Dear colleague

Welcome to this week's UCU branch officers' update with information and events listings for key activists. If there are officers in your branch who should be receiving this but are not on our current distribution list, please email Justine Stephens.

In this week's update:

1.     **Congress 2018 – 30 May – 1 June: registration**

2.     **Latest on USS dispute**

3.     **TUC march and rally: 12-4pm, Saturday 12 May 2018, London**

4.     **Coventry union-busting: demonstration called for 16 May**

5.     **Stop the cuts at Writtle University College**

6.     **Mass redundancies at Vision West Nottinghamshire College**

7.     **UCU political fund: scrutineer’s report (review ballot result) and notices to members (right to withdraw from contributions)**

**1. Congress 2018 – 30 May – 1 June: registration**
Details on how to register for Congress 2018 and information on general arrangements. The deadline for registration is Wednesday 25 April.
[UCU846.html](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5447/1/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=ce57efed) | [UCU846.rtf](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5439/2/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=84383605)

**2. Latest on USS dispute**
The USS ballot closed last week with members [voting to accept the employers’ proposal](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5984/3/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=a6e122a5) and the general secretary has [written to members with the latest developments here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5985/4/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=b45c9952) including progress on the joint expert panel (JEP).

**3. TUC march and rally: 12-4pm, Saturday 12 May 2018, London**
On May 12, Jeremy Corbyn will be joining the TUC and tens of thousands of others to march through London, demanding a £10 per hour minimum wage and a ban on zero hours contracts, public services that are brilliant, funded and free at the point of use, and for a society that roots out racism, sexism and discrimination. [All details on the TUC website here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5994/5/). The march will assemble at 11am at Victoria Embankment and move off at 12pm to march to Hyde Park. [UCU members will meet at zone 11 as marked on the form up map](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5990/6/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=62b81f84).

**4. Coventry union-busting: demonstration called for 16 May**
UCU vice president Douglas Chalmers was among the speakers at a demonstration on the Coventry University campus, coinciding with a graduation event, protesting at the university groups' union busting behaviour. The branch have called a second demonstration and asked for national support on 16 May. All branches are encouraged to support this demonstration. More details will be announced soon. Please send messages of support to Jonathan White and encourage members to sign the petition and write to their MPs. [Links to all these actions are on the campaign page here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5870/7/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=7a3724c5).

**5. Stop the cuts at Writtle University College**
Writtle UCU are currently fighting proposed compulsory redundancies and course closures arising from the university’s “strategic change agenda”. [Watch a short video outlining the dispute here.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5993/8/) The branch have passed a motion of no confidence in their VC and senior management team and are working with their local students’ union to oppose the cuts. [Please support the branch by signing their petition here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5987/9/).

**6. Mass redundancies at Vision West Nottinghamshire College**
A redundancy exercise at Vision West Nottinghamshire College has placed 232 staff at risk of redundancy, with over 100 redundancies announced affecting teaching and support staff. Demonstration on 26 April from 4-5 pm outside of the Vision West Nottinghamshire, Derby Road Campus to lobby the College Corporation Board meeting at 5pm. [Send messages of support to the branch via this link.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5988/10/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=9ac8e33e)

**7. UCU political fund: scrutineer’s report (review ballot result) and notices to members (right to withdraw from contributions)**
The scrutineer’s report of voting in the recent political fund ballot, and notices to members about their right to opt out of payments to the fund if they so choose.
[UCU868.html](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5991/11/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=4fab1078) | [UCU868.rtf](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/47753/7557873/5992/12/?c73c8e04=YnJhbmNocm91bmR1cA%3d%3d&60bc612e=ZGVmYXVsdA%3d%3d&560a3889=VUNVIGJyYW5jaCBvZmZpY2VycycgdXBkYXRlOiAyMCBBcHJpbCAyMDE4&x=72833c43)

All the best,

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