

News for members @ **Tyne Coast College**

Pay Update and Notification of Strike Action

September 2023

## Strike Action by UCU at Tyne Coast College

Members will have seen the correspondence between the College and the union. We have not been able to make progress in pay talks through the usual mechanisms with the College. We are therefore calling on all UCU members to take strike action on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**. Please attend one of the picket lines below. **Pickets will start at 07:30 and finish at around 09:30**. Warm weather has been ordered.

	<b>Picket A</b>	<b>Picket B</b>	<b>Picket C</b>
	Tyne Met College	South Tyneside College	South Tyneside College
	Main entrance	Main entrance	Side entrance
	Battle Hill Drive	St George's Avenue	Grosvenor Road
<b>Picket Supervisor</b>	<b>Steve Driver</b>	<b>Neil Smith</b>	<b>Ashley McVay</b>
<b>Other UCU Reps</b>	<i>Heidi Seager Ben Lowes-Smith</i>	<i>Alain Reynier Manoj Singh</i>	<i>John Archer</i>

Members are asked to report to one of these picket lines to show support for the strike action

## Union tries to avoid disruption

We have done everything that we can to try and avoid the continued disruption to the education of students at Tyne Coast College. The College Management has done nothing to try and resolve matters. Strike action is, and always will be, a last resort.

A reminder of what members have told us with their votes:

- Our statutory ballot for industrial action (conducted over less than two weeks in April, and straight after the Easter holidays): **94% vote to take strike action** (54% turnout).
- Our E-Ballot in July: **82% rejected the pay offer** (78% turnout).
- Our (still running) E-Ballot in September: **78% to continue with industrial action** (after less than 24 hours)
- **Overwhelming support** from our members for two motions supporting our action at a quickly convened Branch Meeting (28/09/23)



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University and College Union  
Tyne Coast College

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Twitter account for the @UCU Branch at Tyne Coast College - in north and south tyneside - part of @UCUNorthern

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**FE staff deserve more  
VOTE FOR ACTION TODAY**

**#RespectFE**



**If you know someone who wants to [join UCU](https://www.join.ucu.org.uk):**  
**[www.join.ucu.org.uk](https://www.join.ucu.org.uk)**

## Motion - Pay and Industrial Action

### This Branch Meeting Notes

1. Recent votes that have taken place in the Branch: 94% in favour of strike action (April, 54% turnout); 82% to reject the pay offer (July, 78% turnout)
2. The announcement of two days of strike action in October, called for by the Branch Committee
3. The refusal by the College to improve on their offer of 3% for 2022/23 and their lack of commitment to 2023/24 pay
4. The electronic ballot taking place now to endorse the industrial action

### This Branch Meeting Agrees

1. To abide by the outcome of the current ballot (described above in Notes 4.)
2. To respond to the correspondence from the College on pay expressing the views of our members
3. To seek the broadest possible support for our industrial action

Passed, with three abstentions, none against, at a Branch Meeting on 28/09/23

## Motion – Financial Support

### This Branch Meeting Notes

1. The support from the national union's Fighting Fund for the strike action that we took in June, and are taking in October
2. The slow processing of claims from the Fighting Fund
3. The recent appointment to the Branch of a Treasurer
4. Branch Funds of around £330

### This Branch Meeting Thanks

1. Those who have made contributions to Branch funds, largely from other UCU Branches
2. The Treasurer for his work in this area

### This Branch Meeting Agrees

1. To ask the union's Regional Office to maximise support our dispute, particularly through financial support to local branch funds
2. To ask the Branch Committee to set up a small group, (perhaps Treasurer, Secretary, and one more) to investigate:
  - a) If claims can be sped up to our members from the national Fighting Fund
  - b) How we might use our local funds to support those members in our Branch who are in most financial need

Passed, unanimously, at a Branch Meeting on 28/09/23

### A note about the union's national Fighting Fund

*The union's fighting fund has become a significant resource for the union. It provides essential financial support for members taking industrial action. There is a small team at our Head Office who are processing claims, which includes claims from other FE Colleges taking action, as well as tens of thousands of our members at 140 Universities who have been deducted 50% of their salaries for 2-3 months for taking part in the union's national Marking and Assessment Boycott. I have asked about the delay in making payments and have been assured that claims will be paid for **both the action in June, as well as in October**. Members are advised to claim as soon as pay is deducted from their salary, and to go to the union's home web-page to find out how to make a claim. If in doubt, please ask one of your local reps.*

Jon Bryan, Regional Support Official, UCU, Northern Region

### A note about support from the local branch

*The Branch Meeting asked us to investigate using the funds that we have locally to assist those taking strike action. Members are asked to email the Branch: [ucuintcc@gmail.com](mailto:ucuintcc@gmail.com) **in confidence**, with the headline in the email "Support with strike pay" if they need financial assistance following deductions made from salaries. This is in addition to support from the union's national Fighting Fund.*

*If you know fellow trade unionists, or organisations that want to support our action, please ask them to consider donating to the local branch strike fund: UCU Tynecoast College NE198 S/C: 60-83-01 A/C: 20477969 Ref: Strike Fund*

Neil Smith, Branch Secretary, UCU, Tyne Coast College

### Some strike FAQs – more at [www.ucu.org.uk/article/12513](http://www.ucu.org.uk/article/12513)

#### Can new members strike?

Yes! As soon as you have joined UCU we ask you to join the strike, even if you were not balloted on the action.

#### Is there a strike fund?

Yes! The union has agreed to make compensatory payments to support members who have been deducted pay for participating in the strike and will prioritise those most in need. To receive a payment from UCU's fighting fund you will need to be paying the correct subscriptions and to provide evidence of the deduction from your salary. The agreed rates are:

- £50 per day for members earning £30,000 gross or more per annum
- £75 per day for members earning £30,000 gross or less per annum



[www.ucu.org.uk/fightingfund](http://www.ucu.org.uk/fightingfund)

**To apply to the union's Fighting Fund to support you taking strike action, please go to the above link**



**UCU MEMBERS**  
**Please check and update your personal information at**  
<https://my.ucu.org.uk/>