

FE ACTION A SUCCESS!

Thank you for your Support:

Your action on the 16 April has resulted in written confirmation from the Welsh Assembly Government that the national pay scales and parity with teachers will be maintained.

John Griffiths the Deputy Minister for Skills wrote to the Wales Official, Margaret Phelan stating:

“The Welsh Assembly Government remains fully committed to the continuation of pay parity and we will require all FE institutions to abide by the nationally negotiated pay agreement. The requirement will form part of the conditions of funding that will be published in the summer.

I understand that you and your members may be worried about an institution ignoring the conditions of funding. I would regard such an issue as very serious indeed. Should it occur, it would lead to a claw back of funding from the institution.”

The Further Education Sector Committee met on Saturday 26 April and voted to suspend the action short of strike action until the 31st May 2008. The following motion was agreed unanimously.



FESC congratulates members in Wales on the overwhelming support for the strike on 16th April which has had a clear and immediate impact on the Welsh Assembly Government.

FESC welcomes the written assurances from the Deputy Minister of Education that all colleges in Wales will be required under the Conditions of Funding document to fully implement the national pay agreement. Also that funding will be clawed back if any college tries to avoid its obligations under the agreement.

However we note that we have yet to receive written assurances from fforwm that they will implement progression either from April or from August 2008. In consequence FESC resolves

- To maintain the present dispute but to suspend industrial action until 31st May.
- To write to fforwm asking them to confirm in writing that they will now recommend to all colleges to implement full progression through the upper scale, up to and including UP3.
- To inform fforwm that if they give such assurances University and College Union will call off the dispute and would be willing to make a joint approach to ACAS to resolve the issue of the exceptional group.
- To recall an emergency FESC for 31st May to consider fforwm's response.

FESC further urges all branches to meet prior to 31st May to discuss what further action should be taken in event of fforwm

refusing to give such assurances. FESC recommends that branches consider

- A further one day strike before the end of the summer term
- Continuation of the non-strike sanctions.

Margaret Phelan will be writing to fforwm, asking that they recommend to all colleges that they implement the agreement in full from 1 August 2008 and offering to go to ACAS for conciliation to resolve the issue of progression for the exceptional group of staff.

Once again UCU members were prepared to take action to protect the national agreement. It is a pity that other teaching unions in Wales failed to ask their members to stand along side UCU to protect national agreements. In fact other unions decided to meet with the employers on the day of your dispute.

