

UCU industrial action

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you further to my previous emails regarding the current negotiations between the HE employers and the University and College Union (UCU) over changes to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS).

As you may recall, UCU suspended their industrial action in the form of a marking and assessment boycott from 20 November 2014 to 15 January 2015 to facilitate a series of negotiating meetings between UCU and employers' representatives. The purpose of those meetings was to close the differences between the relative positions, with a view to reaching agreement. This included a meeting between the respective actuaries of the USS Trustee Board, Universities UK and UCU. These negotiations have been positive and are ongoing.

The next scheduled Joint Negotiating Committee will be held on 15 January 2015, followed by a final meeting on 29 January 2015.

UCU have informed the University that they intend to call on their members to recommence the marking and assessment boycott from Friday 16 January 2015.

I remain hopeful that progress can continue to be made at a national level and I hope that UCU will not resume its industrial action whilst the negotiations are ongoing. However, to seek to minimise any impact on our students, we are planning for the eventuality that UCU does resume its industrial action.

I will keep you informed of the outcome of the Joint Negotiating Committee meeting and in the meantime, information regarding the changes to USS and the potential industrial action, including FAQs, can be found at

www.sheffield.ac.uk/hr/guidance/ussconsultation

Regards,

Andrew Dodman

Director of Human Resources