

EDUCATION SECTOR

Our Ref: MJR/vt

14th August 2009

Prof Bill Wakeham
Vice Chancellor
University of Southampton
University Road
Southampton
SO17 1BJ

Dear Bill

JNCHES 2009 Negotiations

Today I am copying to you a formal letter to Jocelyn Prudence from me on behalf of Unite members working in higher education following my unions consultation and now rejection of UCEA's final 2009 offer.

Unite negotiators believe the UCEA offer does not take into account low paid and part time groups within higher education institutions as well ignoring the desperate lack of a national agreement on job security and redundancy handling.

In many cases low paid and part time staff in HE would receive a weekly increases that as some of my members put it " would not buy a bag of crisps". I know some senior professorial staff above the level of the JNCHES grade structure will receive increases well beyond a £1 a week. That unevenness is one of the major factors at the heart of Unite members discontent. Add to that the inability of UCEA to even sit down and negotiate a sensible national job security redundancy avoidance agreement at a time of urgent need on the matter.

Unite negotiators therefore wish to activate the disputes procedure within the NEW JNCHES agreement as my letter to Jocelyn Prudence makes clear.


I hope that UCEA will enter into further talks with a fresh mandate. The previous UCEA mantra will not resolve our dispute. From Unite negotiators point of view UCEA's limited remit has been an important factor in Unite members mind as to why the NEW JNCHES negotiations have been overwhelmingly rejected by Unite members.

If UCEA has nothing fresh to say then unfortunately the chance of progress will be slim, however I trust you and other Vice Chancellors will recognise the need to come back with something more than the same old refusal to negotiate.

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For peace and harmony in the sector it needs a fresh UCEA approach. Please contact me if you wish to discuss a sensible way forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Robinson".

Mike Robinson
Unite National Officer
Education