

JNC Enhanced Report, 2 September 2021

Attendees

Committee members	Observers
Judith Fish (Chair)	Professor Michael Otsuka, UCU observer
Phil Harding (UUK)	
Margaret Monckton (UUK)	
Stuart McLean (UUK)	
Cliff Vidgeon (UUK)	
Dr Justine Mercer (UCU)	
Dr Sam Marsh (UCU)	
Dr Deepa Driver (UCU)	
Paul Bridge (UCU)	
Dr Marion Hersh (UCU)	

Stakeholder updates

UUK

A UUK representative provided [an overview of the UUK proposal](#) that would allow the USS Trustee to transition to a new schedule of contributions for the 2020 valuation, replacing [the 2018 Schedule of Contributions](#) and avoiding the scheduled increases in employer and member contributions due to apply from 1 October 2021.

Instead of member contribution rate increasing to 11%, the proposal will [mean an increase to 9.8%](#).

The group discussed the proposal in detail, considering affordability for members and opt out levels. The group noted the need to reach a decision by 3 September in order to allow the Trustee time to implement the change in contribution levels by 1 October, and UCU representatives expressed some concern on the complexity of the new schedule of contributions and how this might impact member understanding and responses to the upcoming [member consultation](#).

UCU representatives asked for a vote on the proposal to be postponed to a future JNC meeting but it was noted that any further postponement would mean the October increase could not be avoided.

The proposal was put to a vote. UUK representatives voted in favour of the proposal, and UCU representatives voted against it. After consideration, the Chair confirmed they would use their casting vote to break the deadlock and they voted in favour of the proposal. The change to the [scheme rules](#) required for this proposal were captured in the Fifteenth Deed of Amendment.

UCU

A UCU representative confirmed that their benefit proposal can be shared with the [Employers Pension Forum](#).