

Thousands march in London



On 26th March 2011 between 250 and 500,000 people marched through London to protest against the cuts to public services being implemented by the Government. Unison was there in force with 57 coaches travelling from the West Midlands alone.

"A big thank you to all those tens of thousands of UNISON members and their families who turned out on Saturday to make the march for jobs, justice and growth such a success." - **Dave Prentis, Unison General Secretary**

Unison University of Warwick Branch Website

The University of Warwick Unison branch has a new website <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/unison>.

To access all areas of this site you will need your login name and password – please contact the IT Services Help Desk on 024 765 73737 for help with this.

News from UNISON in Higher Education - Pay Negotiations

The first set of national HE pay negotiations took place on the 20th April. The Joint HE unions presented the national pay claim which they had submitted the previous day.

The unions vigorously pressed the case for a need for a decent pay award this year linked to inflation to offset recent poor pay settlements in the sector. After a frank exchange of views the employers undertook to respond to the claim by the next scheduled meeting at the end of May.

The unions made it clear that they expected an offer in response to their claim at that meeting.

Meeting - New University Guidelines on 'Operational Working Patterns'

The University has recently provided us with a new set of guidelines relating to 'Operational Working Patterns' (for an annualised "Working Hours" contract whereby staff are contracted to work a fixed number of hours per 12 month period), and are inviting comments from the Union.

A meeting was held on the **18th April** to discuss the proposed alternative working pattern and questions noted to take forward to the University. It was agreed that the Union would forward its concerns about these new guidelines via an open letter and raise specific questions regarding implementation.

For a copy of the guidelines, please see http://go.warwick.ac.uk/unison/news/annualised_hourspolicyguidelines-copy.pdf

Need Help? Contact your Unison Steward or a Branch Officer – for a full list please visit the Unison website

Steven Stynes, Branch Secretary - Steven.Stynes@warwick.ac.uk 024 765 72632 (Thursday PM only)

Antonia Mayers, Equality Officer - A.T.Mayers@warwick.ac.uk 024 765 28141

Josie Brown, Welfare Officer - Josie.Brown@warwick.ac.uk 024 765 23023

Sandra Foy, Steward and Health and Safety - Sandra.Foy@warwick.ac.uk 024 765 73043

Paul Trimmer, Communications Officer - unison.comms@warwick.ac.uk 024765 75893

Obituary - Sheena Grant, 1941-2010



Sheena Grant was a champion of the rights of the lowest-paid staff in higher education and also became a national figure in the trade union movement.

The previous Branch Secretary for Warwick, Sandra Foy, said "I feel very proud to have known and served with Sheena at national level. She was truly inspirational."

Ms Grant died on 10 November 2010 after a battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband John and her two children.

You can read the original THE article at <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=415552&c=1>

Did you know?

The **Working Time Directive** provides legal protection for your rights such as an entitlement to 24 hours away from work every week (or 48 hours each fortnight) and for there to be an 11 hour gap between shifts. If your workplace is subject to busy peak periods and normal working time is not applicable, you are entitled to 'compensatory rest' i.e. a minimum of 90 hours rest a week, on average.

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employee/WorkingHoursAndTimeOff/index.htm>

News Online

You can read the full versions of the articles in this newsletter and see the latest news online at <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/unison/news>

Unison UoW Activities Update

What has the UoW Branch been doing this year? The list below contains a summary of some of our activities:

- Supported staff through 3 disciplinary cases – won 2 : lost 1
- Assisted with 10 upgradings – won 6 : lost 4
- Helped 4 people with welfare issues
- Attended 4 meetings regarding employment policy changes to ensure the voice of our members is heard

If you would like more information on how Unison can help you with these, then please contact us.

UNISON Member Offer - Co-operative Bank launches a new current account for UNISON members

The Co-operative Bank and Britannia has launched a new current account (based on the bank's popular Current Account Plus) for members of UNISON. Until 31st July 2011, members who switch to the account will receive a benefit of £100 cash back plus The Co-operative Bank will make a £50 charity donation to UNISON Welfare* in return for a minimum monthly deposit of £800**.

UNISON members can apply for the Current Account Plus at www.britannia.co.uk/unison, calling 0800 917 7066, or by visiting any one of The Co-operative Bank or Britannia branches.

* A £50 donation will be made by The Co-operative Bank to UNISON Welfare. The charity offers personal and financial support to the union's members in times of hardship.

** The cashback is subject to three £800 monthly deposits being received and the account being switched to become the customer's main bank account.