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National Negotiations Update

At a meeting of New JNCHES on 5 May, the HE employers revised their offer in response to the trade side claim. The employers increased their offer of a non-consolidated payment equivalent to 0.25% of the pay bill to 0.4% (non-consolidated) of the pay bill. The employers invited the trade unions to discuss the distribution of the offer. Although the employers indicated a willingness to engage in further discussion on training and career development, they again refused to enter into a dialogue to secure a nationally-agreed approach on job security.

In response, the trade union side noted the slightly improved offer but stated that:

- The employers' refusal to enter national level talks on job security was unacceptable;
- The employers offer was for a real terms reduction in pay for the second year running;
- We are not interested in discussing a non-consolidated offer;
- We are not interested in discussing how to distribute a pay cut.

The trade unions asked the employers' to review their position. Another national-level

meeting between the unions and employers has been agreed for Friday 28 May.

Joint Union Campaigning

Branches/LAs are encouraged to work with sister unions on their campuses to campaign on the issues raised in our national claim (job security, pay, and national framework issues). Branches/LAs are reminded that materials are available on the joint union website:

<http://defendhighereducation.org.uk/>

Following the JNCHES meeting, the union side held a productive and useful discussion about co-ordinating joint union activities to focus local attention on the unacceptable stance of the national employers' association to our claim. Further talks between the unions will be held to develop the initiative but the initial proposal is for campus unions to organise a lobby some time during the week commencing 7 June. It is hoped that, where possible, joint activities can take place on 10 June.

Branches/LAs are asked to hold discussions with sister campus unions about holding a campaigning event on 10 June or, if that is

not possible, during the week commencing 7 June. Further information will follow.

Membership Records

Your assistance is essential in ensuring the smooth running of our communications, democratic structures and ability to run industrial action ballots.

As you will be aware, the current industrial relations environment is very challenging. The HEC has already noted the employers refusal to engage properly with the join union claim to protect job security and protect salaries.

If it is necessary to ballot for action, it is important that we minimise the risk of legal challenge to the accuracy of our membership records. In the week commencing 10 May, our membership administrators will be contacting branches/LAs asking you as a matter of urgency to look at the membership list we hold for you and update your branch records. Amendments should be sent to your membership department contact or to membership@ucu.org.uk.

Please supply updated details by Tuesday 1 June 2010.

We understand that branches/LAs are busy but this should be regarded as a key organisational priority and task.

HE briefings for branches/LA

An update on the national negotiations, as well as other HEC priorities, is being provided at the HE briefings being held around the UK by the Head Office Higher Education team. Briefings have already been held in London, Birmingham and Glasgow. Two remain in Bristol (12 May) and Leeds (14 May).

We encourage attendance from members of branches/LAs (2 per branch/LA) that have not attended a briefing already. For further details and registration go to

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/circ/html/UCUHE58.html>

or click on the venues listed at

http://www.ucu.org.uk/hebriefings_spring10

UCU Fighting Fund

Although taking strike action is a last resort, sometimes it is necessary to do so in order to combat intransigent managements. It's always tough to lose a day's pay, and so UCU has set up a fighting fund to support members facing difficulties as a consequence of supporting the union's actions.

HOW TO DONATE

Make a direct bank transfer, or set up a regular standing order, to:

Account name: UCU Fighting Fund

Sort code: 08-60-01

Account no: 20179432

Reference: 'Fighting Fund 2010'

or send a cheque (payable to 'University and College Union') to:

Fighting Fund 2010
Finance Dept
University and College Union
Carlow Street
London NW1 7LH

USS Pension Review

We have written to branches updating them about our talks with the employers on the review of the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) review. Please see UCU HE Circular UCUHE60 for further details and also the answers to frequently asked questions at: <http://www.ucu.org.uk/usschanges>