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Save ESOL

The '**Save ESOL**' campaign to prevent new restrictions on access to vital ESOL courses is capturing national attention. This week, Roger Kline, National Head of Equality and Employment Rights at UCU, and ESOL tutor and UCU member Beatrice Jackson, debated ESOL proposals with lifelong learning minister Bill Rammell on BBC Radio 4's "The Learning Curve".

The programme is repeated on Sunday 25 February at 11pm and will be available online from the BBC on:

www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/factual/learningcurve.shtml.

Support the Lobby

Our lobby of Parliament on Wednesday 28 February will involve hundreds of people

from around the country. (Sheffield College alone has organised two coaches to bring people to London). Many principals are expressing support and some colleges are sponsoring transport. Everyone is welcome to join the lobby. See details on

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=1975>. The Early Day Motion has already attracted support from over 130 MPs. **An excellent article summarising our case was in The Guardian at:** <http://education.guardian.co.uk/tefl/comment/story/0,,1986359,00.html>

Sign the Petition

Please sign the online petition at:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2014> Get students and colleagues to support. 1000 have already done so.

Election for UCU General Secretary and NEC

HAVE YOU VOTED?

Ballots are open until **7 March 2007**. Any member who has not received ballot material should go to www.ucu.org.uk/elections to submit their ballot paper query online. Members unable to access UCU's website should contact the membership department at UCU's head offices.

Voting is by single transferable vote, this means members must number their ballot papers in the order of their preferred candidates ie. **do not use X to express your vote, use 1 for your most preferred candidate and 2 for your second preference and so on**. Full instructions for voting will be included in the ballot mailing.

Use your vote – make UCU the union you want

College and University Support Network (CUSN)

CUSN has already had 3,830 visitors to its website since the launch at the end of October. Set up by a partnership of UCU and Teacher Support Network, CUSN offers round-the-clock telephone counselling, fact sheets, online coaching, money advice and needs-based grants and loans specifically for college and university academic and related staff and their families.

Out of all the calls/emails in this period, the top issues were:

- Working conditions - 30.5% (of which 16% were about legal issues, 8% about worklife balance and 3% about performance & pay)
- Money - 30.5% (of which 19% were about grants and loans, 4.5% about money difficulties and 2.5% about making the most of your money)
- Careers - 10%
- People and relationships - 9%
- Information call - 7.5%
- Health and wellbeing - 7%
- Personal - 5.5%

Find out more

Branches and Local Associations will have received boxes of leaflets and posters from CUSN. These are to enable local UCU reps promote to colleagues the free support services available. Please take every opportunity to distribute these among your members. If you have not received any promotional material please contact enquiries@cusn.info

CUSN facilities complement the support provided by UCU and members are always referred to the union for advice and help where appropriate. The statistics on issues raised will help UCU develop its bargaining and campaigning work.



UCU Surveys on Continuous Professional Development

The FE Department is conducting surveys on:

- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) (survey already sent out)
- Time off/remission and advice and guidance for initial teacher training programmes (survey forms about to go out)

If you receive a questionnaire please send it back as soon as possible to the FE Department using the prepaid envelope.

A further survey is being prepared on the literacy and numeracy needs of FE lecturers. If you are a branch and/or UCU learning rep and could help with this, please contact Dan Taubman at dtaubman@ucu.org.uk

Improvement Notices

The LSC has just published its guidance on what will trigger improvement notices being served on "failing or coasting colleges," what will happen following these notices. This guidance can be found on:

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/natidentifyingmanagingunderperformance_pt1-jan07.pdf

http://readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/natidentifyingmanagingunderperformance_pt2-jan07.pdf

If your college has or is about to be issued with an Improvement Notice, contact your Regional Office immediately.

A poster for a national rally. At the top, it says "United Campaign to repeal the anti-trade union laws" in red and black. Below that, "National Rally for Trade Union Freedom" is written in large, bold, black letters. A red box on the left contains the date and time: "Thursday March 1 2007 7pm, House of Commons Committee Room 12 (Nearest Tube Westminster)". Below the title, a list of "Confirmed Speakers" includes John Hendy QC (chair), John McDonnell MP, Tony Benn, Tony Woodley (T&G General Secretary), Bob Crow (RMT General Secretary), Katy Clark MP, Billy Hayes (CWU General Secretary), Matt Wrack (FBU General Secretary), Christine Blower (NUT Deputy General Secretary), and Roger Kline (UCU Head of Employment Rights). At the bottom, it says "The National Rally is sponsored by THOMPSONS SOLICITORS" and "Join the campaign - visit www.unitedcampaign.org.uk".

ASSEMBLE 12 noon
Central London
Rally in Trafalgar Square, London

CND and Stop the War Coalition have called a NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION in London on Saturday 24 February 2007, with the slogans:



NO TRIDENT and TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ.

AUT and NATFHE were affiliated to StWC. UCU is affiliated and continues that support.

The timing for this demonstration has been determined by the parliamentary agenda. Parliament will debate and vote on Trident in early March.

Local Stop the War groups and supporters in unions have been asked to do the following to build the widest support for the demonstration:

- Book coaches to bring protestors to London on 24 February 
- Organise lobbies of local MPs, urging them to vote against Trident
- Organise public meetings to build support for the demonstration
- Encourage local trade unions, mosques, faith organisations and community groups to publicise the demonstration

Leaflets, posters, stickers and postcards publicising the demonstration are available from the national Stop the War office. Telephone 020 7278 6694 to place orders. Further details and news: <http://www.stopwar.org.uk/>

UCU MEMBERS are urged to organise college meetings before 24 February. Local StWC groups will be happy to help:

<http://www.stopwar.org.uk/new/involved/index.htm>

To join the UCU members network of Stop the War Coalition supporters, email tphillips@ucu.org.uk and put **'join network'** in the subject box.