

National Bargaining News

October 2019

News from the national negotiators

National Agreements

The National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) had two meetings in September—the Side Table (Lecturers) and the Central Committee, which involves both the EIS and the professional support staff unions.

The Lecturers' Side Table discussed issues around the manner in which the transfer to permanence agreement is being implemented and areas where concerns have arisen. We also had brief updates on the implementation of the National

Working Practices Agreement ('NWPA').

The NWPA should now be implemented across Scotland. If you are finding any difficulties with the implementation of the NWPA, or have questions about how aspects, such as the off-site working arrangements, will operate in practice, then please contact your branch representatives for clarification.

The Central Committee discussed outstanding work

on national policies on Discipline, Grievance and Family Friendly Working as well as issues around the use of assessors, tutors and instructors in teaching.

National facility time was also discussed, with management seeking to withdraw central funding for this and reduce the time allocated. This move is being vigorously opposed and representations made about the importance of this in line with the Fair Work Framework.

GTCS working group

The College Lecturer Registration Working Group was established in late 2018 to take forward professional registration for lecturers.

Registration and regulation of college lecturers by GTCS will enhance the standing of the lecturing profession nationally. It recognises that teaching in a college is a professional role that requires a body of knowledge and the development of skills and experience

to effectively deliver vocational and academic qualifications to a wide range of learners.

Two work-streams have been established; one on registration and the other on lecturer professionalism. Further updates will follow in the coming months.

Members with TOFE or equivalent can currently join GTCS voluntarily at www.gtcs.org.uk.

FELA survey

We are currently conducting a national FELA survey into lecturers' working environments, workload and wellbeing.

The survey was sent to you by email—if you haven't received it, please contact

astewart@eis.org.uk and they will reissue.