



Today (14 July) the joint HE trade unions (GMB, EIS, Unite, Unison and UCU) met the employer representatives at UCEA for the second and final New JNCHES dispute meeting. It was a very disappointing meeting.

One of the actions from the first meeting on 6 July (see report here [Second Trade Unions' Joint Statement \(eis.org.uk\)](https://eis.org.uk)) was that UCEA would consult employers on improving the final offer. UCEA gave an overview of the outcome of that consultation in the meeting. What is particularly frustrating is that despite UCEA's acknowledging the cost-of-living crisis has got worse for staff, they failed to make an improved offer on pay.

Employers understand the significance of this decision and have chosen to fuel a sector wide dispute rather than make an improved offer that could have avoided huge disruption in the autumn and tackled the cost of living crisis for staff in a fair and reasonable manner.

The joint trade union's find this position completely unacceptable given that we signalled in negotiations that we were prepared to move from our headline pay demand. In short, the unions moved to try and genuinely negotiate a fair pay settlement as member's pay has not kept up with inflation, but UCEA chose not to do so.

The formal New JNCHES dispute process has now concluded. Whilst we remain ready and willing to meet UCEA any time any place if they have an improved pay offer to make, each union will now continue to implement their plans to either consult members on the position or move to statutory industrial action ballots in the coming weeks.

Sent on behalf of the Joint HE trade Unions.