



University of Sheffield  
2 Hounsfield Road  
Sheffield  
S3 7RF

Tel: 0114 222 8976  
[ucu@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:ucu@sheffield.ac.uk)

Professor Koen Lamberts  
Vice Chancellor  
The University of Sheffield  
Firth Court, Western Bank  
Sheffield  
S10 2TN

28 June 2019

Dear Koen,

You will have received a letter dated 26 June from David Eastwood, chair of the USS trustee board, regarding the fast-developing crisis relating to UCU-nominated director Jane Hutton's suspension and, in particular, her recent interview on the Today programme. In common with many recent press releases and statements from USS, we urge you not to take this letter at face value.

There are serious questions concerning Eastwood's role in the matters under discussion, and growing evidence that he failed to properly discharge his duties as chair of the board. He, along with chief executive Bill Galvin, were recipients of an email from the Pensions Regulator on 8 January 2019 which called out factual inaccuracies in positions attributed to them by USS in documents presented to employers and the board, and which asked for the trustee to consider correcting the record. Neither the existence nor contents of this email were disclosed to the board, even after Hutton asked questions in March specifically relating to the quotations of concern. It was only after persistent questioning by Hutton of the regulator in May that the existence of the email came to light.

No explanation has been offered by Eastwood as to why the 8 January email was not disclosed to Hutton and the board as soon as questions were asked which directly related to the contents of the email. Failing to provide this information to a director of the company would appear to be in breach of Eastwood's responsibility as chair to "ensure that the directors have ... sufficient information on all relevant matters to make properly informed decisions" (USS "Corporate Governance Framework Policy", p. 58). The misrepresentation of the regulator's position remained uncorrected in important documents.

It is hard to overstate how significant the growing crisis in governance at USS is. It has the potential, left unchecked, to be at the heart of a new wave of industrial action in higher education. In failing to call out the problems, and being unresponsive to the serious concerns raised repeatedly by UCU,

your representatives at Universities UK are leading the sector towards calamity. For the good of the students and staff at our university, it is of vital importance that you take action before it is too late.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sam Marsh, Branch President,  
on behalf of the Sheffield UCU committee

cc Paul Blomfield MP

Jake Verity, President, Sheffield Students Union