

Dear colleague

Meeting of the higher education committee Monday 8 June

I write further to [my recent communication](#) which reported on the meeting of the higher education committee (HEC) on 27 May.

Following that meeting the general secretary agreed to call a special meeting of HEC as soon as possible so that the incoming HEC could address the outcomes of the branch delegate meetings (BDM). The special HEC met on Monday 8 June and the decisions taken on the Four Fights and USS BDMs are reported below.

New HEC officers

Firstly, branches will be interested to note the newly elected HEC (interim) chair and two vice chairs, the officers are:

- Victoria Showunmi, chair of HEC
- Lucy Burke, vice chair post 92
- Jo McNeil, vice chair pre 92

HEC decisions

In regards to outcomes of the Four Fights branch delegate meeting, HEC unanimously adopted all four of the outcomes without amendment. UCU will now consult members directly via e-ballot on the UCEA final offer with a recommendation to reject. The timing and details of the e-ballot have been delegated to the new HEC officers, general secretary and head of HE to progress.

The proposed re-ballot of branches on the Four Fights dispute at the end of June will not take place. Any decision on a re-ballot will now be considered by an HE sector conference should members vote to reject the final offer. The timing and organisation of the sector conference has been delegated to the HEC officers, general secretary and head of HE.

In regards to the outcomes of the USS branch delegate meeting, HEC unanimously adopted all three of the outcomes without amendment. This means that the USS dispute remains live but no further action will be taken at this time. The decision on whether to end the dispute will be made by an HE sector conference. The timing and organisation of which has been delegated to the HEC officers, general secretary and head of HE.

The proposed re-ballot of branches on the USS dispute at the end of June will not take place. Any re-ballot in the USS dispute will be decided by the HE sector conference.

Next steps

I hope this report provides you and your members with the clarity and certainty on the re-ballot and member consultation that a number of branch officers took the time to contact me about.

I will be in contact with you again soon to update on the developments with the four fights consultation and with progress on other matters.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss matters further [please contact me](#).

Best wishes

Paul Bridge
UCU head of higher education