

UOS LETTER REGARDING SUSPENSION OF UCU'S INDUSTRIAL ACTION FROM 20 NOVEMBER 2014

Dear colleagues

I am very pleased to write to inform you that the Universities and Colleges Union (UCU) today confirmed a suspension of all industrial action called by them in relation to their dispute over changes to the Universities' Superannuation Scheme (USS) from 20 November until after 15 January 2015.

The suspension has been agreed between UCU and the employers' representatives, Universities UK (UUK), in order to allow a period of intense negotiation with the aim of seeking an agreement on reforms to the USS. We are pleased at this development and hope that this gives both parties the opportunity to explore an agreed solution in the negotiations.

We have agreed, as part of the suspension arrangements, that we will not apply our policy of withholding pay for breach of contract from anyone who notified us of their participation in the marking and assessment boycott between 6 and 19 November. This is on the condition that any work missed is caught up and undertaken within a reasonable period of time.

This course of action should not be seen as setting precedent and is without prejudice in respect of the right of the University to apply its policy fully on future occasions.

We are delighted that as a result our students will not have been adversely impacted and are very hopeful that this will now allow time for a joint proposal for reform that offers an affordable and sustainable pension scheme that remains attractive for both current and future members.

Information regarding the changes to USS and the industrial action can be found at <http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/ussconsultation>

Regards

Andrew Dodman
Director of Human Resources