



**Campaign for a Fair Deal for Support Staff**

[www.birminghamuniunison.org.uk](http://www.birminghamuniunison.org.uk)

**Strike Bulletin Three**

**Vice Chancellor Pay Rise £28, 000 per year. You 1%**  
**Strike for Fair Pay for all \*\*\*Strike for a Living Wage of £7.65 an hour**

**UNISON and UNITE members walk out in historic strike**

## **Strike caused disruption to University services across campus Library's Shut—Catering outlets shut Departmental offices closed**

**Record 150+ staff out on protests and picket lines**  
**Senior member of University Executive (UEB) heard saying,**  
**'this is b\*\*\*\*y chaos'**

Reports from across campus showed serious disruption to University services. 2 University site library's were shut, with 3 others running a reduced service and closing early. The main University library shut early on both Wednesday and Thursday, closing over 3 hours early on the Thursday. Many catering outlets were shut with long queues at others as senior managers struggled to provide even the most basic of service. In many colleges departmental offices were shut to students with students unable to get basic questions answered on the day.

### **University Services at tipping point**

Many University services were close to being tipped over the edge and it would only take a few more staff to walk out to cause the University to shut large numbers of its services

**Branch meetings this week—see details overpage**

**The Student Experience—The University needs to invest in its staff**  
UNISON members want to create the best student experience, we did after all contribute to making Birmingham 'University of the Year' and we have no wish to disrupt the learning environment of our students. Sadly, however, after 8 months of meetings the University have refused to enter serious negotiations to resolve the dispute and have not increased the pay offer by a single penny.

***Our students deserve well paid, skilled and motivated staff, not staff worried about paying the gas and electric***

**Where next? Come to UNISON members meetings on Tuesday 1pm, G33, School of Education and Wednesday 9am (the Wednesday meeting will also discuss cleaning staff PDR issues). The Wednesday venue will be confirmed on the branch website [www.birminghamuniunison.org.uk](http://www.birminghamuniunison.org.uk) , text messages and put up on posters.**

The strike was solid across the University showing the strong depth of feeling about the imposed 1% pay award. Your UNISON Branch committee believe further strike action can win the dispute. Please come to the branch meeting where specific proposals will be debated and discussed.

### **Lowest paid and part time staff discriminated against in the PDR process**

UNISON are also deeply concerned that band 100 staff are up to 5 times less likely to be awarded an increment than band 500 staff. Part time staff in many area's are also significantly less likely to get an increment than their equivalent full time colleagues. These issues are being discussed at the review of the PDR scheme but we want to discuss them with cleaning staff in particular on Wednesday.

### **Thank you to Local MP's and Councillors**

We would like to thank local councillor and Selly Oak constituency chair Karen McCarthy for coming and talking to many members on the picket lines and to Steve McCabe MP for Selly Oak for raising the issue in Parliament last week as to why the University do not pay the Living Wage. We have now had support from large numbers of local MP's and the deputy leader of Birmingham City Council.

### **Thank you to the Guild of Students, Chaplaincy and sister trade unions.**

We had amazing support from the Guild who opened up a room for us and to the many students who came to show their support from as early as 5am! The chaplaincy who kindly let us use the hall for our final packed rally and to the speakers from UCU and VP Education Hattie Craig and finally to UNITE members for striking together with us

## **Thank you to every member for making it such a success**

### **KEY Post Strike Questions/Information**

- *I have received a letter/email from the University asking me to say if I was on strike*  
You are under no obligation to fill this in and UNISON's advice is not to do so. It is your managers responsibility to confirm if you were working or not.
- *I use an excel flexitime sheet, how do I feel this in.*  
Just leave it blank, it should carry over as normal from the Wednesday. Any questions please email Matt.
- *How do I apply for the UNISON hardship fund?*  
The application form is on our branch website or any rep can give you a copy. Just think about how much you need to request and submit it with a payslip showing the amount deducted.
- *I believe I am being bullied or victimised*  
If you feel you are being bullied or victimised because of strike or any other reason please contact Matt Raine or Lee Crutchley straightaway. It is illegal for the University to victimise you for taking strike action