



30 June 2023

Dear Raj,

I am writing to you following the meeting of UCU's Higher Education Committee. Our members have been engaged in a Marking and Assessment Boycott since April, as part of our justified claim for a pay rise which reflects both the cost-of-living crisis and the years of below inflation pay rises we have experienced, as well as movement on our claims for an end to casualisation, pay gaps, and unreasonable workload.

We recognise the damage the MAB is doing – to students, to the sector, and to our members (despite your claims to the contrary). We also recognise that the only way to end this dispute is through a negotiated settlement which is acceptable to our members.

To that end I, and the national negotiators, have been instructed by the Higher Education Committee to seek an interim agreement which would allow the MAB to be suspended and facilitate accelerated negotiations on outstanding matters.

The interim agreement and approach are based on the provisos that:

- Any suspension will require UCEA to recommend an immediate end to punitive pay deductions and a return of deductions to members.
- Any suspension will require a commitment from employers to recognise staff's entitlement to leave and to a reasonable workload on their return to normal working.
- Any interim agreement will be subject to consultation with UCU members.
- University staff have already rejected the 5% pay award UCEA began imposing in February (2023), and continue to demand that UCEA improve pay to deal with the cost-of-living crisis.

I am therefore writing to you to seek an urgent resumption of negotiations which could allow us to suspend the MAB (subject to the above assurances).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours
Dr Jo Grady

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jo Grady'.

Jo Grady

General secretary