

Final Pay Offer for England FE

The Association of Colleges have made their final pay offer for 2010/11 of 0.2% or £50 whichever is the greater. Negotiators from all six FE trade unions immediately rejected this derisory offer at the National Joint Forum meeting held on 1 July. This offer is the lowest off ever made to the NJF and comes at a time that school teachers will be receiving 2.3% and inflation is running at over 5%. All FE trade unions are now consulting with their members on how to respond to this offer.

The 1 July meeting of the NJF came after a meeting one month earlier at which the employers offered a freeze to pay scales with a one off payment of 0.2% of salary. This was a "non-consolidated" offer meaning that it would not go towards pension payments or any other payments and was offered on a one off basis. The revised offer on July 1 is a "consolidated" offer meaning that it will be added to pay scales for future years and does contribute toward pensions.

Special Sector Conference, 2 October

The FE committee of the national executive has called a Special FE Sector Conference to be held in Manchester on 2 October to deal with this year's pay offer and to consider proposals on an industrial action ballot. Additionally the conference will discuss strategy in relation threats to jobs and pensions in the sector.

FEC is recommending that UCU rejects the offer and conducts a ballot for a programme of strike action to secure an improved offer. The FEC has submitted this motion for debate at the special sector conference:

"Conference rejects the derisory AoC final 2010/11 pay offer of 0.2%, or £50 whichever the greater, for FE staff in England. With RPI inflation in excess of 5% this offer represents a real pay cut for members at the same time as schoolteachers are to receive 2.3%.

Conference instructs the FEC to organise a ballot for a programme of strike action in support of a campaign for a vastly improved offer, if possible alongside other trade unions."

Have Your Say on Pay – All Branches to Meet Early September

All FE branches in England are asked to make sure they send their delegates to the conference in October. In the run up to this conference branches should hold members meetings by 16 September to allow members to have their say on how UCU responds to this year's pay offer and express their view on the FEC's motion and/or submit their own motions.

To have your say on this year's pay offer make sure you know when your branch meeting is and makes sure you attend and speak up!

Further details of the Manchester conference including links to delegate registration and submission of motions can be found in circular UCU277 at:

<http://www.ucu.org.uk/circ/html/UCU277.html>

Or at:

http://www.ucu.org.uk/fesc_oct10