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Our College, Our Community, Our Union

FE pay campaign latest

Our colleagues in the National Union of Teachers (NUT) have recently rejected a pay settlement of 2.45% and are to ballot for strike action on the 24 April. Just like the pay offer of 2.55% made for FE this year, this award is well below inflation and represents a pay cut for members.

UCU continues to reject the offer for this year (now imposed in the majority of colleges) and is joining the other FE unions in submitting a new claim this week for 2008/9. We will be demanding that any settlement of this claim must take account of the shortfall we have suffered this year.

The new joint claim for 2008-09 therefore calls for the following:

- 6% pay increase or £1500, whichever is the greater
- A minimum hourly rate of £7.38p
- Meaningful negotiations on common conditions of service in all colleges



UCU has adopted a policy of coordinating our campaign for decent pay with other trade unions taking action. Officers of the FE committee have therefore agreed a plan of action to work alongside the NUT. This includes an initial one day strike on the 24 April if there has been no acceptable response to the claim above.

(The NUT ballot will run from 28 February to 31 March.)

Campaign Countdown →

Campaign countdown

From now to 29 February

- New materials produced and distributed including posters, leaflets and car stickers.
- Branch meetings addressed by FE National Executive members
- A push to get an email address for as many members as possible, enabling faster campaign communications during the dispute
- Other unions representing teaching and FE staff in addition to the NUT, which have agreed in principle, will be invited to join the campaign: *'Our Colleges, our Communities, Our Unions'*. This broad campaign combines campaigning on a better deal for FE with the objectives of resisting privatisation, defending the right to learn and to lifelong learning, promoting respect for professional staff and defending standards in education.

3-7 March ***"Get Organised" Recruitment Week***

A week of recruiting events and activities urging people to *"Join now to have your say on pay"*

- This week will begin in London on 3 March with an event to launch the *'Our College, our Community, Our Union'*, campaign involving UCU, NUT and our colleagues in other unions.

It will then be rolled out across the country – region by region.

14 March – 14 April **Ballot for Action**

24 April **Joint industrial action**

In the event of a vote for industrial action and no satisfactory response from the employers on pay, there will be an initial day of industrial action and protest, timed to coincide with the NUT, currently scheduled for 24 April.

21-25 April **Week of action**

The day of protest will be supported by a week of joint events with the NUT, including joint rallies, demonstrations and meetings at regional level around the aims and objectives of the *'Our Colleges, our Communities, Our Union'* campaign.

17 May **Conference – *'Challenging the Market in Education'***

This major conference for activists will be held jointly with NUT as part of *'Our Community, Our College, Our Union'* campaign. Activists will have the opportunity to hear up to the minute analysis and research by academics on the encroachment of the market into education, to discuss union responses to marketisation and to get the updated campaigns pack on fighting privatisation. Other unions in the sector will also be invited to participate.

For more information as the campaign progresses visit www.ucu.org.uk and go to Campaigns ***'A Better Deal for FE Staff.'***

Support a **BETTER DEAL** for FE staff