

In this issue:

AoC recommend pay freeze in England

Further Education Committee calls Strike Ballot

AoC Recommend 0%

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The final meeting of the National Joint Forum for the 2015/16 pay round was held on 24 June. The AoC presented further information about the state of colleges' finances and the funding issues for the sector and responded to the joint trade unions' claim of an extra £1 per hour for all FE staff which was presented to them on 13 May.

The AoC indicated that they had no mandate to make a recommendation for a general uplift in pay or for an uplift in the living wage. AoC representatives indicated that they had therefore considered the option of making no recommendation this year. However instead of making no recommendation and allowing colleges to determine their own policy the AoC chose to recommend that colleges provide no cost of living increase and implement a pay freeze.

At a time when UCU has joined together with the other joint trade unions and sector organisations to cooperate on an unprecedented campaigning to protect and improve funding for further education the decision by the AoC to recommend a pay freeze appears to be deliberately divisive and provocative.

Further Education Committee calls Strike Ballot

UCU's Further Education Committee (FEC) met on 3 July and rejected the AoC's provocative position on pay. In line with annual conference's position, FEC voted to arrange a strike ballot to be held no later than the end of September.

FEC believes that the industrial action and pay campaign should be framed around the £1 extra per hour claim and increased funding for FE which is required for the claim to be met. FEC officers will meet in the next few weeks to determine a timetable for the ballot and a campaign for a YES vote in the strike ballot.

In the meantime branches should begin the work of bringing membership lists up to date. In many branches this task will be larger than usual due to the significant numbers of redundancies, restructurings and mergers that are occurring.

Members can update their own membership details at <https://members.ucu.org.uk/>. For first time members need to register with their membership number and the email address on UCU's records. Requests for lost membership numbers can be made at membership@ucu.org.uk.