



UoB Briefing

1 March 2018

Open letter from Universities UK to USS pension scheme members

Dear colleagues,

Last week Universities UK, the representatives of employers in the USS (Universities Superannuation Scheme), wrote an **open letter to USS members** to clarify the position of employers in the pensions dispute. This follows media reporting of the national industrial action taking place at a number of other universities.

While industrial action is not taking place at the University of Birmingham, I would encourage you to read this open letter as it sets out important information for all USS members about the pensions dispute. Specifically, the letter outlines the challenge for the USS and the potential for further talks.

Following the publication of this open letter, the latest meeting in a year-long series of USS talks was held on Tuesday between employers, represented by Universities UK, and employees, represented by the University and College Union (UCU). A spokesperson for Universities UK said:

“Today’s talks have been positive with both employers’ representatives and union leaders showing a willingness to work together to address the scheme’s financial challenges.”

“Both parties agreed to involve ACAS in facilitating further talks to bridge the significant distance between both sides.”

Finally, I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that from the end of March a two-month consultation will begin, when members of USS will be asked for their views about the proposed changes. We encourage staff who are members of USS to respond fully to the consultation. A series of staff roadshows about the consultation will also take place.

More information on the USS reform proposals is available on **Universities UK’s website** and the **USS website**. Further background and detail can also be found on the **staff intranet**.

Professor Tim Jones
Provost and Vice-Principal

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