

## JNC Enhanced Report, 11 November 2021

### Attendees

Committee members	Observers
Judith Fish (Chair)	Dr Woon Wong, UCU observer
Phil Harding (UUK)	Professor Michael Otsuka, UCU observer
Stuart McLean (UUK)	Will Spinks, USS observer
Anthony Odgers (UUK)	Marian Elliott, USS observer
Cliff Vidgeon (UUK)	
Margaret Monckton (UUK)	
Dr Justine Mercer (UCU)	
Dr Deepa Driver (UCU)	
Paul Bridge (UCU)	
Dr Marion Hersh (UCU)	
Dr Sam Marsh (UCU)	

### Update from the Trustee

- A Trustee representative provided the group with an overview of [the recent letter from the UCU General Secretary](#), expressing concerns about the valuation process;
- A Trustee representative provided a briefing on the [Trustees interim financial monitoring approach](#), explaining that will be in effect until the introduction of the new Financial Management Plan and Monitoring & Actions Framework, expected by the end of Q1 2022;
- Following a request at the October JNC, the committee received an update on the roles and responsibilities of each party involved in the [member consultation](#), as well as the mechanisms for feedback. The group was also provided with a summary of amendments to previous scheme changes that were implemented following consultation feedback;
- The group discussed how best to encourage members to submit a consultation response in November, so the JNC can see emerging themes in feedback at the December JNC;
- They also discussed a technical problem with the consultation modeller, and the fact that it was unavailable for nine days. A UCU representative asked for the consultation period to be extended to compensate for the nine days that the modeller was not available, but a Trustee representative noted that the consultation is running beyond the statutory 60 days, even with the nine days taken into consideration. The Trustee agreed to take the request to extend the consultation away for consideration;

### Update on low cost benefits and conditional indexation working groups

The group noted the draft Terms of Reference for the conditional indexation and low cost working groups.

UCU noted that the outputs of the working groups will need to be considered at the [UCU 2022 Congress](#), due to take place in June. UUK noted their approval body is the [Employers Pensions Forum](#) and any proposals will also be assessed via an all employer consultation. They emphasised their hope to commence the work of the low cost working group as soon as possible, and UCU representatives echoed this but also noted the time and work capacity challenges

Non-restricted (NR)

for UCU JNC representatives.

UCU representatives set out the reasons why they are currently unable to agree to the conditional indexation working group terms of reference. The current industrial dispute meant they could not be seen to be collaborating with UUK in this regard. The upcoming industrial action is also time and resource intensive and makes the timeline for the conditional indexation working group challenging.

A UUK representative expressed hope that UCU may be able to provide some feedback on the terms of reference so that UUK can continue preparatory work before the group is able to formally convene with UCU representation.

### Stakeholder updates

#### UCU

- A UCU representative provided an overview of their [recent industrial action ballot outcomes](#);
- They called on UUK to demand a '[moderately prudent, well evidenced 2021 valuation](#)' and to revoke the agreed changes. A UUK representative noted the [advice they have received from their actuarial advisers](#) on a March 2021 valuation.

#### UUK

- A UUK representative gave an overview of the support they are providing employers on the member consultation, including providing communication materials;
- They are also working with employers to ensure they understand their responsibilities on the annual USS debt monitoring exercise.

### Additional matters covered at the meeting

- The agenda item 'Powers of the JNC' was deferred to a future date to allow a JNC representative to seek external legal advice;
- The group did not have time to consider all agenda items, including the Annual Report on the [Voluntary Service Cap](#) and [Enhanced Opt Out](#) and so it was agreed any items not covered would be returned to at the December JNC;
- It was agreed that a meeting to discuss timescales for the scheme change working groups will be arranged for the JNC Chair and the chief UCU and UUK negotiators.