

University of Leeds Branch Bulletin



Calling All Female Members!

In February 2017, Katie Moore (Branch Women's Officer) and Lucinda Walker (Workplace Representative) will be heading to the annual Unison Women's Conference in Brighton. The conference is an opportunity to share knowledge and experiences of issues that affect women in the workplace, and to discuss ideas and initiatives to address them.

Since last year's conference, our reps have held meetings with other campus Trade Unions, LUU and HR to discuss and highlight issues such as domestic violence and sexual assault in a bid to work towards making the campus of the 'University of the Year' one of the safest in the UK for students, staff and visitors.

In order to confidently and accurately represent University of Leeds women at the conference, Katie and Lucinda would like to hear from female members to find out about your experiences, what's important to you and the issues you'd like them to focus on. Katie and Lucinda will be holding a 'drop-in' session for women members 12.30-2.30pm on Wednesday, 18th January in 7.52 EC Stoner – please bring your lunch. Snacks will be provided.

You're also welcome to contact Katie (k.l.moore@leeds.ac.uk) and Lucinda (l.c.walker@leeds.ac.uk) by email to discuss any issues you may be having and to find out how UNISON may support you.

Meet the Rep: Rose Bavage



1. What's your role?

School's Outreach for the Faculty of Biological Sciences, in the Educational Engagement department. We

work with schools across the country to raise awareness of, and aspirations to, the University, by running events, workshops, festivals, lectures etc.

2. Why did you become a UNISON rep?

A general election result that made me concerned for the future of workers (amongst other people).

3. How long have you been a UNISON rep?

18 months (started July 2015).

4. What's the most frequent member request/problem?

Issues with job grading.

5. What's the best thing about being a rep?

Talking to members and non-members, and meeting other union workers. You never stop learning things and it's a great feeling to meet people with common values. There are often new opportunities to learn, train, travel and be heard as well, and new reps are made to feel welcome to get involved as much as they like.

6. And the worst?

Juggling all the things you want to do for the union and for your job, and having to decode long, jargon-filled documents.

7. How hard is it to balance your rep responsibilities and your role?

It's mostly interesting or fun, so not too hard, but only if you've got some spare time of your own to spend on it. When you don't, it becomes much harder.

8. How hard was the training?

The training was a great experience – you learn and hear a lot about the issues faced by other branches and workplaces in Yorkshire. The best training happens back in your workplace though - your 'homework' is to learn how your branch works and meet members and other reps.

9. Would you recommend being a rep to others?

Absolutely – it's what you make of it and there's a huge amount of opportunity to be heard and make a difference if that's what you want to do.

10. Anything else you'd like to add?

The more I learn the more it feels like next few years are going to be challenging, politically and legally. There are a lot of new laws and policies coming through that will disadvantage people I know. It's a big responsibility to try and fight this but it's so important to defend what we have.

Update Your Contact Details

Please let us know if you've recently changed address or if any of your contact details have changed.

You may not be aware that under UNISON rules [Rule C.6.3] members are required to notify UNISON of a change of address. It is also advisable to notify UNISON of any other significant change, for example your name, your employer, your job, your email address or your salary as this may affect your subscription banding, your entitlement to services from UNISON or your eligibility for membership.

You can simply update your details at MyUnison (see below) or you can inform your branch. www.unison.org.uk/my-unison/

If you have stories or comments for the Branch Bulletin, or you'd like to get more involved with UNISON, please email d.amesbury@leeds.ac.uk or call 0113 3430531. Also, please visit our new website at: www.leedsuni-unison.org.uk and our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/Leedsuniunison/



“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from everyone at the University of Leeds Branch!”