

**MARCH  
FOR THE  
ALTERNATIVE:**  
JOBS • GROWTH • JUSTICE

SATURDAY 26  
MARCH 2011  
Assembly at Trafalgar Square, London  
Assembly at Trafalgar Square and Banquet at the  
Assembly at Trafalgar Square and Banquet at the  
Assembly at Trafalgar Square and Banquet at the



**SAY NO TO  
UNFAIR AND UNNECESSARY  
SPENDING CUTS**

February 2011 Newsletter of UCL UNISON incorporating London School of Hygiene and Royal Veterinary College

The only news worth reading, from UCL UNISON - Your friend in the workplace

## SPECIAL EDITION SPECIAL EDITION

JOBS • GROWTH • JUSTICE  
SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011

**Government spending cuts will damage public services and put more than a million out of work. They will hit the vulnerable, damage communities and undermine much of what holds us together as a society.**

Ministers say there is no alternative. But both of the government's two key decisions are political choices, not economic necessity.

- **Eliminating the deficit in just four years** is a savage timetable that does not give economic growth the opportunity to raise the nation's tax take. Indeed the deep cuts promised will depress the economy making deeper cuts necessary to meet this timetable.
- **Raising four pounds through cuts for every pound raised through tax** – and doing most of this through a rise in VAT that hits the poor and those on middle income the most – is deeply unfair. The recession was made in the finance sector, yet banks and those now enjoying gigantic bonuses once again, are not being asked to make a fair contribution. Yet none of these policies were put to the British people at the election, indeed we were told that there was no need for cuts in front-line services.

People round the country are already campaigning against these deep, rapid cuts. Students have shown their opposition to cuts, the ends of EMAs and increases in fees. Parents and teachers have opposed cuts in school building. School sport, libraries and public woodlands all now have strong defenders. Few towns now don't have their own campaign group. The TUC's March for the Alternative has two key aims.

- **First we want to give a national voice to all those affected by the cuts.** This will be a huge event that in its breadth and support shows just how much opposition there is to the government's programme. It will bring together public service workers and those who depend on good public services. Those involved in national campaigns, and those defending what is special in their own community.
- **Second we want to show that people reject the argument that there is no alternative.** Of course the recession did damage to our economy. But these deep rapid cuts are not the best way to solve our problems, and may well make them worse.

That is why it is the March for the Alternative – an alternative in which rich individuals and big companies have to pay all their tax, that the banks pay a Robin Hood tax and on in which we strain every sinew to create jobs and boost the sustainable economic growth that will generate the prosperity which is the only long term way to close the deficit and reduce the nation's debt.

**THE TRADES Union Congress**

**IS THIS NEWSLETTER UNDELIVERABLE? HAS THE ADDRESSEE LEFT?**

If the member that this newsletter is addressed to no longer works at UCL please return to:  
UCL UNISON Membership Secretary, c/o Dept of Epidemiology & Public Health, 1-19 Torrington Place

**UNISON**  
the public service union

## The Strides of March

**The government's cuts to vital public services are not inevitable – they are a political choice, and they're the wrong choice for the economy.**

**That's the message UNISON will be putting forward when we march for public services on 26 March, with other trade unions, community groups and service users on a TUC organised national demonstration in London.**

It's a message that we must get out to a wider public and our own members – a message that needs as many people as possible marching in March.

When times are tough, people need good local services more than ever: they help support communities; help people back into work; help give our children the best start in life; help care for our sick and elderly.

And by putting money into local services, we help to kick-start economic growth and recover from the recession caused by irresponsible banks.

There is an alternative:

- fair taxation;
- investment in our local communities, health and education;
- a more equal and just society.

It is a message backed by more than 'the usual suspects' – economists from across the political spectrum are saying so too.

Cambridge economist Ha-Joon Chang, for example, explains the roots of what has been happening in recent years in his book *23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism*, in layman's terms.

Or as Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz explains: "If you have a household that can't pay its debts, you tell it to cut back on spending to free up the cash to pay the debts.

"But in a national economy, if you cut back on your spending, then economic activity goes down, nobody invests, the amount of tax you take goes down, the amount you pay out in unemployment benefits goes up – and you don't have enough money to pay your debts."

