**Latest on USS pensions**

UCU’s superannuation working group (SWG) met on 18 September 2018 and considered the report of the joint expert panel (JEP) on USS pensions. After a wide ranging discussion the SWG welcomed the report as a significant and impressive piece of work. The SWG would like to express its thanks to the chair of the JEP and all members of the panel for the speed with which they undertook the task and for the report’s findings and unanimous recommendations.

The SWG agreed the following position in regards to the JEP report and recommendations. SWG:

* endorses the JEP report and its recommendations as basis for negotiations
* looks forward to UUK and USS making the same commitment
* encourages UCU branches to consider the report and recommendations and to seek the views of members
* encourages branches to raise the report with their vice-chancellor or principal and encourage them to support the report.
* looks forward to the JEP continuing its work on phase two of the agreed process.

**Strike at University of Leicester called off**

A strike at University of Leicester, due to start on Monday – the first day of the new term – has been called off. Since May, Leicester UCU has been in dispute with the university over a number of compulsory redundancies. Earlier in September members of Leicester UCU voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action in defence of jobs: on a turnout of 55%, almost two-thirds (63%) voted for strike action. However negotiations with the university have been successful, resulting in a satisfactory resolution to the dispute. Industrial action – which would have involved both strike action and action short of a strike – is now no longer necessary. [The full release can be found here.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/57328/151504/6721/1/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMjEgU2VwdGVtYmVyIDIwMTg%3d&x=5db31d6c)

**17 October #LoveOurColleges march, rally and lobby for FE funding**

UCU has joined forces with the Association of Colleges (AoC), National Union of Students (NUS), Association of College and School Leaders, GMB, TUC, National Education Union (NEU) and Unison to hold a [march, rally and lobby of Parliament on 17 October](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/57328/151504/6693/2/) calling for better funding for further education. Earlier this week it was reported that the principal of New City College (who also chairs the AoC employment committee) will close the college to allow staff to march and lobby Parliament for more funding. Please approach your principal and call on them to support the day and [share the Facebook event widely.](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/57328/151504/6693/3/)
Assemble 12.15pm at Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4

**Your vote is your voice! Please remember to vote in the current ballots in higher and further education, on Brexit and in the NEC and democracy commission elections.**

[See here for the full update including:](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/57328/151504/6722/4/?c73c8e04=Y2FtcGFpZ251cGRhdGU%3d&60bc612e=X2FsbC1tZW1iZXJz&560a3889=VGhlIEZyaWRheSBlbWFpbDogMjEgU2VwdGVtYmVyIDIwMTg%3d&x=0bda033f)

* Wales further education members to be balloted next week
* Brexit consultation
* Stamp out casual contracts: Exeter University the latest to cave in on worker status
* Equality conference 2018
* Building the anti-racist classroom, 18–19 October
* Rethinking Participation: English, maths and ESOL conference, 14 November

Best

Justine Stephens
UCU head of campaigns