

Who's next for the chop?

New wave of redundancies sees the axe fall across all six colleges of UAL

Now is the time to join together and fight for the future of our university

The new year not only saw UAL management's refusal to meet UCU's reasonable demands of a withdrawal of redundancy notices and a re-assessment of planned course closures, but they even launched a renewed attack on education at this institution.

A new phase of redundancies has been announced with staff at CSM joining colleagues across the university in the firing line for the first time.

And UCU believes this is just the tip of the iceberg, at CSM and the other colleges with the university admitting plans to make over a hundred people redundant.

As promised before Christmas if UAL management did not agree to our demands, and re-enter into negotiations, the UAL UCU Co-ordinating committee is making preparations for a ballot of UCU members across the six colleges, as mandated by two well attended cross-college meetings last term.

Nobody wants to take industrial action. Losing pay and disrupting teaching for students is the last thing we want to do, but this is how far the management has pushed us with their failure to respond to our reasonable demands.

It is now so important that we

send a clear message to them that we will not accept their reckless cuts and we are willing to fight for the future of OUR university.

A TIMELINE OF HOW WE HAVE GOT TO THIS POINT

On 26 June 2009 UAL management wrote to unions: "As a single employer it is likely that over the course of at least the next 12 months we may need to make more than 100 posts redundant."

Management issued a Section 188 document (S188 - the legal notice employers must produce when making more than 20 redundancies) listing 42 of your colleagues 'at risk': 14 at Camberwell; 13 at Chelsea; 11 at Wimbledon; and 4 at LCF.

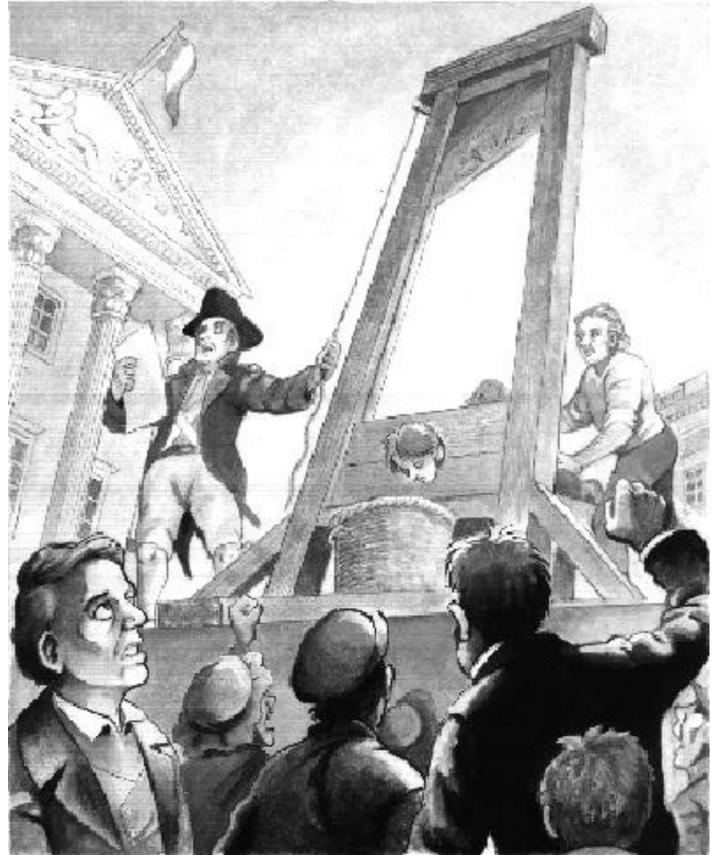
On 3 July 2009 UAL management wrote again to the unions:

"As a single employer it is likely that over the course of at least the next 12 months we may need to make more than 100 posts redundant"

Management issued another S188 document, listing over 200 of your colleagues as being 'at risk'. Over 200 ALs have been listed as 'at risk', alongside 63 salaried staff.

On 8 December 2009 UAL management wrote again to the unions:

"As a single employer it is likely that over the course of the next 18 months we may



be having to make more than 100 posts redundant".

Management issued another S188 document, listing 22 of your colleagues 'at risk'.

On 15 January 2010 UAL management wrote again to the unions:

"As a single employer it is likely that over the course of 18 months we may be having to make more than 100 posts redundant".

Another S188 document has been issued which lists another 44 colleagues 'at risk'.

It is worth noting that the redundancy period has now been extended from 12 months to 18 months.

If you want to prevent more names appearing on future

S188 notices, you should vote 'YES' in the forthcoming UCU ballot.

Under this UAL management it seems everyone and everything is 'at risk' all of the time.

What can you do?

Put up a UCU poster
We need to be as visible as possible to show management our strength

Ask a colleague to join UCU

The more members we have, the stronger we are, and increased membership would be a sign people's anger

We are not alone

A round-up of other UCU branches fighting redundancies

Members of the University and College Union (UCU) at the University of Leeds have voted overwhelmingly in favour of both strike action and action short of a strike.

The union said the high turnout of 66% was indicative of the strength of feeling among UCU members over savage funding cuts and damaging job losses. Almost two-thirds (64%) who voted supported strike action and over three-quarters (78%) agreed to action short of a strike. Leeds UCU members have made it clear they will defend jobs and courses at the university and have called on vice-chancellor, Professor Michael Arthur, to win back the trust of staff by agreeing to serious negotiations.

UCL UCU have also voted unanimously to begin a ballot for college wide industrial action against the threat of compulsory redundancies. Around 120 UCU members attended an extraordinary general meeting on Thursday of last week. Lecturers in the Faculty of Life Sciences (FLS) called the meeting. Their faculty faces a 10 percent cut in its budget—a total of £3 million, out of which £1.5 million will be made through “staff savings”. UCL management are taking on one division or faculty at a time to try and isolate members. There have never been compulsory redundancies among academic staff at UCL. Academic and support workers are united in defence of jobs.

Kings College London are also meeting this week to

discuss developing their campaign to fight 205 possible redundancies.

There was also a National UCU HE Sector Conference on 11 February where motions were passed calling for a nationally co-ordinated campaign of action, including a national demonstration to 'Defend Education, Defend Jobs' and a political campaign to prioritise education funding. When 1.5 trillion pounds can be found to bail out the big bankers whose greed led to the current economic recession why is the government demanding Higher and Further Education cut back on research, teaching jobs and courses and much needed student places?

Kings UCU, No Cuts @ Kings Campaign and London Education Activists

Network are hosting a teach-in 'Take Back Education' to build the campaign of resistance to the cuts in HE and FE. The teach-in takes place at Kings College London on the 27th February from 11am - 4pm. Speakers include Terry Eagleton, Michael Rosen, Alex Callinicos and Jeremy Corbyn MP. Details on <http://educationationlondon.blogspot.com/>



ABOVE: Students at University of Leeds show support for their lecturers

Join UCU today: www.ucu.org.uk/join