Just look at Ireland – praised by George Osborne as a model to follow, but which has seen its economic crisis deepen after a series of austerity budgets, one following swiftly after another, have just made matters worse.

Do we want that to happen in the UK? Can we afford to let it happen in the UK?

Well the coalition parties have chosen to take that risk. And they are 'front loading' the cuts, swinging the axe particularly hard in this year.

2011 starts with 140,000 or more job losses being announced in local government alone – 40% more than the Local Government Association originally said.

In mid-January, just one council, Manchester city council, announced that it is looking for 2,000 job losses to deal with a government cut in its funds of £110m – 25% of its budget in one year, even though the government claimed in December that no council would face cuts of more than 8.9%.

That's just one example. Neighbouring Tameside is to axe 800 jobs over four years – 550 of them this year. Bristol plans to lose 340 jobs this year, up from 300 announced in October. Newcastle is to axe 1,000 posts this year and 2,000 in total, although the government will only fund 38% of its redundancy costs – meaning the city has to find another £14m to pay for cuts.

Similarly, Cambridgeshire has announced 450 job cuts in the next 12 months after initially suggesting 300; Somerset is planning to axe £43m worth of services and 700 jobs; Surrey is looking to cut 1,000 jobs; Walsall estimates 1,850 job losses over the next few years; 600 jobs are at risk in Northants as the council tries to save £68m; Worcester is expecting 200 job losses by April and 1,500 over the next five years; Bradford has issued 'at risk' notices to all 18,000 of its employees ... the list goes on.

And, as UNISON head of local government Heather Wakefield has pointed out: "Every redundancy is a personal tragedy". She added: "We will fight to defend every job."

Local government is clearly at the forefront of the attack on public services this year, but it is not alone. In total, UNISON has direct information on 78,452 announced threatened job losses to accommodate £4.373bn budget cuts, with news of more coming in every day across all sectors and all regions.

And with devolved governments announcing their budgets, the union has warned of 4,000 health jobs at risk in Northern Ireland.

Some 125,000 jobs – 5% of everyone employed – are at risk in Scotland this year because of the cuts: 60,000 in the public sector and 65,000 in the private.

Wales, with central funding cut by 7.5% could see 38,000 public-sector job losses.

It paints a gloomy picture – with brushes and paint supplied by a government imposing its decision on local councils, 'front-loading' cuts to their funds this year, whatever the wishes of local people. It's not something they need to do: the reason there's a deficit is not the 'out-of-control' public spending of the last Labour government or the 'gold plated' wages, conditions and pensions of public service workers.

There's one very simple reason: when the recklessness of the banks caused a financial crisis and economic recession in late 2008 and 2009, people lost their jobs and incomes, while company profits were hit.

That meant that spending on things like unemployment went up while the amount the government received from taxes fell dramatically. Just cutting spending to end the deficit ignores the alternative: getting the economy back on track would see spending fall and tax income grow to address the deficit.

Some cuts might still be needed – but nothing like the scale and speed being proposed by the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats.

The recession and bank bailout means we have a large debt – but it's a lot less than other countries. And the cost of servicing that debt is still – after the crisis and recession – less than at any time between the second world war and the general election of 1997. **cont...**

There is an alternative to the government's political choices; an alternative that's better for the economy, better for vital public services and better for people.

That's why we need to speak out – as many of us as possible, as loudly as possible – on 26 March. We can make a difference.

UNISON has already won small battles and we're building coalitions with communities across the UK to win even more.

When we work together to show the coalition how much opposition there is to their cuts, at local or national level, they're back-tracking and wavering.

And with elections in May, we can show what we think about policies that hurt individuals and families and communities on the basis of a myth.

We can help to do that by making sure that as many of us as possible will be in London on 26 March – and showing our opposition.

The union's national executive council is urging all the union's 40,000-plus activists to commit to being on the march.

But it's about more than an individual decision to march.

It's about showing our strength in UNISON; our opposition, in UNISON, to the attacks on our jobs, services and communities.

It's about saying, in UNISON, that there is another, better, choice when dealing with the mess left by the recklessness of a financial sector that is still paying itself millions and millions of pounds in bonuses.

Talk to user groups and other community organisations in your area and urge them to take part on 26 March and get the message across that there is an alternative.

