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Consultation on FE pay in England

Every UCU FE branch in England has been asked to arrange a meeting for members **before 28 September** to determine the branch's view on the Association of Colleges pay recommendation for 2007-08.

At these meetings you will be asked to decide:

- **Whether we should accept the AoC offer as the best that can be achieved through negotiation at this time, or reject the offer and embark on a programme of industrial action.**
- **To elect a delegate to the special FE pay conference for England in London on 6 October where the final decision will be made.**
- **Consider what the main elements in next year's claim should be.**

In summary the AoC's offer for 2007-08 is:

- **2% on all salaries and allowances from 1 August 2007**
- **A further 1% from 1 February 2008**
- **Joint statement on implementation of new pay scales**
- Negotiations on a Joint Agreement on Training and Development.
- Negotiations on a National Joint Agreement on Guidance on Work Life Balance and Working Time.
- Case studies on how colleges use the Advanced Teacher and Training scale, with a view to providing examples of good practice.

All other FE trade unions have now accepted the AoC's offer, however, at its meeting last term the Further Education Committee of the National Executive Committee decided it could not accept the AoC's offer for 2007/08

because it fell below the current rate of inflation (3.8%) and wished to fully consult branches.

The final decisions will be taken at a Special Pay conference to be held in London on Saturday 6 October. Every FE institution in England will be entitled to send one delegate to the conference. It is important that all branches elect a delegate to the conference and meet to give their delegate a clear view of the branch's on the issues to be discussed at the conference.

Have your say, all members are urged to:

- familiarise yourself with the pay offer (for full details click on the following link: www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2750)
- find out when your branch is meeting
- attend and have your say
- elect a branch delegate to the Special Pay Conference.

Initial Teacher Training and Professional Development Reforms

From 1 September all newly appointed lecturers will be required to take either a short 30 hour induction-style programme to equip them for teaching or a full diploma course which can be taken in-service and will give new entrants a teaching qualification. Staff already appointed will not have to undertake these new programmes. All lecturers will be required to register with the Institute for Learning (IfL), the sector's professional body, by April 2008 and receive the Qualified Teacher Status Learning and Skills (QTLS) and their licence to practice in the sector. The Government will pay for the IfL registration fee.

For details of all the changes go to:

www.ucu.org.uk/index.cfm?articleid=2578

Institute for Learning Code of Conduct

Part of the changes in FE initial teacher training and CPD is that all FE sector lecturers will be required to join the FE professional body, the Institute for Learning. The IfL are drawing up a Code of Professional Conduct and a draft is on their web site. IfL are anxious for FE sector lecturers to respond to the consultation on this Code. See the IfL website www.ifl.ac.uk/services/docs/95/CP%20State%20of%20Intent%20July%202007.pdf

New Diploma

September 2008 sees the introduction of the new Diploma courses for 14-19 year olds in engineering, ICT, Construction, Creative and Media, and Society, Health and Development. These will be delivered by partnerships of school, colleges, training providers and employers.

The FE Dept is anxious to set up an email network of branches in colleges who will be delivering this first set of diplomas so we can check on what is happening, help advise and circulate information. If your college will be delivering the Diplomas in 2008 and you want to be part of such a network, contact Dan Taubman dtaubman@ucu.org.uk

ESOL/Adult learning Day of Action

A red rectangular stamp with the text "SAVE ESOL" in white, slanted slightly upwards to the right.

19 September 2007

The campaign over fees for ESOL classes continues. Fees will be charged from this month and 2007-2008 also sees the third year of cuts to adult learning in colleges as funds are being switched from existing courses to Train to Gain programmes.

UCU is asking branches to hold a Day of Action to publicise what is happening to ESOL and to adult learning more generally. For details and ideas of what could be done, hit the "Save ESOL" button on the front page of the UCU web site. If branches have details of cuts to adult learning in their institution, please let the FE Department know. Contact Jane Atkins jatkins@ucu.org.uk

Staff Governors Conference

The annual conference for FE college staff governors will be held on:

10 December 2007
at UCU Head Office
27 Britannia Street, London

The theme of the event will be the role of governors in FE; developments, especially the moves towards self-regulation.

The cost will be £30 including VAT.

For further details and an application form contact Martin Whelton at mwelton@ucu.org.uk