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|  | |  | | --- | | Dear colleague  In this week's campaign update:  **Government rushes through dangerous higher education bill** The controversial [Higher Education and Research Bill](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/19863/151504/4000/1/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VUNVIGNhbXBhaWducyB1cGRhdGU6IDI4IEFwcmlsIDIwMTc%3d&x=c5b390be)finally completed its [passage through parliament yesterday](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/19863/151504/4001/2/). MPs and peers agreed to a number of watered down amendments to ensure the bill became law before this parliamentary session ended. [Writing in the Huffington Post](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/19863/151504/4002/3/), Sally Hunt said that in the rush to get it through, the government had managed keep its long-term plans to marketise the sector firmly on track.  **College leaders’ pay boost while staff salaries remain frozen**  More than half of college leaders received a salary increase last year – at the same time as their staff were subject to a pay freeze, according to [new figures in today’s TES](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/19863/151504/4003/4/). UCU head of further education Andrew Harden said: ‘College leaders who tell staff that the money is not there for a fair pay rise – all while pocketing massive pay rises themselves – are an embarrassment to the sector.’  Find out more about your pay and how it compares to your principal’s and staff at other colleges [using our Rate for the Job online tool here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/19863/151504/3764/5/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VUNVIGNhbXBhaWducyB1cGRhdGU6IDI4IEFwcmlsIDIwMTc%3d&x=94a41dfb).  [See here for full update including:](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/19863/151504/4004/6/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VUNVIGNhbXBhaWducyB1cGRhdGU6IDI4IEFwcmlsIDIwMTc%3d&x=9de63920)   * In the news * General election 8 June: make our voice heard * Higher education pay: employers’ final offer * Manchester Metropolitan University: management fail to silence campaign to save jobs * Further education England pay claim * UCU academic boycott of London Metropolitan University * Mayoral candidates asked to support FE charter * Celebrate May Day: international workers’ day * Chechnya: stop the persecution of gay men * Workers’ Memorial Day, 28 April * Rule 13: procedure for the regulation of the conduct of members   Best wishes  Ed Bailey UCU acting head of campaigns | |