There is a better way.

**UNISON Head Office**

**JOBS • GROWTH • JUSTICE**  
  
**SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011**

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## Let's make it a date

JOBS•GROWTH•JUSTICE  
SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011

**Black members pledged to help make March's national demonstration against the cuts a massive display of strength and unity today, as they kicked off their annual conference in Glasgow with a series of debates and speeches focusing on the damage being done by the government.**

Speaker after speaker highlighted the disproportionate impact of the cuts to jobs and services on Black people – as workers, young people and other service users alike.

But instead of despondency, there was a determination to fight back – a commitment to make the TUC-organised march in London on 26 March a statement that cannot be ignored.

"Let's show then what a 'big society' really is," urged president Angela Lynes, addressing delegates.

"We need to stand up and speak out" against the "ideological obsession with the free market ... and the small state", defending the "services that are fundamental to a decent life".

Delegates talked of "the worst struggle we've faced" and how "a government with no mandate" is "unstitching the very fabric of our communities".

"But they cannot deny the strength of our voices" said Rizwan Sheikh from Northern region, while a delegate from Rochdale told the packed hall: "The cuts are going to bring inequality – so I want you all to march on 26 March" and yet another delegate called on activists to "think and act strategically": the demonstration, he said, would be "a chance to show our strength. We must stand together; we must stand firm".

Rena Wood from the North West stressed how important it was that delegates went back to their homes and branches and workplaces "to inspire" everyone else.

And echoing the popular call, Angie Marriot for the national Black members' committee said that it was vital that: "Everyone here goes back to their branch and brings at least one, two people to the demonstration".

And it was at the heart of general secretary Dave Prentis's speech too, when he told conference: "Our great union needs you more than ever today to lead the way.

"The challenge before us is immense," but "I invite all of you to march with me and our members in London on 26 March.

## **Investing in Higher Education**

**At a time of economic recession, education is more important than ever. But whilst other countries around the world, like the USA, recognise this and invest in higher education (HE) and research, the UK is making cuts and seeking to transfer more costs on to students.**

Cutting pay, jobs and funding in higher education will not restore the economy. Investment in higher education is already not just cost effective in its own right but helps cut social costs and private training costs elsewhere too.

It is estimated that for every £1 spent on HE then £2.50 is generated in economic and social benefits. Universities and Colleges have a key role to play in promoting economic and social well-being, informed debate and provide the basis for the UK to compete in an increasingly skills driven global economy. Investing in HE is investing in the future.

### **A committed workforce**

Higher Education in England is delivered by a diverse workforce of almost 300,000 employees. Around half are employed as academics but the rest play professional and supporting roles.

UNISON is the largest UK trade union for support staff in higher education. Our 50,000 members include registrars, librarians, personnel, technicians, administrators, clerks, secretaries, cleaners, craftworkers, catering staff, porters and people working in IT, finance and estates management. They all play a critical role in ensuring students have a positive learning experience.

### **The damage that cuts will do**

I A reduction in resources means an adverse impact on the quality of education, increased class sizes, and a diminished student experience.

I Increased fees for students that lead to huge debts will discourage less well off students from considering entry into HE.

I Proposed cuts are tied to increasing "contestability" (competitions for internal and external education services – often a forerunner to outsourcing). This will have an adverse impact on quality control of delivery of education services.

I Quick and drastic cuts risk adverse effects to health by poorly managed restructuring or change management and by a reduction in staff.

I A narrowing of mission to the most profitable courses could lead to restrictions on academic freedom and reductions in the range of subjects available.

### **Why we need to invest**

The high level of skills associated with higher education are good for the individuals who acquire them and good for the economy. They help individuals unlock their talent and aspire to change their life for the better. They help businesses and public services innovate and prosper.

Key competitor countries are increasing investment and have higher proportions of their adult workforce with high level skills. Investment in the university sector will enable us to compete in high value-added services and manufacturing. This requires the best trained workforce in the world.

