**Build the union: thank you!**  
  
This week you’ve been knocking on doors, meeting in staff rooms and canteens, running stalls, and talking to staff about why they need to be in the union. It’s one of our regular recruitment weeks when we focus on inviting colleagues to join UCU and we’ve been overwhelmed by the response. Large numbers of new members are being reported by our membership department and in particular early career staff [taking advantage of our free membership offer](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34074/151504/4685/1/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMTAgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxNw%3d%3d&x=311fa705).   
  
Thanks to all our fantastic local reps, branch officers and active members who work so hard to promote UCU. The more people who join, the better able we are to support you at work and to stand up for education: the union makes us strong!  
  
**Fair funding for further education**  
  
The government has come under more pressure on FE funding this week as a House of Lords committee [asked senior civil servants to explain funding disparities across the sector](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34074/151504/4951/2/). The hearing quoted figures showing this year FE students received £2,700 funding per learner in contrast to students in higher education who received £11,000 and Lord Layard called on the government to radically rethink the fragmentation of FE funding. [More on our campaign for fair funding for FE here.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34074/151504/2999/3/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMTAgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxNw%3d%3d&x=4638ba27)   
  
[See here for the full update including:](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34074/151504/4952/4/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMTAgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxNw%3d%3d&x=c9e90caa)   
  
1. In the news  
2. Cranfield University staff face compulsory redundancy  
3. New settled status for EU citizens  
4. Birmingham City University staff to lose academic jobs and freedoms  
5. Victory for campaign against Open University ban on Cuban students  
6. Anti-bullying week 13-19 November 2017   
  
 Best wishes  
  
Justine Stephens  
UCU head of campaigns