

WHY ARE WE STILL ON STRIKE?

On Mon 12th March, UUK & UCU negotiators presented a 'solution' to the current pensions dispute. Within less than 24 hours UCU branches across the country unanimously rejected the proposal!

Q: WHY DID WE REJECT THE PROPOSAL AND CONTINUE TO STRIKE?

A: The proposal was still based on a fake deficit and lack of guarantees for a defined benefit pension.

1. While employers agreed to have the method of valuation of USS reconsidered, the proposal continues to assume a USS deficit, where there is – in fact – a surplus.
2. The proposal did not provide adequate protection of pensions as a Defined Benefit (DB) scheme by reducing the DB part of the pension to £42,000.
3. It introduced a Consumer Price Index (a measure of inflation) cap of 2.5%. This means the 'defined' benefit will actually lose value in real terms whenever inflation is higher than 2.5% (like 2017, when CPI was 3%).
4. Contributions by employers and employees would still have increased, amounting to a significant loss of income for staff.
5. In combination these measures amounted to a reduction of pension benefits by an estimated 33%, hardly better than the 40% reduction in the original UUK proposal.
6. The proposal offered no solution to the disproportional disadvantages suffered by early career staff.

We seriously regret having to continue this dispute.

We would much rather teach. We have been encouraged by the support we received from students and the wider public. We have achieved some important concessions, but the struggle continues.

