

JNC Enhanced Report, 15 June 2022

Attendees

Committee members	Observers
Judith Fish (Chair)	Gary Dixon, USS observer
Margaret Monckton (UUK)	Dr David Watts, USS observer
Stuart McLean (UUK)	Professor Michael Otsuka, UCU observer
Dr Carol Costello (UUK)	Nicola Lee, UCU observer
Anthony Odgers (UUK)	Dr Jackie Grant, UCU observer
Mike Shore- Nye (UUK)	Professor Mark Taylor- Batty, UCU observer
Dr Justine Mercer (UCU)	
Dr Deepa Driver (UCU)	
Dr Sam Marsh (UCU)	
Dr Marion Hersh (UCU)	
Paul Bridge (UCU)	

Meeting governance

The group discussed the ongoing recruitment process for a new JNC chair.

The group discussed fees for JNC negotiators as well as the responsibilities of the negotiators and how best to ensure they're supported in their role. It was agreed to continue the conversation after the meeting with a view to further discussion at the July JNC.

The group discussed the [JNC Confidentiality and Transparency Agreement](#) and a request to publish it. The group agreed the document could be published on the JNC page of the USS website.

The JNC chair thanked the outgoing UCU JNC negotiators for all their hard work and commitment over the last year and welcomed the new UCU JNC negotiators who take up their roles from 17 June 2022.

Update from the Trustee

A Trustee representative provided a summary of the [USS Financial Management Plan monitoring for 31 March](#). The group noted the improved financial position and the upcoming monitoring 'deep dive' the Trustee will provide. They went on to discuss the detail around what data they'd like to be shared over the coming months.

A Trustee representative provided an overview of the indicative timeline for the 2023 valuation. The group discussed some specific detail around this including how to ensure the timeline and process was as efficient as possible and how to best ensure scope for further constructive engagement between the stakeholders.

Update on low cost benefits and conditional indexation working groups

The JNC chair noted there would be a meeting of the low cost working group the following week, and an update would follow at the July JNC.

A UUK representative noted a recent briefing from a Canadian pension scheme which uses conditional indexation and commented on how useful it was to develop a practical understanding of the subject.

Stakeholder updates

UCU

A UCU representative provided an overview of the motions carried at the [HE sector conference portion of the recent UCU Congress](#). They went on to highlight the continuing anger of UCU members on the USS dispute and to note that the dispute remained live. They updated the group on the plan to rebalot members for industrial action over the summer with an expectation that industrial action would take place in the autumn. They also pointed out the locally negotiated statements a number of UCU branches had reached with their employers on both the USS and 'Four Fights' dispute.

UUK

A UUK representative provided an update on the planned governance review, [the consultation process for agreeing the terms of reference](#) and setting up a supporting workstream.

Additional matters covered at the meeting

The group reviewed a list of employers which had withdrawn from USS since 2019 and it was agreed that Trustee representatives would provide more background information on participation terms and reasons for withdrawal.

A UCU representative informed the committee that UCU were unwilling to approve the JNC report for the Annual Report and Accounts in its current format, because they believed it did not effectively capture the amount of challenge UCU negotiators had provided throughout the period covered by the report, nor the depth of members' anger.

UUK was content with the report but acknowledged the UCU concerns, and therefore it was agreed to continue this discussion outside of the meeting and consider how best to report JNC business via Enhanced Reports, the Annual Report and Accounts, and other channels where suitable.