

# UNISON

## ULSTER UNIVERSITY AGM NEWSLETTER Coleraine & Magee

### **ULSTER UNIVERSITY AGM** **2021**

*IT'S ABOUT YOU, YOUR SAY AND YOUR  
VOTE*

**This year the AGMs will take place  
online due to Covid-19 restrictions**

**Thursday 25th March 2021  
9.30am**

The University of Ulster branch will be holding our Annual General Meetings online this year. Our Branch AGM is the single most important meeting of the year. This is a great opportunity to meet with other members and UNISON stewards and your chance to find out how UNISON has been active on your behalf during the year. Please read the attached information on the branch posts.

Our AGM will be held via the **Zoom** online platform.

**Zoom** is free to download on tablet or smartphone, or can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/>.

You can join the AGM on Zoom in a number of ways:

1. Click here: <https://bit.ly/2Lkj4dP>
2. Join via the Zoom app (free to download)
3. Access the Zoom website - <https://zoom.us/>.

Join a Meeting

Meeting ID: 663 240 2766  
Passcode: AGM2021

### **Christmas Holiday**

The UU VC announced Christmas holidays would be extended with 4 extra days, UNISON welcomed the fact that once again this was extended to outsourced staff.

### **Students Union**

UNISON strongly opposed the closure of the catering facilities, a workforce who have been dedicated to the students and their employer for many years. This was a sad day for our members. UNISON has provided representation through this difficult time to ensure members received the best outcome and secured an enhancement on their redundancy package.

### **Mount Charles**

This has been a difficult year with Covid-19 and has been challenging for our membership employed directly by Mount Charles, due to reduced students on campus. UNISON challenged the decision with both the Ulster University and Mount Charles resulting in an agreed decision to continue a service but at a reduction.

This was a very sad and emotional time for our members who have been dedicated to students, University staff and their employer for many years.

UNISON provided representation through redeployment and redundancy packages.

### **UNISON UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER** **BRANCH CONTACTS**

#### **Contacts for Coleraine Campus**

##### **Branch Chair**

Tommy Strawhorne 07525463031

##### **Branch Secretary**

Louise McClements 07835413100

#### **Contacts for Magee Campus**

##### **Area Organiser**

Noreen Robinson 07976217080

##### **Regional Organiser**

Marianne Buick 07748638243

**NOT YET A UNISON MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!**

Call Membership on 028 90270190 or Join Online <https://join.unison.org.uk/>

## **Health and Safety**

UNISON will strive to keep Health and Safety at the top of every agenda and at the forefront of everyone's minds. If you are interested in becoming a health & safety or workplace rep, please contact a branch officer or steward.

## **Update Your Details**

Check your membership status by checking your payslip for deductions or your bank for direct debit. If this is not up to date, then you may **NOT** be a UNISON member. Have you changed your address, your place of work or your telephone number? Please contact the membership department on 028 90270190 to update your details.

## **Noonan**

This has been a particularly difficult year for staff working for Noonan across the university sites.

The majority of the staff had been furloughed since the end of March, with some returning to work in Sept. During the initial lockdown on most campuses there were only security officers and some cleaning staff remaining on site.

UNISON will continue to engage with management to review Covid-19 guidelines and Health & Safety for our membership.

## **University Staff**

It was identified that the UU were able to furlough some staff, it was agreed this would be on 100% pay.

Negotiations continue to secure new contracts for staff in the UU NMC Competence Test Centre.

The University is currently working on a structural review for the estates department.

UNISON provided input on an Equality Impact Assessment of the proposed relocation of the School of Health Science. UNISON also put in a formal response to the consultation on the proposed move.

UNISON is in dispute with the HE employers, UNISON rejected the employers position of a Pay Freeze, members were balloted on whether to accept or reject, further updates will be provided in the New Year.

## **UNISON – Your Friend at Work**

If you get called to a disciplinary, your employer will send you a letter saying that you are entitled to bring your union representative. But if you don't have one... it will be too late.

**Don't stand alone - JOIN UNISON**

[www.unison.org.uk/join](http://www.unison.org.uk/join)



Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news and information:

**UNISON Northern-Ireland**

## **UNISON Welfare – ‘There For You’**

The Branch want to remind you to use this service which is FREE to all UNISON members and is there for you at times of difficulty and crisis. There is also a Covid-19 Fund. For full details please see UNISON's website.

[www.unison.org.uk/get-help/](http://www.unison.org.uk/get-help/)

## **Legal Advice**

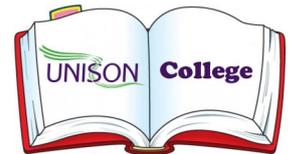
Thompsons NI our specialist employment solicitors.

For free legal advice and support contact

**0800 0857 857**

## **UNISON College**

UNISON offers a wide range of free courses for members and reps to support you in your professional, personal and community life.



Find out more at:

<https://www.unison-ni.org.uk/education-and-training>

**You can now download our New Education App**

<https://unisoncollegeni.org.uk>



## **Free School Meals 4 All**

UNISON has established a Working Group comprised of reps from across health and education to take forward the development of a new campaign calling for universal free school meal provision for all children and young people.

**The campaign's objectives are:**

- Seeking universal nutritious free school meals for all pupils to both reduce poverty and improve public health;
- To safeguard and promote the vital work of our members within schools catering. School meals services should be publicly provided;
- As a response to Covid-19 to build support for the implementation of a public health model across Government that is aimed at dealing with health and educational inequalities that have been exacerbated during the pandemic.

We have started a petition calling on the NI Executive to provide universal free school meals. Further actions will follow before the New Year.

Link to the online petition is here:

<http://chnq.it/ycDBDYHJ>