

Seize the time #RejectUUKDeal

There are just a few more days to go to vote in the ballot on the latest Universities UK (UUK) offer with voting finishing on Friday.

It's crucial that every UCU member uses this opportunity to vote no and #rejectUUKdeal

UCU general secretary Sally Hunt has put her weight fully behind the UUK offer. She argues that members should vote yes and 'bank' what the union has achieved so far.

She quotes the fact that those arguing to 'Revise and Resubmit' the UUK offer or who are arguing for a 'No Detriment' agreement are seeking something that the employers will never be able to give us.

But the UCU leadership's analyses of what's happening doesn't chime with what thousands of activists are thinking.

Voting no

Already Exeter, Dundee, Salford, Newcastle, Keele, Leeds, Warwick, Sheffield, Kent, Herriot Watt and Edinburgh have voted no with many branches calling for a Higher Education Sector Conference (HESC) to get members back into control of this dispute.

A HESC will allow us to discuss the kind of escalation that will be needed to finally win this dispute.

This is just the latest example of UCU members being told that we have to accept whatever UUK put on the table.

Once again it is taking a revolt by UCU members against our own leadership to reject the latest 'final' offer from UUK.

The employers are obviously on the defensive. But talk of a 'comparable' pension following discussions among a panel of experts is no guarantee that in

the end UCU members won't face paying more for a worse pension.

We've proved that USS is not in crisis.

The employers have even adopted the language of our dispute talking about a period of 'status quo'.

So why, when we have taken 14 days of strike action, recruited thousands of members and when many UCU branches have already voted for 'No Detriment' and/or 'Revise and Resubmit' should we settle short of what we can really achieve?

Danger

The danger is that a 'yes' vote simply puts off the pensions fight until after the crucial exam period, losing momentum for our side and giving the employers the chance to 'soften us up' with attacks like the threatened redundancies at Liverpool University or the massive cuts at the Open University.

We are winning this dispute.

We should vote no to the latest UUK offer – and tell our union and the employers that we want guarantees that there will be 'no detriment' to our members.

We've already achieved a lot in this dispute. Our union is changing fundamentally and the question of defeating marketisation and casualisation is being raised everywhere.

We should Vote no #RejectUUKDeal and fight for our members, our students and for the future of education.

Sign this statement:
tinyurl.com/USS18z

Watch the latest video by UCU negotiator Carlo Morelli:
tinyurl.com/uss18A

A union transformed UK wide activists' day school

**Saturday
28 April,
12pm-5.30pm
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Includes sessions on: Organising a strike • Involving casualised workers • Using social media

Hosted by UCU London region
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