

University and College Union

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To Branch and local association secretaries
Topic **Budget 2020-21**
Action For endorsement by Congress 2020
Summary Budget for 2020-21 as agreed by the NEC
Contact Martin Smith, acting head of resources

Dear Colleague

Budget 2020-21

The proposed budget agreed by the National Executive Committee forms part of this circular and can be found at:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/circ/ucu1012budget20-21.pdf>

The honorary treasurer's introduction appears overleaf.

Following the postponement of Congress, the officers, endorsed by SFC and reported to NEC, agreed that there was no realistic alternative to operating the subs increase and budget agreed by the NEC from 1 September 2020. It is intended that this be subject to retrospective endorsement by a re-scheduled Congress, which should receive an updated report and any recommended adjustments for approval.

For the full democratic continuity paper see:

https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/10855/SFC-paper-April-2020/pdf/NEC1328__Democratic_Continuity_paper.pdf

If you are unable to access documents in pdf format please contact Kay Metcalfe (kmetcalfe@ucu.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

Dr Jo Grady

General Secretary

Budget for the year ending 31 August 2021

Introduction by honorary treasurer

- 1 It is envisaged from the current perspective that 2020/21 is going to be another difficult year for all our members as they continue to experience a turbulent period of industrial relations in both sectors, together with the as yet unknown ramifications of Brexit and the difficult to predict ripples emanating from this, impacting the budget. The union is not immune to these factors and whilst we have honoured Congress policy we must also continue to be realistic about income and expenditure and the strength of the financial position of UCU.
- 2 The budget for 2020/21 has therefore been constructed realistically with a view to allowing for some element of the unexpected, coupled with expenditure proposals where possible. The budget is cautious, within the confines of the expected subscription income, together with the continued operation of the cost control procedures in place, it should be possible to offset the pressures of both of the above and together with the greater utilisation of UCU resources necessary to support the membership at this time, it is the intention to increase subscriptions by just enough to allow for an income which meets the challenges detailed previously. We have therefore constructed a subscriptions proposal that will result in the required income needed to support the budget, using projected member numbers according to band. This remains in accord with the long term policy set by SFC to maintain the financial resources of UCU in order to face the challenges ahead, with sufficient backing. However in accordance with Congress motion, we have continued to review subscription levels and present this budget which incorporates the next step in the evolution of the subscription changes envisaged within the motion.
- 3 As mentioned in the previous paragraph, the importance of membership support has continued to be a particular focus in the construction of the Budget for 2020/21 and to this end several specific areas have been allocated continued additional resources in response to this. Therefore, for the 2020/21 Budget, extra funds remain allocated to Legal costs, Branch and regional support. More specifically these are in anticipation of additional industrial legal challenges to the union and strategic legal cases on behalf of members, extra support for branches at the grass roots level and on a wider basis to look at devolved and localised negotiations, provide technical advice and assistance to the regions. We are looking to focus our provision for member training and development with a particular emphasis on young members' professional development and contributions from each area towards localised training and local negotiations. Finally and very significantly we have increased funding to the Fighting Fund by 100% or more for the year.
- 4 The additional funds allocated within the Budget 2020/21 have been directed towards the strategic political objectives set by NEC and Congress, whilst

maintaining the existing operations of UCU at its current levels.

- 5 Taking all of the above into account, the budget shows a small deficit of £(29,143), which is essentially break even and is as low as is prudently acceptable, to allow some room for unknown factors. If matters materially change during the period it may become necessary to vire between categories as required.
- 6 The following motions have been put forward to Congress by the NEC:
 1. Congress approves the appointment of Knox Cropper as the union's auditors for the year ending 31 August 2020.
 2. Congress receives the union's audited financial statements for the 12-month period ending 31 August 2019 as set out in UCU/1011.
 3. Congress endorses the budget for September 2020 – August 2021 as set out in UCU/1012.
 4. Congress accepts the Treasurer's report on progress with the review of subscription rates and bands and endorses the changes to band structures and subscription rates from 1 September 2020 set out in UCU/1013.