

**OPEN UNIVERSITY BRANCH
OF THE UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE UNION
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING HELD 17 MARCH 2008**

Officers presiding: Roger Walters, President; Mike McNulty, Vice President; David Knowles, Hon. Treasurer; Meridian, Hon. Secretary (Minutes)

1 MINUTES OF THE LAST EGM (23 JANUARY 2008)

Agreed

2 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2.1 Ballot on Single-Table Bargaining

- a. Single-Table Bargaining was rejected by 10,126 votes to 6,517.
- b. This ballot was open only to HE members of UCU, and achieved a 25% response – twice the number who voted in the NEC elections.
- c. UCU will be meeting with UCEA (the employers' organisation), and will report back to branches via a briefing meeting. This may be discussed at Congress (28-30 May).

2.2 NEC elections

- a. Roger Walters was elected as Disabled member – as this was by-election, he takes up his post immediately.
- b. Pauline Collins was elected as an Ordinary member, and takes up her duties at the end of May.
- c. Jon Pike was elected as an Ordinary member, and takes up his duties at the end of May.
- d. Lesley Kane was not re-elected. The President thanked Lesley for her contributions, particularly her lead re FTC hourly-paid staff.
- e. Rob Clifton, a current member of the NEC, did not stand for re-election. The President thanked Rob for his contributions.

2.3 OU grant announcement

The OUBUCU JNC team will raise this at the next JNC meeting, in relation to any impact on jobs, and report back.

3 CONGRESS

3.1 Motions

- a) No members had forwarded proposed Motions
- b) The President proposed two Motions that had been discussed and agreed at the Executive Committee meeting held immediately prior to this meeting (see Appendix 1).

At this point the Vice President took the chair.

These Motions were **Agreed**.

c) Question

A member raised the issue of Motions taken to the 2007 Congress and not discussed due to inquoracy.

Answer

D R A F T

In these instances, Motions were referred on to the NEC, who report back to the next Congress.

d) Question

A member raised the issue of not having the text of the proposed Motions, and the difficulty this created for voting.

Answer

The President agreed that steps should be taken in future to ameliorate this problem.

e) Question

A member raised the issue of remote participation.

Answer

Remote participation is an ongoing discussion item in the Executive. This item will be put on the next Exec. Committee agenda.

3.2 **Delegates**

Delegates

John Bennett
Alan Carter
Cheryl-Anne
Judy Ekins
Mike McNulty

Observers

June Payne
Roger Rees
Eric Wade
Chris Bollom?

NEC members

Alan Carr
Rob Clifton
Pauline Collins
Lesley Kane
Jon Pike
Roger Walters

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 25 June, Berrill Lecture Theatre, 12.30 – 13.30

End of meeting

PROPOSED MOTION TO CONGRESS

agreed at the General Meeting of OUBUCU 17 March 2008

Proposed by: Roger Walters

Seconded: Jon Pike

Opposition to changes to HEFCE funding for ELQ students

Congress believes that the government's decision to withdraw funding for higher education students who already have an equal or lower qualification - ELQ students - is retrograde. It is contrary to the government's commitment to life long-learning; it is especially damaging to those institutions which have done most to promote part-time and adult education and widening participation, and it discriminates against older students, women needing fresh qualifications to return to work, and those with increasing disabilities and health problems who need to change career.

Congress welcomes the wide opposition to this policy and pledges to continue to maintain and build the broad campaign – which involves among others Birkbeck, the OU, and the NUS – to highlight the fundamental flaws in the ELQ policy and seek its removal.

PROPOSED MOTION TO CONGRESS

agreed at the General Meeting of OUBUCU 17 March 2008

Proposed by: Roger Walters

Seconded: Alan Carr

Amendment of rules on submission of motions to Congress/Sector Conference

16.6.1 Second sentence, after 'branch/local association', add 'or, where there is more than one branch/local association within the same institution, each group of branches/local associations within the same institution,'.

16.6.2 Second sentence, after 'branch/local association', add 'or, where there is more than one branch/local association within the same institution, each group of branches/local associations with the same institution,'.

Purpose: to correct the inconsistency in the rules and bring the provision for the submission of motions into line with the provision for the entitlement to send delegates.

The amended rules would read:

16.6.1 Motions for National Congress, and amendments thereto, may be proposed by the National Executive Committee, branches/local associations, specialist committees set up under Rule 24 and National Equality Standing Committees. Each branch/local association **or, where there is more than one branch/local association within the same institution, each group of branches/local associations within the same institution**, shall be entitled to submit one motion and one amendment to National Congress.

16.6.2 Motions and amendments thereto for the Sector Conferences, may be proposed by the National Executive Committee's Further Education and Higher Education Sector Committees for the appropriate Sector Conference, and by branches/local associations in that Sector. Each branch/local association, **or, where there is more than one branch/local association within the same institution, each group of branches/local associations within the same institution**, shall be entitled to submit two motions and two amendments to the relevant Sector Conference.