

Update from the USS National Dispute Committee

The National Dispute Committee (NDC) was constituted earlier this year to provide accountability and a representative steer of the USS dispute.

The sacrifices of UCU members delivered significant results in 2018. Our strike action prevented the imposition of substantial cuts, and forced our employer to agree to establish a Joint Expert Panel (JEP). The JEP report **vindicated** the UCU position, and a recent, **independent report** supports the JEP's work and the viability of the scheme. Recently, USS admitted that if the recommendations of the JEP report were implemented the scheme would have a £0.5bn surplus.

UCU's official position is 'no detriment'. This means no increase to contributions, and no reduction in pension benefits. The NDC has evaluated the evidence and expert analyses and believe the 'no-detriment' position is justified, fair and more importantly, realistic.

USS is going to conduct a March 2018 valuation using the discredited methodology heavily criticised in the JEP report. It is important to resist any needless **attempt by USS or UUK to convince us to accept a deal that means increases in contributions or decreases in benefits**. The evidence demonstrates that neither are required. The NDC believes that if such moves are made by either USS or UUK, UCU members should be balloted for strike action, with a recommendation to vote YES.

NDC will continue to provide members with further updates as the USS dispute continues. Please visit our webpage for minutes and **reports**.

14 December 2018