

## UCU Industrial Action – update

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to report that the University & College Union (UCU) have agreed to extend the suspension of industrial action over changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) until 28 January 2015. This means that the industrial action which was due to resume on 16 January will now not take place.

This follows negotiations over the last few months during which significant progress has been made in closing the differences between the positions of UCU and the Higher Education employers' representatives. UCU are planning a consultative ballot of their members over a potential joint proposal for reform of the USS between now and 28 January.

The next formal Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) meeting between the national UCU and employers' representatives is scheduled for 29 January and it is intended that a final decision on a scheme reform proposal will be made at this meeting.

As we have said from the start, we fully support the negotiation process as the most appropriate means to agree any changes to USS in light of its funding position and these positive steps are evidence that this process appears to be working.

I will keep you informed of the outcome of the UCU consultation, but trust you will welcome the positive steps being taken by both sides.

Information regarding the changes to USS and the industrial action can be found at [www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/ussconsultation](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/ussconsultation). We will shortly be providing information on these web pages of the potential joint proposals.

Regards

Andrew Dodman

Director of Human Resources