**UNISON a million voices for public services Factsheet 23**

## **"You don't know what you've got till it's gone"**

*Joni Mitchell*

Policing local libraries school buildings police support  
higher education grants local magistrates courts education maintenance  
allowances careers services local hospitals affordable homes  
social workers care workers social housing minimum  
standards child benefit maternity benefits child tax credits  
pregnancy benefits housing benefits daycare centres  
leisure centres out-of-hours school clubs children's centres  
women's advice centres recreation facilities citizens' advice bureaux  
jobs cut pay cut hours cut benefits cut fewer waste collections  
fewer midwives fewer youth workers fewer low income students in  
higher education reduced bus services fewer hospital cleaners  
even fewer young people employed or in training than now

## **You will know what you've got when it comes**

more work outsourced more people in need higher stress levels  
lower health and safety standards more sickness absence VAT rises  
higher fuel bills more children in poverty longer hospital waiting lists  
unfair taxation policies increased class sizes increased student fees  
higher food bills the buying power of your salary reduced

**COME AND DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE CUTS ON SATURDAY  
MARCH 26 WITH THOUSANDS OF OTHERS AFFECTED JUST  
LIKE YOU ARE.**

**Organised by the TUC  
Joined by the UCL**

**JOBS • GROWTH • JUSTICE**  
SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011

**Supported by UNISON  
Branch of UNISON FROM 10.30**

## Join us on Saturday 26 March

On **26 March 2011**, thousands of people will join the TUC march in London, to tell the government that savage spending cuts are unnecessary and unfair. We don't believe the coalition when they say we are all in this together - their public service cuts will hit the most vulnerable the hardest.

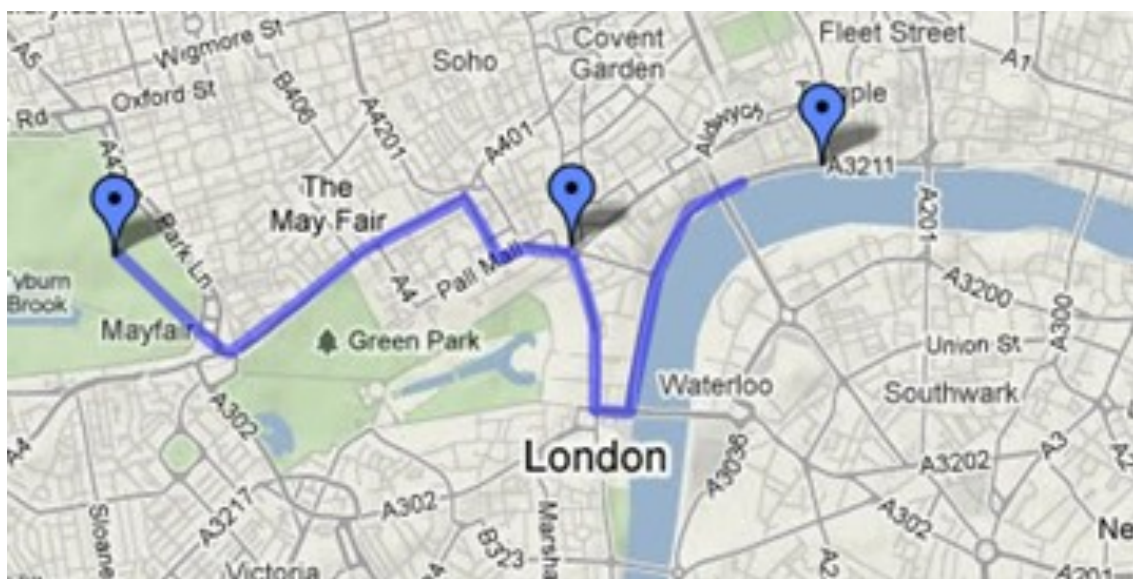
### There is an alternative

- fair taxation
- investment in our local communities, health and education
- a more equal and just society

### The March for the Alternative will form up along Embankment in Central London, and make its way to Hyde Park for a mass rally.

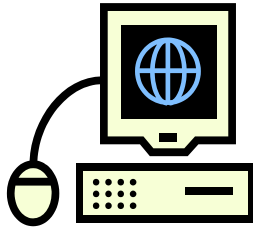
The march will begin forming up at 11am, on Embankment, between Temple Place and Blackfriars. Details are still subject to change, but as it is currently planned, it will pass Parliament and Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus, before entering Hyde Park at Hyde Park Corner.

