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| Dear colleagueIn this week's campaign update:**Stand up for jobs and education in Manchester: job cuts at University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan**UCU has said it will oppose compulsory redundancies at University of Manchester following [shock proposals to cut 140 academic jobs and 31 professional support roles](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/21305/151504/4059/1/) across several departments. The union has stated [there is no economic rationale for the cuts and argues the university is using Brexit and uncertainty over new higher education law as an excuse](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/21305/151504/4060/2/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VUNVIGNhbXBhaWducyB1cGRhdGU6IDEyIE1heSAyMDE3&x=d5d154b9). Please send messages of support to ucu@manchester.ac.uk This becomes the second university in the city to announce major job losses and UCU members at Manchester Metropolitan have overwhelmingly backed strike action over closure of the Crewe campus and subsequent staff cuts. Following a fantastic campaign to ‘get the vote out’ [the MMU ballot result announced last week](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/21305/151504/4063/3/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VUNVIGNhbXBhaWducyB1cGRhdGU6IDEyIE1heSAyMDE3&x=6724a9b8) cleared the new restrictive Trade Union Act ballot threshold with a turnout of 55% with members voting 79% in favour of strike action. [Please sign their petition here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/21305/151504/3890/4/).**Academic boycott of London Metropolitan University: please support your colleagues**As the bitter dispute over contracts and working conditions at London Met continues, this week management agreed to meet with union representatives and UCU will continue to work towards finding a negotiated solution. Please help keep up the pressure by following the [revised guidance on how you can support the academic boycott here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/21305/151504/4036/5/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VUNVIGNhbXBhaWducyB1cGRhdGU6IDEyIE1heSAyMDE3&x=fb0fd636).[See here for full update including:](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/21305/151504/4062/6/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VUNVIGNhbXBhaWducyB1cGRhdGU6IDEyIE1heSAyMDE3&x=dbb2c0e6) * Further education: empowering teachers, learners and communities
* UCU welcomes Labour pledge for free education
* Stamp out casual contracts: get involved and make a difference
* Welsh baccalaureate qualification: your views
* Urgent action: dismissed educators on hunger strike in Turkey
* Adult and community education newsletter
* Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival
* National Senior Management Survey audit of senior management practices in higher education
* Access to higher education for individuals with criminal records
* LGBT+ research conference
* Women’s march for abortion rights: Birmingham, 20 May

Best wishesEd BaileyUCU acting head of campaigns |

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