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1. **Why HEI-led teacher education is of the highest quality: UCU view**

UCU held a seminar on 2 November to initiate an HEI teacher educators' network that would be able to develop UCU policy on initial teacher education in response to Coalition government policy. The Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove has now published his white paper on education and as expected it does contain radical but still schematic proposals to alter the balance between HEIs and schools in the collaborative provision of initial teacher education. For a full briefing on UCU's position on HE teacher education go to:

http://www.ucu.org.uk/brief_hebasedteachered. To join the UCU Teacher Educators' Network email dhendry@ucu.org.uk.

UCU Teacher Educators' Network: please circulate to teacher education members.

2. **Update on ESOL**

The CSR and then the FE funding document made reference to ESOL only being available for 'settled communities'. As far as can be told from the documents there will only be full fee remission for ESOL students on JSA and ESA. Fees (still 50% of costs of programme) will have to be paid for other ESOL students from settled communities, 'subject to conditions'. FE providers are tasked to identify particularly vulnerable learners as part of their business planning. There will be no funding for ESOL in the work place. Various ESOL national stakeholders are being called together by NIACE in early December when the situation may become clearer. A UCU rep will be attending and a report will be sent out to the UCU ESOL network. Meanwhile a group of UCU ESOL tutors in Nottingham have written to their local MPs expressing their dismay at this latest ruling and pointing out the ways that this will further disadvantage ESOL students and potential students and various groups such as

asylum seekers who may be precluded from attending ESOL classes. A model letter on similar lines is being sent out to UCU FE branches and the ESOL network for others to write in similar terms to their local MPs. If you don't receive a copy of the model letter by the end of year and would like a copy, contact Dan Taubman dtaubman@ucu.org.uk.

3. HE Funding

The higher education funding outlook is bleak in the UK, with unprecedented changes planned for England. Before the outcome of the spending review in October, higher education in England had already received cuts of more £1bn for the period to 2013. Then the spending review announced that a further 40% would be cut from HE in England by 2014-15 as the government implemented proposals from the Browne review of higher education fees. That 40% overall cut in the HE budget is based on a staggering cut of 80% to the teaching budget in line with Browne's recommendation that the bulk of recurrent funding for teaching in English universities is replaced by higher tuition fees. The government's response to Browne includes a cap on undergraduate fees at £9,000. The science budget is to rise from £4.0bn to £4.6bn, but that increase includes recurrent funding for university research, which in England alone is £1.6bn in 2010-11. The resulting £1.0bn shortfall in recurrent funding for research is to be made good by 'efficiencies' in the science budget, as proposed by the Wakeham review earlier this year on research sustainability. But the spending review says these efficiencies will only amount to £162m a year by 2014-15. Where the rest of the recurrent funding for research will come from is as yet unexplained. In Scotland, higher education will be cut by £63m (or 6.4%) in 2011-12. In Wales HE will be cut by 11.8% in the period to 2013-14.

4. FE Funding

At the AoC Conference on 16-18 November details of the SFA's funding were announced. This shows how the CSR will be implemented. Detailed figures are given for financial year 2011-12 and indicative figures for the following 2 years. The full paper and the accompanying more general BIS publication Skills for Sustainable Growth can be found on

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/further-education-skills/skills-for-growth>

The headline is that the overall FE budget will be reduced 25% by 2014-2015 through driving efficiencies.

Total SFA funding will be:

- £3.7b 2011-2012
- £3.4b 2012-2013
- £3.3b 2013-2014

Changes to funding 2011-2012:

- Only those on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Employment Support Allowance (ESA) to get full remission of fees, although this can be in units as well as full qualifications.
- Full remission only for ESOL students on JSA and ESA. Fees (still 50% of costs of programme) for other ESOL from settled communities subject to conditions. No funding for ESOL in the work place
- Fees (at 50% of programme costs) for Level 2 in SMEs up to 250 employees
- Funding rates cut by 4.3%

- Skills for Life (literacy and ESOL) uplift (extra funding) removed. Uplift remains for numeracy entry level

Changes to funding 2012-2013

- Removal of statutory entitlements to level 2 and 3 qualifications for those over 24
- Review of funding rates with move to new rates approach and more reductions in funding rates

A briefing on FE Adult Funding will be distributed to FE branches before Christmas. The 16-18 funding situation will become clearer in mid December when a full briefing will be made available. Any queries in the meantime should be directed to Dan Taubman

dtaubman@ucu.org.uk

5 'The Vandals are at the Gates: Defending HE and research in a time of crisis'

The report of the Education International 7th Higher Education and Research Conference

