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**Your pension under attack – ‘now or never’ to save USS**  
  
UCU general secretary Sally Hunt has written today to members eligible for the University Superannuation Scheme (USS) with an [update on the current threat to pensions](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34290/151504/4984/1/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMTcgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxNw%3d%3d&x=ecaad182).  
  
This week’s proposal from the employers would end guaranteed pensions and reduce retirement income for all.   
  
To stop this attack on our pensions will require serious and sustained industrial action and UCU’s higher education committee met today and agreed to move to a ballot of members due to open 27 November 2017 and run until 19 January 2018.   
  
It’s 'now or never' to save USS in its present form and in the coming weeks we will be calling on members at institutions covered by USS to stand with us and build a massive campaign for a 'yes' vote for action to defend pensions. [Please see here for the latest updates and downloadable campaign materials](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34290/151504/4984/2/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMTcgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxNw%3d%3d&x=e0b86878).  
  
**Further education England: fight for better pay and better jobs**  
  
The college employers’ pay offer of 1% is yet another kick in the teeth (and a real terms pay cut of 3%) for FE staff in England working hard every day, transforming the lives of learners, their families, and the wider community. That’s why UCU is stepping up our campaign for better pay and better jobs. Please share our [brand new campaign video](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34290/151504/4980/3/) and look out for [campaign updates and posters and leaflets here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34290/151504/4017/4/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMTcgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxNw%3d%3d&x=0fc038ac).  
  
[See here for full update including:](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/34290/151504/4981/5/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMTcgTm92ZW1iZXIgMjAxNw%3d%3d&x=1d003d12)

1. In the news  
2. Your views on effective industrial action  
3. Amnesty International: disappeared Bangladeshi academic  
4. End gender based violence, 25 November – 10 December  
5. Survey on zero hours contracts and well-being  
6. Support for academic freedom and democracy in Turkey  
  
Best wishes  
  
Justine Stephens  
UCU head of campaigns