



## **UNITE EDUCATION SECTOR: NISC REPORT**

**Cindy Callaghan**

Newly elected delegates were welcomed and introduced and elections for new Chair and vice chair were held.

### **National Officers Report:**

After minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising were discussed we moved onto the National Officer's report. The national officer outlined significant industrial developments in the area of pay and pension. He discussed the final pay offer and the inconclusive ballot giving a small mandate to reject the offer of 1%. He stated that other HE unions were split on accepting and rejecting (Unison and GMB accepted – UCU, EIS and Unite had rejected)

At this stage we had just had the individual consultative ballot and the ballot had yet to be counted.

The gender pay gap project work has now been signed off by the National Sector Committee.

FE pay was also discussed including the offer of 0% and recognising the cut at 24-28%. Members will be accepting the offer as it is not a pay cut and in an effort to secure jobs.

Pensions, survey has been carried out by Brian Freake throughout the sector.

There have been job losses and redundancies at Imperial College, Exeter University, Nottingham University, Aberdeen University and there is a fluid situation at Queens University in Northern Ireland due to reduced funds by the UK Government to Stormont.

### **Pilot Sector Electronic Ballot:**

There was then a presentation by Nick Drysdale of the UNITE Legal Department on the piloting of a UNITE electronic ballot, this is in response to the Government's Trade Union Bill.

### **Motions for NEIC:**

The submitted motions from RISCs were discussed and considered by delegates.

Thereafter there was a presentation on building opposition to the Trade Union Bill and what the options are for UNITE with the pay negotiations in future, with a strong feeling being expressed for going it alone and UNITE putting in their own figure. It was felt that UCU had hung Unite out to dry in the recent round of negotiations.

**NEXT NEIC – 20 JANUARY 2016**