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**Vice-chancellors: stop defending your own pay and spare a thought for your staff**  
  
UCU general secretary Sally Hunt on [the ‘upstairs downstairs’ world of HE and why UCU is offering free membership to staff at beginning of their careers.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/30128/151504/4548/1/)   
  
**Close the gap: vote yes for a fair deal in further education**  
  
If you work in an English further education institution you should by now have received an email from us containing your link to vote in the e-ballot on FE pay ([you can request a replacement here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/30128/151504/4546/2/)).  
  
UCU head of further education Andrew Harden has written to all college principals in England today calling for action to end the low pay crisis in FE and [told TES ‘it’s clear staff in FE have suffered more than others in the public sector. This cannot continue.’](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/30128/151504/4549/3/)   
  
[See here for full update including](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/30128/151504/4550/4/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDggU2VwdGVtYmVyIDIwMTc%3d&x=2008c8f8)

* In the news
* Strike action ballot opens at University of Manchester
* Defend EU citizens’ rights
* Calling academic-related and professional staff
* Switch to Direct Debit and stay protected
* Rule 13 decision on conduct of members

Best wishes  
  
Justine Stephens  
UCU head of campaigns