

Overworked & Underpaid

Update: 3rd July 2018

A special FESC meeting was held on Monday 2nd July 2018 as a direct consequence of Colegau Cymru's (CC) rejection of The Further Education Joint Trade Unions Wales (JTU's) 2018/19 pay claim; offering instead a 1% pay increase. CC have also refused to negotiate on the National Workload Agreement, or do further work on the National Business Support Staff pay scale until the issue of the pay award has been resolved. The JTU's have offered to work with CC to jointly lobby Welsh Government for more funding, to address workload issues in the sector and to ensure that any additional costs incurred by tackling workload, will not come from existing college budgets. However CC have refused this offer. The JTU's will meet again on 1st August to discuss further details of any planned joint industrial action.

At yesterday's Special FESC meeting the following action points were approved.

- Members will be balloted in September on BOTH PAY AND WORKLOAD
- There will be TWO separate ballots.
- Members will be encouraged to vote 'Yes' to both.
- The ballot will be aggregated, which means that it will be vital that ALL members vote (regardless of what they choose) to ensure an overall turnout of above 50%.
- Campaigning on Workload and Pay ballots will commence in September, with action in October.
- Campaign slogan remains 'Overworked and Underpaid'

Pay and Workload will need to be addressed as separate issues. NASUWT, UCAC and UCU will ballot to take action on pay in the autumn; GMB, Unison, AiME and ATL in January, because each union has slightly different procedures. The plan is that the JTU's will work together on this issue and co-ordinate strike action. However UCU will also be mounting a twinned tracked campaign on Workload.

What can you do?

- Distribute this newsletter widely to your colleagues and encourage them to **Join UCU** if they are not already members.
- Check that membership details are up to date in preparation for the ballot
- Attend Branch meetings – make your voice heard.
- Follow UCUwales/branch Facebook pages for updates.

A further Special FESC meeting has been proposed for either the 8th or 15th September, after which further details will be sent to branches.