

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE USS – NATIONAL DISPUTES COMMITTEE

UCU Head Office, Carlow st., London

January 18th 2018 10.30-2.30

### **ATTENDEES:**

#### **Elected Members:**

Bruce Baker (Northern)

Andrew Chitty (South East)

Deepa Govindarajan Driver (South) Chair

Jo Grady (Yorkshire and Humberside)

Gholam Khiabany (London)

Tim Wilson (Scotland)

Linda Moore (NI by phone)

Karen Evans (North West),

Rebecca Richards (West Midlands),

#### **Standing Committees**

Ryan Prout (LGBT+) on behalf of the Chair

#### **Officials**

Matt Waddup (National Head of Policy)

Christine Haswell (Pensions Official)

Also present from the SWG Marion Hersh and Dennis Leech, with Carlo Morelli and Sam Marsh on the phone.

**Apologies** – Susanne Hakenbeck (Eastern and Home Counties), Sue Abbot (Northern) Sam Morecroft (Anti-casualisation) , Blaise Nkwenti-Azeh (Black Members), Themesa Neckles (Disabled Members), Douglas Chalmers (President-Elect, Observer)

#### **Proceedings:**

1. Following a welcome to all from the Chair, the meeting discussed the minutes from the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> December and the group agreed them after the wording of the motion was added to item 4.
2. The Committee discussed how information and documents that are the property of the SWG could be appropriately shared with the NDC. There was a proposal that the chair of NDC should be added to the email list for SWG in order to have sight of

documents and then request permission from the chair of SWG to share material with NDC. It was **agreed** that the members of the SWG present would take this proposal to the next meeting of SWG for consideration.

3. There was some discussion over the timing of provision of information about the JEP.
4. The Chair updated on actions from the previous meetings.
5. It was requested that the UCU trustees were invited to the next meeting. This invite was sent out and apologies received.

#### **Updates on negotiations and related matters:**

5. SWG members gave a report back on the current position, outlining the positions and interests of TPR, USS, UUK and UCU. There was a general discussion of strategy with reference to the timelines implied by the fresh '31 March 2018' valuation called by USS, the union's policy of no detriment.
6. There was discussion of strategies of communicating with branches and members. It was **agreed** that NDC needed to find ways of conveying ideas in a simple and direct form for members who have not paid close attention to USS matters over the past few months. It was agreed that NDC would begin to produce brief "talking head" videos and also consider the use of flyers, comics, and other forms to get these messages out to members. The chair asked and MW agreed that UCU headquarters could contribute £500 to the development, production and distribution of such materials, and it was suggested other branches might also be able to contribute on an ad hoc basis.

AC and TW gave a presentation on Test 1.

NDC **agreed** to write a template branch motion focussing on 2018 valuation technical provisions consultation and the JEP recommendations.

This branch notes that:

- USS has calculated that the full implementation of the JEP proposals to the 2018 valuation would lead to a £0.6 billion technical provisions surplus and require a contribution rate of only 25.5%. This vindicates the UCU position of 'no detriment'
- nevertheless USS are continuing to insist that the JEP proposals be implemented only in part and that contributions be raised to a minimum of 29.7% for the coming valuation period

- the USS pension dispute has not been resolved.

This branch resolves:

- to call on USS to implement in full, in the 2018 valuation, the 6 JEP proposals for the 2017 valuation
- not to accept any increase in member contributions, including 'trigger contributions', for this valuation
- to call on our employer to endorse this position, and also to publish their response to the USS technical provisions document.

It was agreed to produce a branch briefing document that would be distributed as a Branch Action Notice. The document was later posted on the website:

[https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/10076/USS-NDC-branch-employer-lobby-briefing-Jan-19/pdf/NDC Branch Briefing Document on USS 31January2019.pdf](https://www.ucu.org.uk/media/10076/USS-NDC-branch-employer-lobby-briefing-Jan-19/pdf/NDC%20Branch%20Briefing%20Document%20on%20USS%2031January2019.pdf)

7. The Chair requested that various updates be made to the NDC webpage.

8. It was **agreed** that the next meeting date would be Friday, 8 February.

**Any other business:**

9. There was no other business.