

15th March 2018

Dear Keith,

In anticipation of our meeting with you tomorrow, we are writing with regards recent developments over USS and how we see progress being made in Sheffield.

In our meeting last week we predicted our members would react badly to any outcome which fell short of UCU's tabled proposal, describing it as the minimum we expected our members to accept. By Tuesday morning, our biggest ever branch meeting of 350 members voted unanimously to reject the position reached in the ACAS-mediated talks. Yet again we consider our reading of the situation to have been an accurate reflection of the views of our membership, and one which appears not to have been properly heard.

We have unfinished business from our last meeting, and new ideas to raise with you. But we also need to talk urgently about our concerns that the staff voice at the University of Sheffield is being stifled. We believe the current structure of trade union relations to be unfit for purpose, and will be making this case when we meet. In particular, we no longer have confidence that the Joint Union Campus Committee (JUCC) is working with regards all but routine matters of policy, being chaired by a university representative without sufficient executive power. It is in the interests of this university to rectify the matter urgently to avoid further damaging disputes and to prevent the complete breakdown of trust between the university and its staff.

With UCU members in Sheffield and nationally having made clear that they are prepared to continue industrial action as long as it takes to reach an agreement that is fair and based on solid processes, this university can no longer afford any complacency on the scale of the response required to end this dispute.

With kind regards,



Prof Craig Brandist, President
on behalf of Sheffield UCU

cc Paul Blomfield MP, JUCC Staffside Representatives