

DRAFT

**UCUS/517
March 2012**



**Minutes of the 6th Meeting of UCU Scotland Congress
held on Friday 23 March 2012 commencing at 9:15am
in the Hermiston Room, Novotel Edinburgh Park,
Lochside Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9DJ**

Present: **Executive:** D Anderson, S Ashworth, N Bird, F Brown, D Chademana, D Chalmers, A Godfrey-Brown, A Gow, A Higgison, A Lamb, L McIntosh, I Reid, A Roger, A Samuel, E Scandrett, G Watson

Local Association Representatives: J Aitken (Dundee), R Aylett (Heriot-Watt), I Banks (Glasgow), J Biggam (Glasgow Caledonian), M Clark (Dundee), N Davidson (Strathclyde), A Dickinson (Glasgow), M Heslop (Strathclyde), P Jenkins (Abertay Dundee), B Levine (Glasgow Caledonian), M McConnell (Aberdeen), M Orr (St Andrews), B Pillans (Glasgow Caledonian), N Simonova (Edinburgh), V Smith (St Andrews), W Stewart (Glasgow), S Trill (Edinburgh), L Wanggren (Edinburgh).

UCU Vice President: Simon Renton

In attendance: T Axon, A Cowan, C Johnston, E McGowan, M Senior, D Shepherd

Observer: Hugh Higgins (Stow College)

Guest Speaker: Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning

Press: A Denholm (Herald), S MacKinnon (BBC)

Visitors: T Brotherstone (UCU Scotland), H Cunningham (TUC), V Ellis (EIS/ULA), G Gray (Scottish Government), M McPherson (Edinburgh University Students Association), J Merchant (Thompsons Solicitors), R Parker (NUS Scotland), R Prendergast (UCU Northern Ireland), M Watson (TUC).

1 Welcome

The President welcomed all members and guests to the sixth meeting of UCU Scotland Congress.

2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from M Arrowsmith (St Andrews), C Breathnach (Strathclyde), M Dozier (Edinburgh), I Ferguson (Stirling), P Gay y Blasco (St Andrews), M Gudim (UWS), J Hackel (UHI), B Corrigan (Stow College), T Hoad (UCU), S Hunt (UCU), H Kirby (Edinburgh Napier), M MacNeil (UCU), J McClelland (SFC), P McGuire (Thompsons), R McPherson (Thompsons), V Mills (GCU), R Mochrie (Heriot-Watt), C Morelli (Dundee), A Munro (EIS), A Scott (LLL), A Sim (US), E Tilley (UCU Wales).

3 Minutes of 5th UCU Scotland Congress Meeting – UCUS/405

The minutes were approved as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4 Congress Business Committee 2nd Report - UCUS/513

S Trill reported that motion 3 and motion 12 had been amended and motion 10 had been moved further down the list. There was one emergency motion which would be taken at the end of the final section.

The President drew members' attention to the call for nominations to the Congress Business Committee (UCUS/501) as there was one vacancy for a term of two years, to be filled.

Congress business was temporarily suspended as the Chair welcomed the guest speaker, Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, and invited him to address Congress. A question and answer session followed.

The Chair thanked Michael Russell MSP for his very interesting presentation and Congress business proceeded.

5 President's Address

The Vice President invited the President to deliver his annual address. The President thanked all the branch representatives for attending Congress and for all their hard work throughout the year. He then delivered his annual address.

(The full text of his speech is available on the UCU Scotland website.)

6 Honorary Secretary's Report - UCUS/508

The President invited the Honorary Secretary to speak to her report, copies of which had previously been circulated. The Honorary Secretary presented her report on the work of UCU Scotland over the past year. She thanked all the branch representatives and staff for the fantastic job they had done on behalf of their members during what had been a particularly busy year with the huge amount of organising involved for the successful industrial action.

7 Honorary Treasurer's Report - UCUS/507/507a

The President invited the Honorary Treasurer to speak to her report. The Treasurer stated that UCU Scotland's finances showed a healthy balance. She expressed her thanks to A Cowan for her help and for keeping the running of the day to day accounts in check.

Congress business was briefly suspended as the Chair invited S Renton, UCU Vice President to address Congress. The UCU Vice President spoke about the General Secretary's manifesto pledge to improve services to members and branches and to review UCU's structures. Members would be balloted on major changes from Monday 12 March and he looked forward to hearing their views on the reforms.

