

NATIONAL BARGAINING NEWS

News from the EIS/FELA national Reps 22 April 2022

'You turned up empty-handed!' - said the employers !!!!!



Negotiating with your employers is never an easy task but we can usually tell which side is which. However in a bizarre twist to the national pay saga today, the employers demanded an offer from us. We respectfully reminded them that the negotiating process required that they make us an offer and we consider whether we can lower our claim to meet it'. We implored them to negotiate a settlement that we could take to our members, we offered to suspend the strike action if they did. We reminded them that we have strong support nationally for both strike action and action short of strike action and that this would lead to a backlog of teaching and resulting.

Our genuine attempts to negotiate an end to this dispute frustratingly fell on deaf ears. We did not manage to move the employers' side from their position that they had nothing to offer .

They even ruled out any prospect of consolidating the 'thank you' payment, even though that money was already on the table .This means that they are claiming that there is a reasonable prospect that they would not even manage a 0.5% pay rise next year!!!

We pointed out that, in actual fact , they had come empty-handed with no intention of negotiating. They disputed this claiming that this was untrue as they had brought us the same £50 unconsolidated increase that was rejected in the previous meeting.



Only further industrial action will push your employers from the obstructive position that they took, at NJNC, today. Together, by taking action, we will again show that lecturers cannot be taken for granted—and push management back to the table with a genuine wish to end this dispute.

WE DESERVE BETTER

Industrial Action to do list next week:

Resulting boycott continues

All members are called on to support the strike days/picket lines on Tuesday and Wednesday

FELA Executive meets on Friday and will discuss an effective and sustainable balance between Strike Action and Action Short of Strike Action.

All branches should discuss how to make the best use of our mandate for the loss of goodwill

Minister and MSPs

A meeting has been requested, by EIS-FELA, with FE Minister Jamie Hepburn, and is due to happen on Wednesday.

Your representatives will stress to the minister that further intransigence from your employers only serves to further disrupt the FE Sector. The cycle of industrial action must end.

Please write to your MSP inviting them to join your picket line, and expressing your concerns about the intransigence of your employers and their unwillingness to negotiate