

National Bargaining News

April 2017

STRIKE GOING AHEAD ON THURSDAY 27TH APRIL

ALTHOUGH EIS/FELA STILL TALKING WITH MANAGEMENT

Following more than a year of frustrating negotiations EIS/FELA has agreed to go that extra mile and attend talks under the auspices of ACAS, in an attempt to break the logjam and persuade management to **#honourthedeal** they signed up for in **March 2016**.

Unbelievably, 13 months on from that Agreement, college management, represented by *Colleges Scotland Employers' Association*, are still refusing to budge on delivering equal pay across the Scottish FE sector.

Full details of the agreement, along with comment from your negotiators and FAQs, are available on the EIS website at <http://www.eis.org.uk/FELA/Honourthedeal.htm> .

Strike action will go ahead, starting on Thursday 27th April 2017 unless ACAS talks lead to management agreeing to implement the Agreement.

The EIS/FELA National Executive met today 21st April 2017 and was provided with a number of reports from meetings with management and with Government.

One clear message was of particular significance. At a meeting with the Scottish Government Minister responsible for FE, Shirley-Anne Somerville on 19th April 2017, the Minister stated that the money to pay to deliver the Agreement (i.e. equal pay) had been “banked” i.e. it can't be removed.

This was confirmed by the Chair of the Management Side the following day.

The dispute is over management seeking to impose punitive national terms of conditions as a pre-condition for implementing the Agreement they made last year on pay. While the agreement does require national terms and conditions to be delivered, there is no conditionality between the two.

Management are not claiming they cannot afford the Agreement, they are trying to use negotiations to get more work, less pay conservation and fewer holidays for lecturers.

We will inform you of any progress at ACAS; **however, we need to plan for strike action beginning on Thursday 27th April**. Please follow the advice overleaf...

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- Support the EIS call to take strike action on Thursday 27th April 2017
- Get involved in picketing at your College. Inform your Branch Secretary of your availability
- Come to the Rally organised by EIS/FELA outside the Parliament at Holyrood at 1.00 pm on Thursday 27th April 2017.

Contact your Branch Secretary who will have details of Buses being organised to take members to and from the rally in Edinburgh

- Write to or visit your MSP asking them to write to Shirley-Anne Sommerville, Minister for FE in the Scottish Government, urging her to intervene to resolve this dispute
- Invite your local councillors, MPs and MSPs to visit your picket lines
- Write to local and national newspapers highlighting the fact that college management have failed to honour the deal they voluntarily signed up for over a year ago
- Distribute the **“WHY ARE LECTURERS STRIKING”** leaflets to students and to the general public

- Use social media to spread the word and follow events.

Follow @EISUNION on Twitter, using hashtags
#honourthedeal
#EISFELA
#EISUNION.

Like the EISFELA HONOUR THE DEAL page on Facebook.



**Support the call for strike action on
Thursday 27th April 2017.**