**D.U.C.U. Branch Meeting: 14th April, 2015**

**Present:** Marion Sporing (chair)

Mona Clark (assistant secretary)

Mary Senior (UCU Scotland Regional Officer)

32 members

Four representatives of UNITE porters’ strike, Ninewells

**Apologies:** There were four formal apologies, including that of Ian Ellis, DUCU President

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1. The meeting opened with the UNITE representatives explaining the reasons behind the porters’ strike at Ninewells and Royal Victoria hospitals. The key issue is the banding or grade of the porters there, which was classified as Grade 1, whereas NHS porters elsewhere are Grade 2. UNITE has fighting the issue for ten years, but despite successfully taking their case up in court and despite the requests for documentation from management which would support their argument, management has refused to accept it. The meeting agreed to give £500 to the UNITE strike fund.
2. As yet the final official numbers of posts in the University being threatened has l not been settled, as those who have applied for VS or are still being considered for VS and some staff in Medicine and CASS are still at risk. It was noted that, unlike the previous plan, this time ALC posts were also being targeted. The final numbers will be presented at the Court meeting on April 20th.
3. Industrial action: ballot result. On a 41.6% turnout, 72% voted YES for strike action and 88% voted YES for action short of a strike. DUCU thanked the officials who came from the Edinburgh office to help get out the vote. The result will go to UCU Higher Education Committee for ratification , and then management will be given formal notice of the initial two days’ strike action – April 28th and May 5th. The meeting voted unanimously for the proposed plan of strikes.
4. Discussion followed on the various ‘actions short of a strike’ . The non-completion of the Excellence Review form was one proposal, and the refusal to take part in any administrative duties connected with the examinations diet were referred to. There was some lack of clarity over whether refusal to complete the form could be said to be breaking one’s contract. There is still conflict over the principle of the Review form, as it lacked transparency as to what ‘excellence’ was, and there was a lack of consistency in the criteria between departments. There was a view that members should not be engaged in such management demands as a matter of principle.
5. It was agreed to inform the other two unions, UNISON and UNITE, of DUCU’s proposals for action, and to contact DUSA for their support. The first action to take place will be the lobby of Court on April 20th.

Mona Clark (Assistant Secretary) April 17th, 2015