

THE UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE UNION AT DURHAM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Durham UCU held 1 pm on June 27th 2025
in-person in ER140 and also online via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

Martin Gleghorn, Francis Pritchard.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 14th June 2024 (available on the DUCU website)

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 14th June 2024 were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Co-Presidents' Report for the Year 2024-25

Sara Uckelman, Co-President, gave the Co-President's Annual Report, reflecting on the year; expressing appreciation for all members who have taken any action as part of the union, including other reps, committee members, and officers; and looking ahead to the new year.

Arin Mizouri, Co-President, also shared a report reflecting on the year; and addressing how to strengthen the branch in the next year.

Jamie Callahan, Membership Secretary, also shared an impromptu report on membership trends including a notable increase in professional services staff members.

5. Treasurer's Report for 2023-24

Sol Gamsu, Hon. Treasurer, presented accounts for 2023-24 (approved by national officials), which were approved by the meeting. Sol also gave an overview of key points relating to the branch's finances at present.

6. Election of Co-President for 2025-26

Jamie Callahan was elected.

7. Election of Vice-President for 2025-27

Peter Richardson was elected.

8. Election of Hon. Secretary for 2025-27

Francis Pritchard was elected.

9. Election of Anti-Casualisation Officer for 2025-26

Lukas Simkus was elected.

10. Election of Equality Officer for 2025-27

Jana Bacevic was elected.

11. Election of Membership Secretary for 2025-27

No candidate had come forward so the role remains vacant.

12. Election of Pensions Officer for 2025-27

No candidate had come forward so the role remains vacant.

13. Election of 20 Ordinary Members of the Committee for 2025-26, to include a Professional Services Rep., a Postgraduate Rep., a Fixed-Term Staff Rep., a Research-Track Staff Rep., an Education-Track Rep. and a Reps Co-ordinator.

The following were elected by virtue of Rule 9.4:

Stephen Ashe
Eamonn Bell
Mike Costello
Ric Crossman
Martin Gleghorn
Madalena Lemos
Arin Mizouri
Katie Muth*
Sitna Quiroz Uria
Jonathan Saha
Andy Shuttleworth
Laura Gilchrist-Tidd
Thomas Henderson

* Katie Muth was the sole candidate to continue as Communications Officer. The 2023 AGM passed a rule change motion to add this role to branch rules. It was expressed in today's AGM that this rule change had still not been approved by UCU head office. As such, Katie was officially re-elected as an ordinary committee member with an explanation offered.

[Minute-taker's note: The above statements regarding this role in our rules reflected the knowledge of people present in today's AGM. After the meeting, it was discovered that the rule change had in fact been approved by head office very shortly before today's AGM; had this been known, an election would have occurred for this role.

Rule 8.10 empowers the committee to appoint Katie to this role as if she had been elected.]

14. Election of Hon. Auditor for 2025-26

Peter Craig was elected.

15. Election of Representatives to the UCU Congress for 2025-26

The following were elected:

Jamie Callahan
Francis Pritchard
Sara Uckelman

It was noted that current membership numbers entitle us to four delegates. Another delegate can be elected by subsequent General Meetings or by Committee..

16. Any Other Business

A motion entitled 'Motion on Durham UCU subscriptions proposal for 2025-26,' moved by Stefano Cremonesi and seconded by Sara Uckelman, was carried. Details of the motion and voting numbers have been shared on the branch's Slack platform.

16. Any Other Business

Members were encouraged to step forward to help with the following roles:

- a. Health and Safety representatives. It was noted that these reps are entitled to paid time off for this work, separate from the branch's allocation of facilities time for union reps.
- b. Social media, to help Clare Wallace and Ric Crossman and work with Katie Muth as Communications Officer.
- c. Union Learning representative (ULR). The existing ULR Sol Gamsu would like to continue to contribute to this work but would prefer for this to be done in collaboration/support of someone else leading on this and formally taking on the role instead of Sol. It was noted that ULRs are entitled to paid time off for this work, separate from the branch's allocation of facilities time for union reps.
- d. The motion proposed by Sol Gamsu circulated in advance of the meeting was withdrawn.

Caleb Day (Branch Administrator/Organiser)
27 June 2025