

Branch Meeting Notes – 19th March (Online & In-Person)

 Location: Online & On Campus

 Attendance: 61 online, 13 in-person

1. Update from the JNC Meeting (Presented by Jane)

(Details pulled from previous JNC notes for consistency)

- UEB's Position on Withheld Pay:
 - UEB expressed disappointment with the strike action.
 - They argued that allocating time in the work plan was sufficient compensation.
 - They refused to return withheld pay but suggested other work plan adjustments instead.
- UCU's Position & Response:
 - Lack of trust in UEB:
 - UEB previously settled the dispute last year only to later announce withheld pay for 11 months (now reduced to 5-6 months).
 - UCU laid out a history of attacks on staff, including:
 - 20% real-terms pay cut over the last 12-13 years.
 - Increasing workloads and administrative burdens due to VSS (Voluntary Severance Scheme).
 - Forcing staff to reapply for their own jobs in some cases.
 - Financial concerns raised:
 - UEB's financial situation may be a reportable event to the Office for Students.
 - The university appears to be using withheld pay to balance the books.
 - UCU expects further negative financial decisions ahead.
 - UEB claims high staff costs compared to other universities but fails to acknowledge their own financial mismanagement (e.g., London Campus failure, excessive building projects).
 - Staff are left to absorb the consequences, while UEB claims there are "no alternatives."

2. Strike Ballot Results

Question 1: Accept UEB's offer or proceed with strike action?

Response	Online Votes	In-Room Votes	Total Votes	Percentage
Accept the offer	11	0	11	18%
Reject the offer & strike	41	13	54	67%
Abstain	9	0	9	15%
Total	61	13	74	100%

 Outcome: The majority reject the offer (67%) and are prepared to go ahead with strike action.

Question 2: If strike action goes ahead, should we strike for 2 days or 4 days?

Response	Online Votes	In-Room Votes	Total Votes	Percentage
2 Days	42	13	55	67%
4 Days	11	1	12	17%
Abstain	9	0	9	14%
Total	61	14	75	100%

 Outcome: The majority (67%) voted for a 2-day strike over a 4-day strike.

3. Strike Action & Picketing

- Picket line location: Owen Building
 - Call to action:
 - Everyone needs to walk out.
 - Everyone needs to picket.
 - This is critical to showing force.
 - Please, please walk out on the day.
 - The **strike mandate will remain open**, meaning **targeted future action** remains an option.
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Final Actions:

- ✓ Strike action confirmed (2 days, pending final coordination).
- ✓ Maximum turnout required at the picket line (Owen Building).
- ✓ The mandate remains open for potential further action.