

Reject the TPS proposals – build joint strike action to win

UCU's National Executive voted to reject the TPS proposals made on 19th December because:

- There is very little extra on offer compared to pre-November 30th
- The proposals dump our current Final Salary scheme in favour of a Career Average Revaluation Earnings scheme
- The minor improvement in the accrual rate and transfer rate would still leave the vast majority of non-protected members worse off and having to work longer to get the same pension (up to age 68 for many)
- The proposals offer minimal reductions to the financial penalties for retirement earlier than the State Retirement Age, which the government is increasing
- The sliding scale of pension contributions increases from 1st April refer *only* to the first year of three years of increases – a pay *cut* – which will hit the vast majority of TPS members in a few weeks' time. The average increase after three years will be 50%
- The proposals say nothing about the shift from RPI to CPI indexation of pensions in payment, which will mean progressive reductions in payments costing retired members many thousands of pounds.

The proposals will therefore still leave members paying more, working longer, and getting less.

You can see how they will affect you if you go to UCU's pension calculator at www.ucu.org.uk.

Action in March

The NEC also voted to propose further industrial action in March. The exact date now needs to be agreed with other unions.

The NUT, NASUWT, PCS, UCAC, Nipsa and Unite in Health and the Civil Service have not signed up to the December 19th proposals. There are growing efforts by many members in the unions whose leaderships *have* signed up to overturn those decisions. The British Medical Association has also recently voted not to accept the pension proposals.

However, because none of these unions had named a day before UCU's National Executive meeting on 20th January, the NEC decided to get the ball rolling by naming a strike day and asking the other unions to join us.

Since our proposal for a named strike day the NUT Executive has met and called for further strike action in March. Other unions are now moving in the same direction. Last Saturday

the EIS Council (Education Institute of Scotland) unanimously decided to join UCU and NUT in seeking further nationally coordinated strike action. NASUWT are also making positive noises about further action.

None of the other TPS unions (nor Unite or PCS) is balloting. They have been taking membership soundings by various means: branch surveys, reps meetings, limited e-surveys and so on.

Whatever genuine final offer the union gets will be put to a full membership ballot alongside our sister TPS unions.

We balloted to decide whether we would go into dispute, as legally required, and we should ballot to decide whether to end the dispute.

The NEC will meet again on 10th February to review progress. During that week other union Executives will also meet to discuss the issue.

The UCU should now consult with members as part of a campaign to win support for a programme of action that, alongside other unions, can defend our members' pensions.

We urge TPS branches to discuss the issue, support the model motion overleaf, and inform the NEC for its meeting on 10th February.

A set of FAQs on TPS can also be found at www.uculeft.org

In the NEC elections, UCU Left recommends a vote for these candidates

Voting advice for National

General Secretary
Mark Campbell
London Metropolitan University

Vice President FE
Angie McConnell
Wigan & Leigh College

N. Ireland HE
Brian Kelly
Queens University Belfast

North East HE
Elizabeth Lawrence
Sheffield Hallam University
Gavin Reid
University of Leeds

Veronica Killen
Northumbria University

North East FE
Graham Mustin
Barnsley College
Umit Yildiz
Bradford College

London & the East HE
Mark Campbell
London Metropolitan University
Jane Hardy
University of Hertfordshire
Jim Wolfreys
Kings College London

London & the East FE
Mandy Brown
Lambeth College

Sean Vernell
City & Islington College

Wales HE
Liza van Zyl
Cardiff University

North West FE
Darren Bradshaw
Blackpool & the Fylde College

UK-elected members HE
Jane Hardy
University of Hertfordshire
Lesley McGorrigan
University of Leeds
Jelena Timotijevic
University of Brighton

UK-elected members FE

Steven Boyce
A4E Prisons Branch
Richard McEwan
Tower Hamlets College
Jenny Sutton
College of Haringey, Enfield & North East London
Umit Yildiz
Bradford College

Representatives of women members HE
Marion Hersh
University of Glasgow

Representatives of women members FE

Alison Lord
Tower Hamlets College
Jenny Sutton
College of Haringey, Enfield & North East London

Seats for casually employed members FE
Regine Pilling
Westminster Kingsway College

UCU Trustee
Alan Whitaker
Oxford & Cherwell Valley College

STV VOTING SYSTEM

To maximise votes for progressive candidates we ask you to do the following:

- Please use your votes to **first endorse all UCU Left candidates** and only after that use lower preferences for other progressive candidates in each relevant list
- Give your highest preferences in the UK-Elected list to UCU Left candidate(s) **from your region**

More at www.uculeft.org

Branch/regional motion on NEC decision 20th January

This Branch/Region endorses the 20th January decision of the UCU NEC, alongside the NUT, PCS, UCAC and Unite, to reject the government's "Heads of Agreement" proposals.

Further, this branch congratulates the UCU and NUT executives for voting to call further nationally coordinated strike action in March (specific date to be agreed) alongside other unions.

It recognises the urgency of the situation in that the Government intends to impose contribution increases from 1st April, and that;

- Under the proposals, public sector workers will continue to pay more to work longer for less;
- The main issues of the dispute remain unresolved - the change from RPI to CPI for pensions in payment, the increase in employee contributions, the extension of the Normal Retirement Age to State Retirement Age, and the abolition of the Final Salary scheme;
- The new proposals represent no substantial improvement on what was on offer before the strike by over 2.5 million public sector workers on 30 November and that, therefore, in common with the other 'rejectionist' unions, do not warrant a membership ballot at this time.

This Branch/Region supports:

- The decision of the NEC that our General Secretary (GS) will meet the leaders of other 'rejectionist' unions and to invite them to join with UCU in a nationwide strike to defend public sector pensions in March.
- The call for the NEC's plans to be debated across UCU branches and regions and for branches and regions to begin preparations for further action including the national strike in March.
- The call for escalating action, alongside other unions as quickly as possible after the action in March including coordinated regional rolling strike action as well as more nationally coordinated strikes.