Dear colleagues,

**In this week’s campaigns update:

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2. Your questions answered
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5. Events and other items

1. Fair pay in Further and Higher Education – dispute updates and blogsite launch:**
UCU has today launched a new campaign website [‘Fair Pay in Education’](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/626/0/), aimed at bringing together our campaigns in HE and FE and making the public case for fair pay. It’s been a busy week in both campaigns.

In **HE** UCU [wrote to the Higher Education employers body UCEA](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/627/0/) on Monday, asking them to resume negotiations.  This followed an initiative from NUS who called for a speedy resolution of the dispute in the aftermath of our successful strike. The National Negotiators are meeting today (Friday) to consider the employers' response and our next steps in the dispute. We will write to branches and members to set the position out in detail early next week.

In the meantime, judging from the number of ‘Action Short of A Strike’ email signatures and auto-replies we’re receiving, the Work to Contract is well under way and starting to bite. Remember, you can see our suggested email signature and [get all our advice on working to contract at our website](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/628/0/)

In **FE**, we are now entering the last week of the industrial action ballot. On Monday, UCU’s President Elect, FE lecturer John McCormack wrote to members setting out [why a Yes vote to strike action is so important](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/629/0/).

With pay and the cost of living becoming a bigger issue almost daily, and with the employers threatening yet greater localised attacks on pay and terms and conditions, it’s vital that the union responds with a strong national collective voice in defence of our pay and our right to bargain nationally.

If you’ve already voted, THANK YOU. Turnout is really important in giving our vote legitimacy. If you haven’t yet voted, please locate your paper and vote today.

Please **vote yes to action** and give us the strongest possible mandate to stand up for FE lecturers and stop the race to the bottom. If you think you’ve lost your ballot paper or you didn’t receive one, [order a new one TODAY here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/620/0/)

**2. Your questions answered:**
[Can I ask my employer to pay for medical treatment as a disability related reasonable adjustment?](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/621/0/)

**3. UCU Law Extra launched:**This week saw the launch of a new service for members, UCU Law Extra. This service gives you access to a range of everyday, non-employment related legal services at reduced rates. For more information, please [see the dedicated website](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/622/0/)

**4. Campaigning on research: the REF and Open Access:**
[UCU’s REF survey](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/635/0/) continues to attract press interest, while a new UCU comment piece in Research Fortnight argues [‘the REF is bad for researchers and bad for research’](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/632/0/)

UCU has also been campaigning on Open Access publication and you can read a [full campaign update on our recent survey and our response to the HEFCE consultation here](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/624/0/).

**5. Events and other items:**

\*Public meeting on zero hours contracts: With the scandal of zero hours contracts regularly in the news, London Met University UCU has called a public meeting on Wednesday 13th November 5.30pm Room (GCG08 [Tower Block opposite Holloway Rd tube]. Speakers will include Islington North MP Jeremy Corbyn, ex-leader of Islington Council Catherine West, Hovis striker John Fox (BFAWU) chairman and national vice president) and Liz Lawrence Vice President, UCU.

\*UCU’s stress and bullying resources: Tackling stress and bullying at work is 18th - 22nd November. [View and download all our resources](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/633/0/)

\*Annual FE College Staff Governors Conference: Equality and Diversity in College governance.  Open to all FE Staff Governors. 5th December at UCU Head Office Carlow St London NW1 7LH. [Programme  and more information](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/625/0/)

\*Defend the Irish University! UCU members are encouraged to [sign a petition in defence of public universities in Ireland](https://list.mercury.ucu.org.uk/t/116197/1215804/634/0/)

All the best,

Justine Stephens,
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