

April 2017

www.eis.org.uk

FELA Ballot Result

The statutory ballot held for EIS members employed as lecturers at the 20 FE colleges which have signed the NRPA, and thus are party to the NJNC (national FE bargaining), is now closed. The results of the ballot - which asked members if they were willing to take strike action in pursuit of the NJNC dispute over the implementation of the March 2016 NJNC Agreement - are set out below:

No of entitled members to vote	4,606	
No of Yes votes	2,622	96.4%
No of No votes	98	3.6%
No of spoilt paper	2	
Turnout		59.1%
Whether or not the number of votes cast in the ballot is at least 50% of the number of individuals who were entitled to vote in the ballot		YES

The ballot was processed by independent scrutineers and their report can be found at www.eis.org.uk/Honour_the_Deal/FELAballot.htm.

The EIS Emergency Sub Committee has agreed strike dates; these will be communicated to colleges and members, shortly. The EIS would wish to resolve this dispute without recourse to strike action and we have informed the Management Side that we are willing to continue negotiations, to this end. We would like to thank members for participating in this ballot. The strong result improves our ability to secure a deal for members.

Action for Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of the ballot results.

Annual General Meeting 2017 - Motions

Please find enclosed a copy of the motions for this year's Annual General Meeting which have been found competent by the Standing Orders Committee. Additional copies of the motions can be provided by the EIS Organisation Department if required, please contact bmckinlay@eis.org.uk.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please circulate a copy of these motions to members in your establishment and encourage them to attend their Local Association meetings to discuss possible amendments for debate at the Annual General Meeting.

SQA Assessment Changes

Following successful industrial action by EIS members in response to assessment-related workload in the senior phase, mandatory unit assessments are being removed from N5, Higher and Advanced Higher Qualifications on a phased basis from August 2017. The removal of unit assessment has significant implications for senior phase curriculum architecture and timetabling. This was flagged up to Education Scotland and Scottish Government by the EIS at the point at which the agreement around the removal of unit assessments was reached and repeatedly thereafter.

Please find enclosed an updated copy of the changes to N5, Higher and Advanced Higher Assessments and some Frequently Asked Questions providing further information.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of SQA changes and circulate copies of the enclosed document in your establishment.

EIS Action Research Grants

EIS is currently offering grants of £500 to support members to undertake their own action research. Educational establishment-based action research is a simple set of techniques used to help improve teaching and learning. It is usually undertaken by the teacher or educator in their own classroom / setting. Action research involves:

- Identifying an issue (related to learning in your classroom / setting)
- Reviewing any relevant literature around the issue
- Planning a simple research strategy
- Gathering and analysing data
- Taking action based on your findings
- Sharing your findings

Closing date for applications is 11th May 2017. To find out more and apply for a grant please visit:

<http://www.eis.org.uk/CPD/ActionResearchGrants.htm>

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of the action research grants.

EIS Legal Helpline

At the most recent Finance Sub-Committee it was announced that the legal helpline will no longer be available for members, due to the service being cancelled by the service provider.

The legal helpline will cease to be operational from the 16th May 2017. The Executive Committee will be looking into alternatives prior to the date of cessation. Further information regarding these changes will be announced in due course.

In the meantime, if you require legal guidance or assistance please contact your Local Association Secretary or School Rep.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware of these changes.

EIS BME Member Engagement Event – 6th May 2017

Following the success of the BME Member Engagement event in May of last year, it has been agreed to schedule this event annually. EIS Black and Minority Ethnic members are invited to attend the STUC, 333 Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6NG on Saturday 6th May 2017. Discussions will be based around the issue of Anti-Racist training in educational establishments and BME teacher leadership; delegates will participate in workshops throughout the morning, giving a good opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other. More details can be found on the EIS website (<http://www.eis.org.uk/Equality/Anti-racism.htm>) or obtained from Ashley in the Education and Equality Department (agray@eis.org.uk).

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please encourage BME members within your establishment to attend and take part. Members can register by emailing Ashley Gray (agray@eis.org.uk), stating any dietary or access needs.

EIS Representatives' Training

One further training course for EIS Representatives has been added to our programme for this session in conjunction with TUC Education. This course will be held in Glasgow, with the first 2-day block on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 May, and then a further 2 days on Thursday 22 and Friday 23 June 2017.

It is aimed at reps who are relatively new in the role and/or those who have never had any previous rep training.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: If you are interested, please contact your LA Secretary for further details.

Health & Safety Representatives' Training

A two-day course will take place on Thursday 18th May and Friday 19th May 2017. The course is designed to provide Health & Safety representatives with an opportunity to deepen their knowledge and develop the skills required to fulfil the role. This is a pilot course and is targeted initially at Health & Safety Reps who have not received any Health & Safety training to date.

Action for Representatives and Branch Secretaries: Please make members aware that they will be hearing from their local association regarding this course very soon.

National Representatives' Conference

A conference for all EIS Reps' will be held in the Teachers' Building, Glasgow on Saturday 2 September 2017. The conference will include keynote speakers, a choice of workshops and networking opportunities. More details to be announced soon.