

THE UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE UNION AT DURHAM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Durham UCU held at 12 noon on Wednesday 17th June 2026 online via Zoom

Members are also directed to a supplementary notes document with more details on the discussions, shared on the branch's Slack platform (#motions-and-minutes channel). Please contact cday@ucu.org.uk to join Slack or request these supplementary notes.

The meeting was quorate.

1. Apologies for Absence

Jamie Callahan, Peter Richardson

2. Chair's Note

The chair (Co-President Sara Uckelman) advised regarding the branch's previous vote to move the AGM from June to Feb-March to give more time to plan workload release for the incoming officers/ reps (who step into roles from 1 September). This rule change had not been approved in time for March 11's meeting to be the AGM, however we held elections during that meeting, to be ratified today. This should be sorted out in time for an AGM earlier in the year in 2027.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 27th June 2025 ([available on the DUCU website](#)) were accepted as a correct record.

The minutes of the last General Meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2026 (available on Slack, contact cday@ucu.org.uk for information) were accepted as a correct record.

The minutes of the Wednesday 11th March General Meeting were noted and appended at the bottom of the agenda (also at the bottom of these minutes) for reasons explained above (Chair's Note).

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Treasurer's Report for 2024-25

Sol Gamsu, Hon. Treasurer, presented the 2024-25 accounts as sent to the elected auditor (Peter Craig) for auditing, highlighting key points regarding income, expenditure, and assets during that year. Sol also shared an overview of finances for the not-yet-complete 2025-26 year. There has been increased branch income due to the subs changes last year's AGM voted for. This has enabled increased expenditure in the form of donations to other branches undertaking industrial action, and a regular transfer into the branch's local hardship fund of approximately 1/7 of monthly branch income..

6-15: Elections

The below candidates were elected by virtue of [Rule 9.4](#). The meeting ratified by acclamation the elections held at the 11th March 2026 meeting, and new elections for vacant roles were held today. The chair and the Treasurer made comments encouraging members to step forward for vacant officer roles, committee roles, and other roles, including discussion of paid time release which the branch has won entitlement to. The Committee can fill vacancies between AGMs, per Rule 8.10. After today's

elections, there are two officer vacancies and 12 vacancies for ordinary committee members (potentially 5 more per Rule 7.3).

6. Election of President for 2026-2028

Jamie Callahan and Andy Shuttleworth were elected as co-presidents (job share) – ratified from March.

7. Election of Treasurer for 2026-28

Sol Gamsu was elected – ratified from March.

8. Election of Membership Secretary for 2026-27 (finishing a two-year term)

No candidate had come forward so the role remains vacant.

9. Election of Equality Officer for 2026-27 (finishing a two-year term)

Rosalind Porter was elected – newly elected.

10. Election of Anti-Casualisation Officer for 2026-28

Lukas Simkus was elected – ratified from March.

11. Election of Pensions Officer for 2026-27 (finishing a two-year term)

No candidate had come forward so the role remains vacant.

12. Election of Communications Officer for 2026-28

Katie Muth was elected – ratified from March.

13. Election of up to 20 Ordinary Members of the Committee for 2026-27.

Committee may assign special responsibilities to members e.g. Casework Coordinator, Professional Services Rep., Postgraduate Researcher Rep., Fixed-Term Rep., Research or Research-Track Rep., Education-Track Rep., Reps Co-ordinator. Some intended responsibilities of those elected were notified and are noted.

Ratified from March:

Jana Bacevic (Environment Rep.);
Eamonn Bell;
Mike Costello (CIS Rep.);
Ric Crossman (Communications assistance; Organising Committee chair);
Zahra Khomarbaghi (Research Rep.);
Jonathan Saha (Casework Coordinator); and
Rachel White (Fixed-Term Rep.) were elected.

Newly elected:

Tom Henderson was elected.

12 vacancies remain for elected ordinary committee members.

14. Election of Hon. Auditor for 2026-27

Peter Craig was elected.

15. Election of Representative to the UCU Congress for 2025-2026

Andy Shuttleworth was elected – ratified from March.

The following were already elected at the June 2025 AGM:

Jamie Callahan

Francis Pritchard

Sara Uckelman

16. Motion regarding local subscription fees for 2026-27

A motion entitled ‘Local subs for 2026-27 - Durham UCU’, moved by Sol Gamsu and seconded by Tom Henderson, was carried. Details of the motion and voting numbers have been shared on the branch’s Slack platform.

17. Motion regarding fixed-term contracts

A motion entitled ‘Motion on treatment of staff on 'fixed-term' contracts’, moved by Lukas Simkus and seconded by Sol Gamsu, was carried, with one friendly amendment by Jonathan Saha accepted by the mover. Details of the motion and voting numbers have been shared on the branch’s Slack platform.

18. Any Other Business

The chair advised that the next General Meeting date is to be confirmed, as is the next Annual General Meeting (hopefully early in 2027 – see Chair’s Note).

Members were encouraged to attend Organising Committee, open to all members and currently meeting weekly on Tuesday afternoons 3:30-4:30pm on Zoom. Members should email Ric Crossman (by Durham University email) for information.

Caleb Day (Branch Administrator/Organiser)

17th June 2026

Draft until approved by 2027 AGM

Note below: Appendix: Minutes of 11th March 2026 meeting

Appendix: Minutes of 11th March 2026 meeting

THE UNIVERSITY & COLLEGE UNION AT DURHAM

Minutes of the General Meeting of Durham UCU held 3pm on Wednesday 11th March 2026 in-person in ER149 and also online via Zoom

Note: Committee intended for this meeting to be the Annual General meeting, following [this rule change](#) to move AGMs from June to within two weeks of 1 March. Unfortunately we have not yet received confirmation of this rule change from UCU headquarters. Therefore, this is a general meeting, not an AGM. However, elections were held for next year's Officer and Committee roles. There will be a formal AGM in June with the intention to ratify these elections. Committee has decided on this process following advice from the Secretary and in consideration of practices in previous years when changes to standard AGM processes were necessary.

