



UNITE EDUCATION SECTOR

RISC MEETING – 24 February 2016

NISC Report

(Cindy Callaghan)

National Officer's Report

Pay Developments: The National Officer sent out a postal consultative ballot to all members in the New JNCHES university pool. The resulting turnout was poor less than 20% with 8% looking to reject the final offer and take industrial action. With a result this poor, the National Officer would not contemplate a statutory ballot. That meant Unite members accepted the 1% consolidated offer. As did the three other unions GMB, UCU, Unison. EIS of Scotland are still in dispute. The other universities outside the New JNCHES arrangements have had similar offers of between 1 and 1.5 %.

Pensions: Both USS and SAUL pension schemes have switched to CARE from April 2016, both sets of members will be switched. This is a response to funding pressures and follows the public sector scheme trends. Past service benefits will crystallise and be updated by CPI.

Job Losses / Redundancies / Outsourcing: There are a number of re - organisations around several universities including Dundee - reorganisation of estates staff, Edinburgh - reorganisation of Medical School, Glasgow - general reorganisation. These reorganisations could mean job losses. Joint TU Committees are looking at these reorganisations with a critical eye.

Strategic Plans For The Sector: Local officers continuing organising campaigns in universities.

Political Activity: In FE there are discussions going on around the cuts with civil servants. It appears that colleges will be expected to join together to create large conglomerate colleges which has no application or links to local communities. With the economies of scale in these larger college organisations there is likely to be job cuts.

TU Bill

Presentation by Amy Jackson – UNITE political officer at Westminster. Thereafter discussion ensued about how best to campaign on campuses around the UK. One suggestion was to send out letters to cross-bench peers who have links to particular Universities. It was noted that in Scotland most Councils had come out in opposition to the TU Bill. Motion put forward by Labour Peers about political fund clause is at committee stage.