The President thanked S Renton for his update.

**8 Motions
Section 1: Governance**

Amended Motion 1

Higher Education Governance in Scotland

Was moved by M McConnell, seconded by M Orr and carried unanimously

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Motion 2

Composite: Scottish Governance Report

Was moved by I Banks, seconded by A Samuel and carried unanimously

Amended Motion 3

Independent Review of HE Governance

Was moved by D Chalmers, seconded by M McConnell and carried unanimously

The President invited T Brotherstone to speak on the Governance Review as he had been a representative of the Review Group. The President thanked T Brotherstone for his contribution. D Anderson, UCU Vice President also spoke welcoming the motion.

Motion 4

Glasgow Caledonian University Staff Survey

Was moved by J Biggam, seconded by A Samuel and carried unanimously

Section 2: Post-16 Education

Motion 5

Post-16 Education

Was moved by D Anderson on behalf of UCU Scotland Executive, seconded by E Scandrett and carried unanimously

Motion 6

Institutional Collaboration in Delivering Post-16 Education

Was moved A Samuel, seconded by J Aitken and carried unanimously

Section 3: Health & Safety and Management of Workload

Motion 7

Health & Safety Issues in Universities (Executive)

Was moved by J Biggam on behalf of UCU Scotland Executive, seconded by A Lamb and carried unanimously

Motion 8

Composite: Performance

Management and Development

Was moved by A Samuel, seconded by D Anderson and carried unanimously

Motion 9

Workloads

Was moved by W Stewart, seconded by A Lamb and carried *nem con*

Section 4: Political and Campaigning

Amended Motion 11

INTO at Glasgow Caledonian University

Was moved by B Levine, seconded by N Davidson and carried *unanimously*

Motion 12

Glasgow Caledonian University London

Was moved by D Chalmers, seconded by A Samuel and carried *unanimously*

Motion 13

Overseas Students and Workers (Executive)

Was moved by L McIntosh on behalf of UCU Scotland Executive, seconded by L Wanggren and carried *unanimously*

Motion 10

STUC Independent Referendum Commission

Was moved by W Stewart, seconded by I Banks. Congress agreed to remit the motion to UCU Scotland Executive.

Motion 14

UCU and Constitutional Change

Was moved by A Samuel on behalf of UCU Scotland Executive, seconded by A Lamb and carried *unanimously as a motion to be submitted to UCU Congress*

Emergency Motion

Was moved by E Scandrett, seconded by a Samuel. Following a vote of 13 for, 14 against, and 5 abstentions, the motion was lost.

The President invited V Ellis, President EIS/ULA, to speak to Congress. Dr Ellis was looking forward to UCU Scotland and EIS/ULA working closely and effectively together in the future.

The President thanked Dr Ellis.

Lunch was served.

Congress was reconvened following lunch.

9 Health & Safety Session

J Biggam, Glasgow Caledonian, gave an informative and interesting presentation emphasising the importance of health and safety in the workplace. A question and answer session followed.

J Biggam informed staff that the 23rd National Hazards conference 2012, would take place on 31st August– 2nd September at the University of Keele and appealed to every branch to send a £100 donation to the Hazards Appeal.

Vote of thanks to Guests

D Anderson, Vice President UCU Scotland, proposed a vote of thanks to the guests who were about to leave Congress prior to the UCU Scotland constitutional debate which was being held in a closed session.

Vaughan Ellis

TUC Education team

NUS Scotland representatives

Student Association representatives

The Press

Closed Session

10 Constitutional Debate

The Vice President introduced the debate and a discussion followed.

11 Votes of Thanks

D Anderson, Vice President UCU Scotland, thanked everyone for attending Congress and proposed votes of thanks to the following:

A Cowan for all her efforts organising the conference.
Fellow officers and local officers and all in UCU Scotland
Simon Renton
Renee Prendergast
M Senior and the Scottish Office staff, D Shepherd, C Johnston,
T Axon, A Cowan and E McGowan.

D Anderson thanked the President for all his work during his first year and wished him all the best for the year ahead.

The President thanked D Anderson and everyone for attending.

12 Any Other Business

D Anderson, Vice President, informed members that S Ashworth had been nominated to the Congress Business Committee for 2013 Congress.

The Chair closed Congress.