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UCU has never been prouder of our members, our organisation, our supporters and of course our [amazing students](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/5683/1/). This week has truly shown the best of us and our values of solidarity, commitment to education and a determination to fight for a decent life for people at work and in retirement.

**Further education college staff strike for a better deal**

UCU members in 14 colleges across the UK took strike action on Wednesday and Thursday over pay and working conditions. Despite the freezing cold the mood on picket lines was determined and confident and members were heartened by solidarity from university colleagues striking over pensions and from across UCU and the wider movement. In London, FE strikers joined the massive March for Education which ended with a packed rally at Westminster and heard rousing speeches of support from John McDonnell, Angel Rayner, Sally Hunt, NUS president Shakira Martin and many other MP. [More on the campaign for better pay and better jobs in FE here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/4017/2/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDIgTWFyY2ggMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=e8e27bc9).

**USS: spectacular strike action brings employers back to ACAS talks**

As our unprecedented strike action continues across USS institutions, the employers’ representatives Universities UK (UUK) have finally agreed to come back to talks via the conciliation service Acas which will begin on Monday 5 March. [More details about the talks and our set of proposals aimed at resolving the dispute here.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/5665/3/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDIgTWFyY2ggMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=8c2a72a4)

Now we need to keep the pressure on the employers. Our strike action is solid, our picket lines are strong, the entire movement is behind us and has been inspired by what has already achieved. Many university employers are continuing to move away from UUK’s hardline approach with [University of Cambridge vice-chancellor now supporting exploring our proposals](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/5681/4/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDIgTWFyY2ggMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=27955eed)and University of Sheffield [announcing a complete u-turn](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/5682/5/) on their threat of 100% pay deductions for action short of striking.

* [Strike action is back on](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/4984/6/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDIgTWFyY2ggMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=43c2d174) next week Monday 5 March to Thursday 8 March
* Keep the pressure up on non-strike days with ['action short of striking'](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/5679/7/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDIgTWFyY2ggMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=93158544)
* If you are not at one of the affected universities make a [solidarity donation to the strike fund](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/5565/8/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMDIgTWFyY2ggMjAxOA%3d%3d&x=4f3627f1)
* [Share this video](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/44034/151504/5683/9/) thanking our amazing students for their solidarity.

Best wishes

Justine Stephens
UCU head of campaigns