**Join the UCL Branch Delegation at 10.30 outside Temple Station (District and Circle lines) before we join the main demonstration at 10.50. Bring the family along and friends affected by the cuts. That means all of us !!!**



TUC March route 26th March 2011

**JOBS • GROWTH • JUSTICE**  
  
**SATURDAY 26 MARCH 2011**



## UCL Unison website [www.uclunison.org](http://www.uclunison.org)

### **Change of address or contact details for member**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**New Home address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Home Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Changes (*please specify below*):**

Please return your completed form to:

**Stephanie Smith, UCL UNISON Membership Secretary, c/o Epidemiology  
and Public Health, 1-19 Torrington Place, London WC1E 6BT**



**STRONGER IN UNISON**



Open to UCL UNISON Branch Members Only (including LSHTM and RVC). Please note Branch Committee Members are excluded from this scheme

# Recruit A Member - Get A Tenner! Campaign 2009

## Bonus Payment Claim Form

This form must be completed in full for the recruitment incentive payments (any partially completed forms will be returned). Please complete in capital letters.

### Details of new member recruited

F

M

Name .....

Address .....

Name of Department or workplace .....

Job .....

### 2. Details of recruiter

F

M

Name .....

Address .....

Post Code .....

Contact number or e-mail .....

Department or Workplace .....

Bonus Payment being claimed\*(please tick appropriate box)

£10 First member recruited

£5 for subsequent new recruit

### Confirmation Details

(To be completed by Branch Officer not the recruiter)

I confirm that the above new member has been recruited to this branch by the recruiter named above and that a completed application form has accompanied this claim form.

Name ..... Date.....

Branch Officer Position.....

Signature .....

Please Return this form together with the **completed** UNISON application form to your workplace rep , steward, Branch Officer or Stephanie Smith, Department of Epidemiology, 1-19 Torrington Place, WC1

\* Payment will be made after the first subscription is paid by the recruited member.

**NB:** Branch Committee Members are not eligible to claim this bonus payment!

If you are interested in helping to form, or to participate in, a UCL UNISON women members' group, please contact Branch Equalities Officer, Sarah Alleemudder

The group would meet regularly to discuss equality issues related to women, e.g. maternity rights, equal pay, etc.

email: [s.alleemudder@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.alleemudder@ucl.ac.uk)  
Phone: ext 24230 (020 7679 4230)



**Calling on all  
Lesbian, Gay,  
Bisexual and Transgender members.....**

If you are not "out" at work but would like to join an LGBT group, please send a note stating "LGBT" and give your contact details in the strictest of confidence to the UNISON Office in the internal mail. Address your post to "UCL UNISON/LGBT".

Or alternatively contact:  
[unison@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:unison@ucl.ac.uk)



**UNISON Black & Ethnic Minority Members Group (BMEG)**

The group's meetings usually take place once a month. The meetings are a friendly, informal Forum to discuss any issues affecting Black and Ethnic Minority Staff.

Please contact Stephanie Smith if you are interested in being more involved in the BMEG

Telephone: ext 45621 or [s.smith@public-health.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.smith@public-health.ucl.ac.uk)

# WHO'S WHO IN UCL UNISON BRANCH

**Branch Officer Posts**

Assistant Branch Secretary	VACANT
Black & Ethnic Group Officer (BMEG)	Oliver Thomas (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
BMEG Convenor	VACANT
BMEG Secretary	Stephanie Smith (s.c.smith@ucl.ac.uk)
Chair	Andre Burbidge (andre.burbidge@lshtm.ac.uk)
Communications Officer	Makeba Adero (M.Adero@ucl.ac.uk)
Disabilities Officer	VACANT
Education Officer	Roy Capleton (r.capleton@ucl.ac.uk)
Environment Officer	Bill Lehm (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
Entertainments Officer	Vacant
Equality's Officer	Sarah Alleemudder (s.alleemudder@ucl.ac.uk)
Health & Safety Officer	Bill Lehm (see above)
International Officer	Vacant
Lifelong Learning Officer	Roy Capleton, (see above)
Lifelong Learning Officer	Tim Purkiss (tim.purkiss@ucl.ac.uk)
Manual Staff Convenor	VACANT
Membership Secretary	Stephanie Smith (see above)
Minutes Secretary	VACANT
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Officer (LGBT)	VACANT
Retired Members Officer	Oliver Thomas (see above)
Recruitment Officer	Simon Wigley (uclysjw@ucl.ac.uk)
Secretary	Bill Lehm (ucylwrl@ucl.ac.uk)
Treasurer	Andre Burbidge (see above)
Vice Chair	Makeba Adero (see above)
Welfare	Martin Simukai (m.simukai@ucl.ac.uk)
Women's Officer	VACANT
Women's Group Convenor	VACANT
Young Persons Officer	VACANT

