

JNC Enhanced Report, 15 May 2023

Attendees

Committee members	Observers
Akbar Khan (Chair)	Shahenda Suliman, UCU observer
Margaret Monckton (UUK)	Dr Marion Hersh, UCU observer
Stuart McLean (UUK)	Dr Renee Prendergast, UCU observer
Mike Shore- Nye (UUK)	Cliff Vidgeon, UUK observer
Dr Carol Costello (UUK)	Gary Dixon, USS observer
Anthony Odgers (UUK)	Alain Kerneis, USS observer
Dr Justine Mercer (UCU)	
Dr Deepa Driver (UCU)	
Professor Taylor- Batty (UCU)	
Jenny Lennox (UCU)	
Dr Jackie Grant (UCU)	

Update from the Trustee

A Trustee representative provided the group with an update on [the Capita cyber incident](#) and the group discussed the ways that members can best be supported and assured.

A Trustee representative noted that the 2023 valuation timeline is on track. Work around the covenant assessment is drawing to a close and work to prepare for the Technical Provisions and Member consultations are ongoing.

The group discussed the appointment of [the new USS CEO](#) and the plan for her transition into the new role.

A Trustee representative provided an overview of the [latest FMP monitoring report](#). The group went on to have a detailed discussion on the scheme funding position.

A UCU representative asked for more detail on [recent USSIM voting decisions](#). A Trustee representative provided an overview of the [USSIM RI strategy](#).

A Trustee representative provided the group with an update on a proposed amendment to the scheme rules drafted in response to the entry into law of the Pensions Act 2021, and the fines regime operated by the Pensions Regulator which had changed to introduce a broader range of events being subject to fining powers and the maximum fine to which the trustee could be liable increasing from £50k to £1m. It was noted that the draft deed to take forward the required rule amendments would be brought to the next meeting of the JNC.

Stakeholder updates

UCU

A UCU representative noted the upcoming [UCU Annual Congress](#). They explained that members will vote on tabled motions relating to USS, and that [JNC negotiators will also be elected and/or re-elected](#). They also noted that the current chair of the UCU Higher Education Committee, Dr Justine Mercer, will be moving to the full time role of UCU President and will end her tenure as a UCU JNC negotiator.

The UCU representatives welcomed the work that was being undertaken around the valuation which was focussed on [the agreed statement on benefit restoration](#) along with the long term stability of USS. However, a UCU representative noted that there is still a degree of scepticism amongst the membership, and they reminded the group that UCU has an active mandate for industrial action that will be enacted if necessary.

Non-restricted (NR)

They noted that UCU members will be encouraged to see the FMP monitoring report as at 31 March 2023.

They noted that First Actuarial had been commissioned to provide options on the possible routes to restore member benefits for the period April 2022 to April 2024, taking account of factors such as implementation matters and ease of communication. They noted their expectation that the paper would be made available to the Trustee shortly.

UUK

A UUK representative updated the group on the first meeting of the JNC stability workstream and noted its importance and their aim for it to make timely recommendations. They informed the group that the workstream Terms of reference are being considered.

The Group went on to discuss the potential considerations for the group.

Additional matters covered at the meeting

A UCU representative noted that the work to review the JNC negotiator fees is ongoing. UCU JNC attendees are considering their position.

UUK and USS representatives thanked Dr Justine Mercer for all her hard work and constructive input to the JNC.

Following the meeting, the committee received an informal briefing on the most recent [CEM Benchmarking](#) report on administration and investment costs.