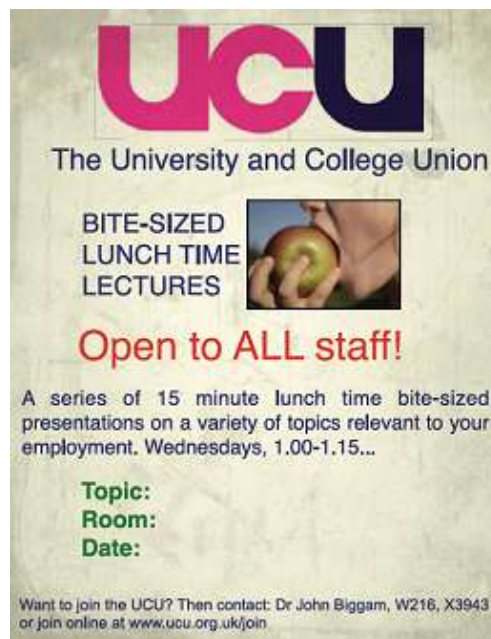


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1. Glasgow Caledonian University 'Lunchtime Bites'- A Learning Rep Initiative



A Learning Rep at Glasgow Caledonian University has created a series of 15-minute lunch-time, bite-sized presentations on a variety of topics relevant to members' and non-members' employment. The lectures, which include topics such as the fit note, holiday pay, fixed-term contracts, the employment contract, redundancy, harassment, and duty of care, are advertised by a simple but effective poster (above).

We like to hear more about your work, in which you support other trade union members to learn, and to publicise this via Learning Rep News. Please send details to dhendry@ucu.org.uk.

2. Learning Rep Training Calendar

Dates for UCU's activist education programme 2011/12 have been published and are now up on UCU's website at: www.ucu.org.uk/training.

UCU runs courses for new and experienced reps and branch officers including:

- Health & safety reps
- Environment reps
- Equality reps/officers and
- Learning reps

Dates for this year's learning reps courses are below. Please contact Abbie Jenkinson, Training Officer, at ajenkinson@ucu.org.uk to book a course. The course is 3 days comprising of ULR 1 (2 days) + ULR 2 (1 day) and attendance is expected at both.

| Region/nation | Location | Day | Course Date | Year |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------|---|------|
| Midlands | Birmingham | Tuesday | 8 th & 9 th November and 22 nd March | 2011 |
| York-shire & Humber-side | Leeds | Wednesday | 8 th & 9 th February and 5 th April | 2012 |
| Wales | Cardiff | Thursday | 19 th & 20 th April and 11 th June | 2012 |
| London/ SE/ Eastern | London | Monday | 14 th & 15 th May and 12 th June | 2012 |

3. Support for Teaching in HE and FE

Following a recent survey of early-careers staff UCU has identified that there is a need to offer this group of members additional support for their work in HE and FE. Later this year training will be put in place for this, so look out for details on the website and in Learning Rep network emails and newsletters.

In HE there is renewed interest in the role of in-house teaching courses for new academic staff. A recent article in the Times Higher produced a lively debate on the blogosphere: <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=26&storycode=416491&c=1> about the value of these courses. Some of the issues raised here reflect those previously reported to UCU (e.g. the difficulties of juggling course requirements with heavy workloads, the relevance of course content for individual subject areas and the continuing dominance of research rather than teaching as a route to career progression). At the same time, new lecturers need to be properly trained and supported in their role and therefore training and professional development should be key issues for the UCU. How this can be achieved at the institutional level might be an issue for ULRs (in HE) to raise with their own branches and local associations.

4. The unionlearn Climbing Frame

The union learning Climbing Frame is an interactive, free web-based tool, developed for union learning reps by unionlearn to help learning reps support learners and promote learning in the workplace. You may find the following features of the Climbing Frame useful:

- information provided on a broad range of learning opportunities and organised under **learning themes**, including downloadable documents, and recommended websites;
- a framework for setting goals and generating actions for individual learners under **learner management**;
- a database for record-keeping and producing reports for and on individual learners, again under **learner management**;
- discussion **forums** with other learning reps.

To register with the Climbing Frame or for more information go to:

www.climbingframe.unionlearn.org.uk .

5. unionlearn Conference, 27 June 2011

The annual unionlearn conference took place Monday 27 June at Congress House. Key note speakers were as follows.

The **TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber** gave an introduction to the conference and set the priorities for the unionlearn movement in the year to come. These are 1) to get employers to raise their game regarding skills and 2) to put learning at the heart of union renewal.

Digital Champion Martha Lane Fox talked about her campaign, *Raceonline 2012* (www.raceonline2012.org), to promote internet awareness and its use to the UK's 9 million adults who have never been online, half of whom are subject to multiple factors of deprivation. Noting that the national conversation now largely takes place online Martha Fox explained *Raceonline 2012's* aims as being to: 1) build an army of digital champions; 2) promote the uptake of cheap computers with broadband for those on benefits; 3) target local areas to get online.

David Way CBE of the **National Apprenticeship Service** gave an introduction to the National Apprenticeship Service. Apprenticeships are currently increasing, with unionlearn working in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service to promote them. Apprentices benefit both businesses and learners, however more employers are required to meet demand and a higher media profile is therefore being sought by the service. For more information see <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/About-Us/National-Apprenticeship-Service.aspx>.