**Local reps**

Security	VACANT
Eastman	Javed A Khanzada (see below)
Domestics	Helen Fullerton (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
Domestics	Frank Sechere (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
Security	Franklyn Jones (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
Security	Steve Margiotta (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
Refectory	Cosme Santos (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
Refectory	Arnaud Leudjou (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
Psychology & Lang. Sciences	Sarah Alleemudder (see opposite)
Library Services	Simon Wigley (see opposite)
Archway/ Whittington	Stephanie Woods (rmjbsjw@ucl.ac.uk)
Post	Alan Neary (unison@ucl.ac.uk)
LSHTM	Andre Burbidge (see opposite)

**Workplace contacts**

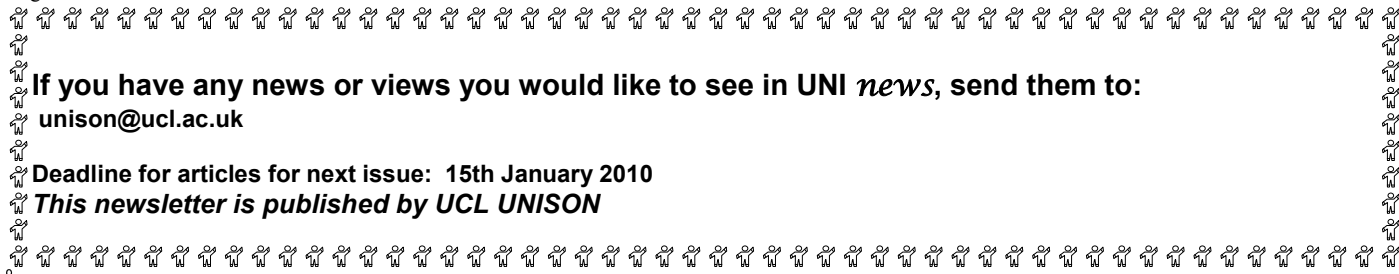
Residences	Yassin Benserghin (y.benserghin@ucl.ac.uk)
Institute of Orthopaedics	Michele Pannaman (m.pannaman@ucl.ac.uk)
Institute of Child Health	Sarah Wright (s.wright@ich.ucl.ac.uk)

**Safety Reps**

Civil Engineering	Marie Parker (m.parker@ucl.ac.uk)
Javed A Khanzada	j.khanzada@eastman.ucl.ac.uk
Library Services	Bill Martin (see above)
Psychology & Lang Sciences	Sarah Alleemudder (see above)
IS and Academic Services	Makeba Adero (see above)

**Accredited Learning Reps**

Sarah Alleemudder, Cristina Gardini



**If you have any news or views you would like to see in UNI news, send them to:**

**unison@ucl.ac.uk**

**Deadline for articles for next issue: 15th January 2010**

**This newsletter is published by UCL UNISON**

**Everybody needs a helping hand at work sometimes.**  
**Join UNISON — Britain's biggest union to get your voice heard. From negotiating better pay and conditions to supporting you in cases of disciplinary or grievance issues, advice on health and safety or education and training, your UNISON branch is there to help you. Joining UNISON gives you access to a great range of membership benefits and offers too.**  
**Join UNISON — altogether a better union.**  
**To Join contact your local UNISON rep, e-mail; unison@ucl.ac.uk or telephone 020 7679 4888 (internal extension 24888) leaving your name, department and contact details**  
**If you know someone who is interested in joining UNISON, please**  
**Pass UNI news or this slip on to them.**  
**Or call the UNISON recruitment hotline on 0800 70 70 77**