The President Alan Whitaker, and Policy Officer Rob Copeland attended the 7th Education International Higher Education and Research Conference in Vancouver from 10 to 12 September. Senior National Official Paul Bennett attended at the request of EI as the General Rapporteur for the Conference. The conference, which took place in Vancouver Community College, dealt with the impact of the economic crisis as well as sectoral issues such as academic freedom and casualisation. It also looked at equality, intellectual property rights and cooperation development and capacity building for the unions in the sector. Paul Bennett prepared the following report on the conference: http://download.ei-ie.org/Docs/WebDepot/20100916_7thIHERC_FinalReport_en.pdf

6. New Grant for FE initial teacher training programme

This year the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), will give a one-off non means tested grant of £400 for FE sector staff who undertake the FE teaching qualification through the part time in-service route (DTLLS). To claim the grant a member of staff:

- Must be a current member of IfL
- Must not already hold an initial teaching qualification, except where undertaking the skills for life additional diploma
- The ITT course must be a Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS), a Skills for Life integrated DTLLS or the additional diploma, or PGCE/Cert Ed (in lifelong learning) and be undertaken part time 'in service'
- The ITT course must commence in the academic year 2010/11 (subject to the outcome of the government comprehensive spending review)
- The employer must be a further education college or FE provider in England funded by the Skills Funding Agency (LSC's successors) and, in the case of the latter, you must be teaching on a SFA funded provision.

The grant must be claimed through the employer (providing they fit the eligibility criteria). UCU branches should raise the grant with their managements and ensure that the employer

is receiving it. This should provide a strong basis for trying to ensure that the employer is also paying the rest of the initial teacher training programme fee. More information is available from the IfL web site:

<http://www.ifl.ac.uk/cpd/supporting-new-teachers-grants-for-initial-teacher-training> or contact Dan Taubman at dtaubman@ucu.org.uk .

7. Graduate internships – what is happening in higher and further education?

In recent years there has been a growth in the number of graduates taking up internships to gain work experience. Some of these initiatives are being organised by higher and further education institutions (e.g. the Graduate Internships funded by HEFCE

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/econsoc/challenge/interns.htm>). Is your institution involved in organising internships for graduates? If so, we'd welcome any information about these schemes. Please can you send it to Rob Copeland, policy officer rcopeland@ucu.org.uk.

Colleagues may also be interested in a number of campaign websites – for example, the TUC's 'Rights for Interns' <http://www.rightsforinterns.org.uk/> and Intern Aware <http://www.internaware.org/>.

8. Lifelong Learning UK Review of the Teacher, Tutor and Trainer Qualification

Responding to sector demand, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills have asked Lifelong Learning UK to review the teacher, tutor and trainer qualifications in FE and consider how best to update them at this time. There are four elements included in this review:

- Current generic teaching qualifications (PTLLS, CTLLS, DTLLS)
- Current subject specific qualifications for teachers of literacy, numeracy and ESOL
- Accredited professional development opportunities beyond initial training
- A proposal to establish a new qualifications framework for learning professionals.

Lifelong Learning UK aims to develop the new qualifications in a way that provides more opportunities for a staged progression through and between the qualifications, and over the next six months will try to provide as many opportunities as possible for contributions to the incremental change of these qualifications. For further information on how to get involved please visit: <http://www.lluk.org/learning-delivery.htm>

A seminar for UCU FE Initial Teacher Education members, both in HE and FE, will be held in the early New Year. It is hoped that this event will also be a consultation event with LLUK on the 2nd phase of the above review. If you are interested in attending this event, contact Dan Taubman dtaubman@ucu.org.uk or Diana Hendry dhendry@ucu.org.uk.

9. Research excellence framework – is 'impact' back on the agenda?

In July this year, David Willetts, the universities and science minister, announced a delay in the implementation of the Research Excellence Framework (REF) because of concerns about the rigour of the criteria for assessing 'impact' and its acceptance by academics. UCU's *Stand Up for Research* campaign <http://www.ucu.org.uk/standupforresearch> was instrumental in questioning the credibility of the 'impact' agenda.

However, a recent study from the higher education funding councils <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/news/hefce/2010/refpilot.htm> argues that the "expert review of case studies is an appropriate means for assessing impact" and that the "the case study approach should be developed further for use in the REF". The pilot study – published in November – argues that a "common broad approach for all disciplines based on case studies should be possible, with generic criteria and the same weighting for impact". At the same time, it recognises that the "assessment in the first full REF will still be developmental" and that as a result the "weighting of impact in the REF should be considered carefully". It suggests one option would be for impact to have a lower weighting than 25% for the 2014 REF.

