

National Bargaining News

July 2020

News from EIS/FELA national negotiators

End of Session 2019/20

We live in the strangest of times and the past few months have seen FE lecturers work through lockdown under the most stressful conditions imaginable. In response to members concerns your National Executive and national negotiators have continued to meet online throughout lockdown.

We have been working on a number of fronts which members have been worried about including the following:

- We have published advice on a number of COVID related issues at <https://www.eis.org.uk/FELA/AdviceCOVID-19> and we would urge you to refer to these for advice.

- We have been working with the Scottish Government to produce guidelines for safe return to campuses. This should be published soon.
- We have presented a paper at NJNC which seeks to set parameters on home working for next session. This includes the key demand the decisions on activities to be carried out online should be based upon lecturers' professional judgements.
- We have held rallies in defence of high quality FE and lecturers jobs at Forth Valley College.

- We have continued to work on the GTCS project.
- We have held webinars and online branch meetings across the sector.

And finally, at the end of term we are seeking your support in a campaign to defend FE in Inverness. Inverness College are threatening redundancies among FE lecturers at a time when FE has never been needed more, and when our First Minister highlights the importance of FE in our economic recovery. A branch meeting took place last week and full support of the national union will be given to members demanding that FE matters and that we will not accept compulsory redundancies.

NJNC Update

The NJNC met on 18th June 2020.

At the meeting we presented our view that the current attacks on lecturers at Forth Valley College is a deliberate attempt to undermine the NWPA, in particular plans to introduce GTCS for lecturers in FE across Scotland.

We made clear our position that this is an act of bad faith by the employers and that we would be contacting Scottish Government seeking an early meeting to address this issue. We urged them

to contact all colleges urging them to honour the deal agreed in the NWPA including the GTCS project. They did not respond positively.

We repeated our pay claim which was submitted in February 2020 and Colleges Scotland committed to responding formally by early August 2020.

We hope you have a well earned rest, you deserve it, take care, stay safe, listen to public health advice and keep an eye on the EIS website at

<https://www.eis.org.uk/>

