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From Monday 1st to 10th September UCU will be issuing emails to all members to consult on the derisory pay offer for FE teachers.

The UCU Executive for FE is rightly saying REJECT the offer and support further strike action.

WE ARE URGING ALL MEMBERS TO REPLY TO THE CONSULTATION EMAIL AND SUPPORT FURTHER ACTION

Why we are right to fight

The case for a pay rise is evident in every workplace. More and more of us are struggling to meet everyday bills, and all of us have seen a fall in our living standards. For FE teachers four years pay awards have amounted to less than 2% increase while the rate of inflation (RPI) has cut our purchasing power by 16%.

The overall budget cut for colleges from 2009 - 2014 is estimated at £0.4billion. Over the same period £1.5billion has been squandered on free school adventurism. College managers should be fighting for a restoration of that budget, not holding back reserves making their workforce pay the price.

During pay talks the AOC has rolled back from the position of trying to pin performance related pay and have admitted that there is a crisis of low pay. While some rogue managers like those at Lambeth seek to use the finding cut as an opportunity to attack contract rights, the AOC states that "one consequence of pay restraint at a time when the economy is recovering will be difficulties retraining and recruiting key staff." **They know something must be done.**

A National fight on pay can underpin local struggles

Pay underpins the conditions we work in, and the conditions we work in affect the condition Students' learn in. Pay is the issue we have collective bargaining rights over and the issue we can fight on nationally. United action can help branches like Lambeth and Barnsley with their disputes. It sends a clear message that they are not alone, that we are all angry and prepared to fight.

SUPPORT ACTION ON PAY – Consultation starts 1st September

Joining forces for the fight against austerity

Around 500,000 health workers are now balloting to strike over pay with action planned across the NHS for 13 October. **Hundreds of thousands of local government workers will strike on 14 October. They could be joined by teachers, (members of the NUT) civil service workers and firefighters, who are already taking action over pensions.**

The TUC is calling for a **massive national demonstration on 18 October** under the banner "Britain needs a pay rise". **We need to be part of the strike action in October and we need to be on the demonstration.** The Government claims recession is over, but it is business as usual for the bankers and continued wage restraint for the rest of us. This is the start of an election period. We need to send the message loud and clear that things have to change and our union needs to be part of making that change happen.

What you can do

- **Make sure that you reply to the consultation email and record your support for action on pay**
- **Encourage all members in your section/team/branch to do the same**
- **Call a branch meeting to maximise support for further action and invite a guest speaker from Barnsley or Lambeth Colleges who are in dispute over cuts and attacks on conditions.**

A solid mandate for action in the email consultation will ensure we take the fight forward with other workers in dispute

BUILD A FIGHTBACK ON PAY THAT CAN WIN. MAKE SURE YOU REPLY