Minutes for this meeting have been taken in the form customary for Annual General Meetings. Members are also directed to a supplementary notes document with more details on the motions discussion and voting, shared on the branch's Slack platform (#motions-and-minutes channel). Please contact cday@ucu.org.uk to join Slack or request these supplementary notes.

The meeting was quorate.

1. Apologies for Absence

Stefano Cremonesi, Sol Gamsu

2. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 27th June 2025 ([available on the DUCU website](#)) were accepted as a correct record.

The minutes of the last General Meeting held on 11th February 2026 (available on Slack, contact cday@ucu.org.uk for information) were accepted as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Note

The chair (Co-President Sara Uckelman) advised regarding the status of today's general meeting (as explained in Note above).

5. Co-Presidents' Report for the Year 2025-26

Sara L. Uckelman, Co-President, gave the Co-Presidents' Annual Report, reflecting on the year and advising that the current Co-Presidents' term comes to an end at the end of this year (31 August 2026). Sara will step down after serving a full term. Jamie Callahan, serving with Sara as Co-President for 2025-26, will continue, upon election with Andy Shuttleworth as Co-Presidents for 2026-2028. Peter Richardson, elected last year as Vice-President, will continue.

Sara expressed welcome and encouragement to any members wanting to become ordinary committee members or to fill Officer vacancies. Members can enquire to president@ucu.org.uk or to [any committee member](#). Committee and Officer roles are elected at the AGM and vacancies can be filled

between AGMs. Committee members can take on specific duties or serve without portfolio. Officers and some reps with portfolio are allocated facilities time (paid time for union duties). Roles elected today take effect on 1 September; people sometimes organise earlier handover processes.

6. Treasurer's Report for 2024-25

Sol Gamsu, Hon. Treasurer, has sent apologies for this meeting. Sol has reported in absentia that our financial position is sound and healthy. He has sent to UCU headquarters all the necessary documents for the 2024-25 accounts. These will be circulated at a later date when ready. UCU operates to a September-August financial year.

7. Election of Co-President for 2026-2028

Jamie Callahan and Andy Shuttleworth were elected.

8. Election of Treasurer for 2026-28

Sol Gamsu was elected.

9. Election of Membership Secretary for 2026-27

No candidate had come forward so the role remains vacant.

10. Election of Anti-Casualisation Officer for 2026-28

Lukas Simkus was elected.

11. Election of Pensions Officer for 2026-27

No candidate had come forward so the role remains vacant.

12. Election of Communications Officer for 2026-28

Katie Muth was elected.

13. Election of up to 20 Ordinary Members of the Committee for 2026-27.

Committee may assign special responsibilities to members e.g. Casework Coordinator, Professional Services Rep., Postgraduate Researcher Rep., Fixed-Term Rep., Research or Research-Track Rep., Education-Track Rep., Reps Co-ordinator. Some intended responsibilities of those elected were notified and are noted.

The following were elected by virtue of Rule 9.4:

Jana Bacevic
Eamonn Bell
Mike Costello (CIS Rep.)
Ric Crossman
Zahra Khomarbaghi (Research Rep.)
Jonathan Saha (Casework Coordinator)
Rachel White (Fixed-Term Rep.)

14. Election of Hon. Auditor for 2026-27

Peter Craig was elected.

15. Election of Representative to the UCU Congress for 2025-2026

Andy Shuttleworth was elected.

The following were already elected at the June 2025 AGM:

Jamie Callahan
Francis Pritchard
Sara Uckelman

16. Motion regarding War on Iran and Escalation in the Middle East

A motion entitled 'Motion Concerning Durham UCU Response to the War on Iran and the Escalation in the Middle East,' moved by Zahra Khomarbahi and seconded by Emily Wilkinson, was carried. Details of the motion and voting numbers have been shared on the branch's Slack platform.

17. Motion to Congress regarding Progressive Subscriptions

Two motions were tabled and moved, each giving effect to one of the Resolves from the motion at last year's AGM to bring a motion to Congress pushing for progressive UK-wide subscriptions:

- 'Motion to Congress on Progressive Subscriptions', moved by Sara L. Uckelman (SLU) and Tom Henderson
- 'Congress motion "Fairer subscription rates"', moved by Madalena Lemos (ML) on behalf of author Stefano Cremonesi

The motions and their similarities and differences were discussed. Amendments were proposed and accepted to SLU's motion, incorporating elements of ML's motion. The Chair notified that we would vote on SLU's motion first, and if it carried, the other motion would fall as a consequential, because the branch can only directly submit one motion to Congress. SLU's motion was carried and therefore the branch will submit the enclosed motion to Congress 2026. ML's motion fell.

Details of the motions and voting numbers have been shared on the branch's Slack platform.

18. Any Other Business

The chair advised that the next General Meeting date is to be confirmed, but may be in the second or third week of Easter term.

Members were encouraged to attend Organising Committee, open to all members and currently meeting weekly on Tuesday afternoons 3:30-4:30pm on Zoom. Members should email Peter on vicepresident@durhamucu.org.uk for information.

Caleb Day (Branch Administrator/Organiser)
18th March 2026
Approved by 6th May 2026 general meeting