UCU's policy team would welcome views on the pilot study report, particularly from colleagues in the 29 participating HEIs

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/research/ref/pubs/other/re01_10/re01_10a.pdf Please can you send in any comments to Rob Copeland, policy officer rcopeland@ucu.org.uk.

10. CPD Survey

The UCU Policy Department is conducting an on-line survey on CPD and related matters. The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete. It has been sent to 4000 UCU members from a random sample of the membership data. So far we have had over 500 responses. If you have been sent the survey to complete, please to so. The information we gather from this survey will be invaluable in formulating UCU policy on CPD and related issues. If you would like to complete the survey (the deadline is Tuesday 25 January 2011) please find it here:

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

11. Scotland

Summit on higher education

The UCU welcomed the cross party commitment for universities at the summit on higher education. The summit was organised by Michael Russell MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning to discuss issues to be included in the forthcoming consultation on higher education. It included the political parties, university and college leaders, industry representatives as well as NUS and UCU.

There will now be an 'Expert Working Group' set up to consider what the various funding strands could contribute to university funding. This will include business, graduates, other UK student fees, international students and alumni though it was stated that the Scottish Government will continue to be the major source of funding.

The summit allowed for an open and amicable and discussion on increasing access to education and student support, teaching and research within each University. The debate centred around the guiding principles and how to enable them and unlike Browne will not be constrained by lack of funding.

The consultation is due to be published in December and debated in the new year.

Higher education conference

A conference is to take place in February to build on the Convention and the Intellect and Democracy events. The timing would also allow for a wider debate on the issues in the Scottish government consultation.

The UCU will organise the conference jointly with EIS but will invite speakers from a broad range of organisations to enable a wide ranging debate. The conference would be open to all those with an interest in Scottish higher education.

12. The Wolf Review of vocational education

Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove has announced the setting up of a review of vocational education by Professor Alison Wolf. The letter of invitation can be found on <http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0064651/wolf-review-of-vocational-education-call-for-evidence> . The Review will be part of developing a new approach to qualifications by the Government, with a White Paper promised. An interim report from the Review will be produced by the end of 2010, and a final report by Spring 2011. UCU has made a submission to the Wolf Review setting out UCU policies on both 14-19 education and vocational education. This submission made a number of general points as well as answering some of the specific concerns above. A briefing is being produced for UCU members. UCU fears that the results of this Review may well lead to a more rigid and stratified system of 14 and 16 to 18 education. For a copy of UCU's submission contact Dan Taubman dtaubman@ucu.org.uk.

13. Adult and community learning

To everybody's amazement, the Adult Safeguarded Budget of £210 million a year was protected in the CSR and subsequent FE funding document. This is due in great part to the lobbying and campaigning that staff and students in adult and community learning and organisations such as the WEA and NIACE did in the lead up to the CSR announcement. It sounds like good news. But adult and community learning, and UCU members working in this part of learning, still face severe threats. The new model may well revive many of the concerns that UCU had with the previous government's Learning Revolution White Paper.

Local authorities where most adult and community learning are situated face cuts in excess of 25% over the next 4 years.

The Annual UCU Adult Education Sector Conference will take place on Friday 11 February 2011 at Carlow St. All local adult and community learning UCU branches are requested to send at least 1 delegate to this event. As well as a sector conference, the event will also be a briefing and training event for ACL branches and members - more details to follow. If you are would like to attend, contact Dan Taubman dtaubman@ucu.org.uk or Christiane Ohsan cohsan@ucu.org.uk .

14. New policy briefings

The Abolition of the Educational Maintenance Allowance

A new briefing (http://www.ucu.org.uk/brief_emaabolition) on the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) analyses the single piece of inadequate evidence used by the Coalition government to cut the EMA. It also describes the majority of methodologically more comprehensive and extensive evidence – from the Institute for Fiscal Studies, education economist Mick Fletcher and the NUS – which shows that the EMA is a socially just measure to encourage and support young people from the poorest families to stay on successfully in education, leveraging up the UK’s historically poor performance in OECD post-16 participation rates. See <http://saveema.co.uk/> for details of the campaign to save the EMA.

The impact of student satisfaction surveys on staff in HE and FE institutions

The UCU Congress 2010 motion on student satisfaction surveys is covered and expanded in this briefing (http://www.ucu.org.uk/brief_satisurveys) as are the sections of the Browne Review of HE that make proposals on student satisfaction surveys and charters. UCU is keen to hear member feedback on these proposals, their utility and their relation to academic freedom and autonomy. (Comments to John Offord, Policy Team: jofford@ucu.org.uk).

If you have any comments or feedback on PolicyNews, please send to Diana Hendry at dhendry@ucu.org.uk.