Welcome

Jenny Underhill

Hello all, and welcome to the Summer newsletter from University of York UNISON. You'll find information on our upcoming Strawberry Social, and our inaugural Young Members Social. Also included with this mailing are the minutes of our AGM, held at the end of March, and information on the education bursary which is available to all members on a first come, first served basis.

Higher Education pay consultation e-ballot

UNISON is consulting Higher Education members across the UK on the employers’ pay offer for 2019-20. UNISON pushed hard for a pay rise of RPI plus 3%, or a minimum raise of £3,349, along with a 35 hour working week, a £10 per hour minimum rate of pay, and actions to reduce excessive workloads and combat stress. Read more about the joint union pay claim.

The employers have made a final offer far short of UNISON’s pay claim, of a rise of 1.8%, with lower paid staff offered between 1.82% and 3.65%. Check the pay award for your spinal column point in the final pay offer.

It’s time to stand up for decent pay and decent jobs. UNISON is now running an online consultation between 22 May to 1 July—don’t miss your opportunity to have your say! UNISON’s higher education service group recommends that members REJECT the pay offer to campaign for an improved pay deal.

How much pay have you lost out on?

Use UNISON’s quick calculator to find out how much your wages would have been worth if they had kept up with RPI compared to the actual HE pay rises implemented since 2009.

How do I take part in the consultation?

Emails are being sent out to members with personalised voting links. If you have not received your voting link, check your contact details are correct via My UNISON, or call UNISON Direct on 0800 0857 857. You can also vote online—visit the campaign website.
Join us at our Strawberry Social

Thursday 27 June 2019, 12:30–1:45 pm,
H/G21 Heslington Hall

You are warmly invited to our Strawberry Social on Thursday 27 June. It’s a great way to meet fellow members, enjoy lunch, and learn more about UNISON’s work! Guests who are not UNISON members are most welcome to attend.

To join us at the social, please RSVP using this Google form (by Monday 24 June), or email unison@york.ac.uk to reserve your place.

Young Members’ social

On 6 June, we held a social in the Courtyard Bar for our Young Members (those under 27). Whether you are new to the University or have been working here a long time, being part of the Young Members group is a great opportunity to get to know some fellow younger members and find out more about UNISON’s current activities. If you didn’t manage to get along this time, but are interested in taking part in future events, or know any colleagues who may be interested in attending, please get in contact with the branch.

Forthcoming drop-in sessions

The UNISON Branch office is in Wentworth, W/022. The branch regularly runs drop-in clinics for all your work related questions and requests. The next clinic will take place on:

- Thursday 11 July 2019

Bookable appointments are available from 12 noon – 1:00 pm, and drop-in times are 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Make an appointment by emailing: unison@york.ac.uk

AGM update

The 2019 Branch Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 28 March. Thanks to everyone who attended and elected Branch Officers and Workplace Stewards for the year ahead! A copy of the AGM minutes can be found on the branch website.

Charity nominations

A number of nominations were received for charities to support in the year ahead. Following a vote at the AGM, St Leonard’s Hospice was selected as the charity the branch will raise funds for in 2019.

Get involved

As a committee, we are always looking for new people who want to be involved. UNISON provides plenty of training and support, and there is a role for everyone. If you’d like to find out more about the valuable and rewarding opportunities on offer, contact the branch at: unison@york.ac.uk
Update your details

So that UNISON is able to keep you informed about the outcome of the HE pay offer and other campaigns, please take a moment to review your membership record to ensure your address records are up to date and you have set your contact preferences.

You can update your record online at the My UNISON web pages. If you do not have your membership number to hand, phone UNISONdirect on 0800 0 857 057.

Spread the word about UNISON

If you would like to help promote the work of this branch, display a copy of this newsletter and other UNISON materials on a noticeboard in your office, workspace or staff room. Contact us at unison@york.ac.uk and we will send posters and freebies for your workspace.

Help with school uniform costs

If you are struggling to make ends meet, and worried about back to school costs, UNISON is here to help. A limited fund has been set up to help UNISON members on low income with school uniform costs by way of a one-off payment of £120.

To apply, download the application form, or contact UNISONDirect on 0800 857 857.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 19 July 2019.

Doncaster Raceday, Saturday 3 August 2019

The Region’s biggest annual campaigning and social event will be held this year at Doncaster Racecourse on Saturday 3 August 2019. Since 2001 the event has grown with over 4,000 members, family and friends attending last year.

There is an exclusive discounted ticket Offer for UNISON members, family and friends, details on the Region’s website. Tickets can be purchased at Doncaster Race Course, tel 01302 304200, and quote your UNISON Membership number to obtain discounted tickets. A £2.75 admin fee applies to all bookings taken over the phone.

This offer is available until 26 July 2019.
Education bursaries available with UNISON

The Branch is offering education bursaries again in the year ahead. If you have been considering learning something new, why not sign up for autumn?

Bursaries can cover courses in education, training or well-being, and you can study with York Learning, Languages for All, York College, or with other training providers in and around York.

Available bursaries:

- 15 Level 1 / introductory level and recreational courses up to £125
- 3 Level 2 / intermediate level courses up to £250
- 2 Level 3 / advanced level courses up to £350

All courses will be paid for on a first come, first served basis.

How to book a place on a course

Level 1 / introductory level courses with York Learning: Look through the York Learning brochure: https://www.yortime.org.uk/yortime_home/default.aspx. Choose your course, and book by telephoning an advisor on 01904 552806. Quote your membership number and complete the form with the advisor.

Level 1 / introductory level courses with other providers: contact unison@york.ac.uk first to express your interest, we will advise on how to proceed with making a booking.

Bursaries for Level 2 / intermediate level and Level 3 / advanced level courses: apply for these by contacting unison@york.ac.uk first. The branch will send you a form to complete, which we will then send on to the education provider to make the booking. Please DO NOT pay for any course before checking funding is available at the branch and your application has been approved.

Please note: you cannot apply for more than one course per term. All courses are offered subject to funding, on a first come, first served basis. Funding is reviewed termly. You have to be a member for a minimum of 4 weeks to qualify.

Free everyday maths and English courses

UNISON members are now able to take free online maths and English courses from the Open University. Level 1 and Level 2 courses are available at present, these will be followed by sector-specific courses in future. Access the courses here: https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/everyday-skills-maths-and-english

These exciting new courses are intended for anyone wanting to improve and refresh their everyday skills in maths and English. You can work at your own pace and you can choose the level that suits your requirements.