere within the public sector. While the facilities to learn to speak English should be the right of all migrants, we are especially concerned with the older non-English speaker who is likely to be especially isolated and disadvantaged.

Moved to be sent to NPC conference. Carried

Universal Benefits - *Pete*

The officers were instructed to find a form of words that summarised the debate. Later:

Conference believes that the old age (universal benefit) pension should be paid to all over the age 60 and be equivalent to at least half the average wage or 200 pounds, whichever is the greater. Conference commits to the defence of the triple-lock.

Conference notes that to achieve this will take a number of years and the first step should be the increase of the present pension by a yearly increase of RPI + 2%.

Conference therefore resolves for UCU to express our view on the relevant bodies.

Climate Change, Airport Expansion and Fracking - *Steve*

- We recognise that the motion on Climate Change passed at this year's TUC makes progress towards UCU retired members resolution 7.6 of our 2016 annual meeting. However, we regret that there is no mention of opposition to fracking or airport expansion. We therefore call upon the UCU NEC to continue to campaign within the trade union movement in support of all the demands raised in UCU Congress 2017 resolution 17: Climate change, jobs and airport expansion.
- Also follow up to NPC

And a thorough review of the current HS2 project - motion to regional committee.

Later:

This Region opposes the construction of the High Speed 2 railway and calls on UCU to oppose it at the national level. An integrated, planned national transport system with large scale restoration of the rail network is essential in the fight against climate change. HS2 would never figure in any sensible national transport plan. We call for the prioritisation of an upgrading and restoration of local rail networks

throughout the U.K. as part of an integrated transport system. Wherever you live HS2 is a bad idea, it will benefit developers, not the nation. The House of Lords economic committee found the economic case not proven, over £60 billion of tax payers money is being wasted. The technology will be out of date before it is finished in 2033. Nationally we need to prioritise education and the NHS, not allow this environmental disaster to go ahead, act to cancel it now.

Support for research-active retired members - Frank

Agreed Secretary to find form of words

Later:

Recognising that many retired members wish to continue with their research or conduct research for which they did not have time due to pressures of work while they were employed, calls upon UCU to do all it can to secure access to facilities such as libraries and email for retired academic staff. This would also be in the interests of their previous institutions although many are too stupid to see this.

Website Changes – review section - Steve

Bauxite mining in the Cockpit Country of Jamaica - Steve

Support campaign

The expulsion of Moshe Machover from the Labour Party - Ian

"This branch deplores the decision to expel Emeritus Professor and distinguished mathematician Moshe Machover from the Labour Party for alleged 'anti-semitism'. Moshe is an Israeli citizen of Jewish heritage who has been a life-long critic of Zionism and of Israel which he has defined as a 'settler/colon state'.

He is a life-long socialist and committed opponent of all forms of racism.

We consider this expulsion to be an example of attempts to re-define anti-semitism so as to include all critics of Zionism and of Israel.

We call on UCU members in the Labour Party to support the demand for Moshe's expulsion to be rescinded."

AOB

Palestine Calender - available from Sybil



Support campaign to oppose closure of Kensington College - write to campaign.

18th October NPC lobby of parliament

17th TUC rally for pay rises for public sector 6:30 parliament square.

RMT action spreads to Greater Anglia - *Report from Chair*

Black History Month - some interesting photos shown and the Claudia Jones commemoration mentioned

Health Campaigns together.