

NEW JNCHES

Joint Negotiating Committee
for Higher Education Staff

Joint statement, 29 September 2008

HE trade unions and employers are pleased to have held today the inaugural meeting of the New JNCHES (Joint Negotiating Committee for Higher Education Staff)*, as the body responsible for negotiation of pay and related matters at national level. At this meeting, the members** signed their formal agreement to the New JNCHES constitution. They agreed the timetable that will apply in 2008-09 including dates for the coming round of negotiations on pay in HE from 1 August 2009. Discussion also took place regarding preparations for 2009 round of negotiations and the employers explained the new arrangements in place for HEIs participating in the process.

The members discussed the October 2008 pay increase due under the 2006-09 agreement.

New JNCHES discussed work that is under way on pension provision in HE under the remit of the Employers' Pension Forum, noting the work initiated to review USS arrangements. It was agreed that it was important to ensure that dialogue in this important area was taking place. It was therefore agreed that a New JNCHES Pensions Forum would be established to facilitate two-way communications and consultation on matters of mutual concern in relation to all the HE pensions schemes.

The members considered the work done under the previous JNCHES Equalities Forum on equality and diversity and agreed to explore future joint work being undertaken.

New JNCHES also received reports on:

- the implementation of the National Framework Agreement for the modernisation of pay structures in higher education
- progress of the HE Review Finance and Pay Data being undertaken jointly by all the HE unions and the employers and due to report in December 2008
- the conclusion of the Joint Working Project undertaken from 2005 to 2008, focussing on trade union and employer relationships at HEI level using the context of equal pay review processes.

Chris Kaufman
On behalf of the unions

Professor Bill Wakeham
On behalf of the employers

Notes:

*New JNCHES has come about as a result of the commitment to reform national bargaining arrangements as part of the 2006-09 agreement and supersedes the former JNCHES set up in 2001.

**The members are UCEA for the HE employers' side and the HE unions: EIS, Unison, GMB, Unite (T&G), Unite (Amicus). UCU representatives attended the meeting on a without prejudice basis as the UCU is not currently a signatory.