Charlie Mayfield, Chairman of the UK Commission on Employment & Skills and **Chairman of the John Lewis Partnership** gave an overview of the work of the UK Commission on Employment & Skills, whose remit is to encourage employers to raise skills. The commission has four priorities: 1) to make and win the economic argument for investment in skills; 2) to enhance the value of vocational training; 3) to galvanise industries

to invest in people by articulating the skills required in future; 4) to work with sectors to create as many opportunities as possible for employment.

Lemn Sissay MBE, the first poet officially commissioned by the Olympics, read from his poems including *Spark Catchers*, which is about the match girls at the Bryant and May factory originally on the Olympic site. He also launched the fifth edition of the TUC's Tackling Racism workbook.

Following lunch the conference broke up into eight workshops on:

- Supporting learner progression into higher learning;
- Green skills, green jobs;
- Learning Journeys: equality and diversity in workplace learning;
- How can unions get more engaged with apprenticeships;
- Maths4Us: bringing maths to the people;
- Go online: Get a lifeline;
- Bargaining for Skills – Are we there yet?;
- Dyslexia Awareness.

Documents associated with the unionlearn Conference can be found at the links below:

unionlearn Annual Conference Report:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/files/publications/documents/215.pdf>

Working for learners: a handbook for unions and their union learning:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/files/publications/documents/211.pdf>

Supporting Learners: progression pathways for all trade union reps:

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/files/publications/documents/210.pdf>

6. unionlearn's Learning Rep Magazine – Summer 2011

In this issue: unionlearn conference 2011; ULR Profile; Green skills; Lemn Sissay; Adult Learners' Week; Learning centre; Community learning; Wolf Report; Guardian round table; TUC Education round-up...and more.

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/about/learn-4110-f0.cfm>

7. Learning Rep Network Meetings in the Southern and Eastern Region

Please see the list of future network meetings in the Southern and Eastern Region - the meetings listed at this link are all taking place before the end of 2011. The meetings will give you the opportunity to meet other Learning Reps, share best practice and discuss changes in policies and funding. There will also be guest speakers providing information on a wide range of issues from a variety of organisations. <http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/ulr/learn-4189-f0.cfm>

8. Other Dates for Your Diary

WEA Conference 2011: Equality, Inclusion and Action in Adult Education

Friday 28 October – East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham

Contribute to the debate at a one-day conference hosted by the Workers' Educational Association and supported by the Co-operative College.

Speakers include John Hayes MP, Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, David Hughes Chief Executive of NIACE, Dame Pauline Green President of the International Co-operative Alliance, Richard Wilkinson, author of 'The Spirit Level' and more.

Choose from sixteen interactive workshops.

Further information can be obtained at

<http://www.wea.org.uk/News/conference2011.aspx> or directly from mchica@wea.org.uk or on 020 7426 3486.

Book online now at: <http://weaconference11.eventbrite.com/>.

HE Teacher Educators Seminar: Coalition Education Policy - State Education Versus State-Funded Education

Wednesday 9 November (afternoon) – UCU's Head Office, Carlow Street, London

This seminar has been organised for HE-members educating school teachers. James Noble-Rogers, Chief Executive of UCET and Melissa Benn, recent author of 'School Wars', will speak on the current state of the DfE consultation on ITE and 'state education versus state-funded education' respectively. Professor Ken Jones, head of Goldsmiths, University of London's education department will address the impact of government policy on education research and research-informed teacher education. A panel debate chaired by UCU will draw out discussion further and give members the opportunity to contribute to UCU policy development and help shape the UCU campaign on teacher education.

Email dhendry@ucu.org.uk to register your interest and sign up to receive further information when it becomes available.

UCU Equality Conferences 2011 - UCU's Head Office, Carlow Street, London

Women Members – Friday 4 November

LGBT Members – Saturday 5 November

Black Members – Friday 11 November

Disabled Members – Friday 25 November

The Equality Conferences provide opportunity to:

- learn and discuss current issues
- network and
- engage mutual support.

There will be:

- practical workshops and
- speakers

To attend a conference you have to be a self-identifying member. You can book your place by visiting: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1868> or find out more by emailing eqadmin@ucu.org.uk.

LSIS-UCU-UNISON Annual FE Staff Governors Conference: New Government, New Institutions: Change and Development in College Structures and Governance

Thursday 24 November (all day) - UCU's Head Office, Carlow Street, London

The annual conference for FE staff governors, both members and non-members will this year focus on the development of new structures within FE and how this will impact on governance and accountability in a rapidly evolving and (further) diversifying FE sector. This practical and skills-focussed event will give an overview of the latest changes in the sector, provide case studies of the different models of governance which are emerging as a result of these changes and facilitate the development of delegates' effectiveness in carrying out their role.

There will be a small charge of £35 per person to attend to cover costs. If you would like to register to receive further information on, and an application form for, the conference, when both become available, please email Diana Hendry, Public Policy Administrator, at dhendry@ucu.org.uk. Alternatively, further information concerning the conference will be made available at: www.ucu.org.uk/festaffgovernors2011.

Defence of Public Education- Saturday 10 March 2012 (University of London Union, Malet Street, all day)

Agreed at Congress, this conference will be organised by UCU in conjunction with other education unions and will include promotion of UCU's education manifesto. Email dhendry@ucu.org.uk to register your interest and sign up to receive further information on the conference when it becomes available.

If you have any comments or queries regarding UCU Learning Rep News or would like to contribute material for the next edition, please contact: Diana Hendry, Public Policy Administrator at dhendry@ucu.org.uk. The next newsletter will be issued in November.