

## JNC Enhanced Report, 26 & 31 August 2021

### Attendees

Committee members	Observers
Judith Fish (Chair)	Professor Michael Otsuka, UCU observer*
Phil Harding (UUK)	Dr Woon Wong, UCU observer
Dr Carol Costello (UUK)	Cliff Vidgeon, UUK observer
Stuart McLean (UUK)	Margaret Monckton, UUK observer
Anthony Odgers (UUK)	
Dr Justine Mercer (UCU)	
Dr Sam Marsh (UCU)*	
Dr Deepa Driver (UCU)	
Christine Haswell (UCU)	
Dr Marion Hersh (UCU)	

\*Professor Otsuka became an alternate for Dr Marsh part way through the meeting.

### Meeting governance

The 26 August JNC meeting was adjourned after four hours and reconvened on 31 August.

### Stakeholder updates

#### UCU

- A UCU representative noted that UCU members are angry and disappointed about the UUK proposal. They highlighted the motions tabled for the [9 September Special HE Sector Conference](#) as an illustration of this, some of which call for immediate industrial action;
- They expressed frustration with what they feel is a lack of compromise from UUK around the employer position;
- They noted that UUK are unable to confirm if employers can provide covenant support to the UCU proposals as there has not been time to consult with employers on the UCU proposals;
- A UUK representative explained that they have not yet received authorisation to share the UCU proposals with employers, and a UCU representative responded by noting that this is because the proposals must be shared with UCU members first;
- A UCU representative confirmed they would not oppose the planned October contribution increases;
- UCU tabled their proposal but confirmed they that, due to the lack of covenant support, they did not wish to put it to a formal vote;
- A UCU representative outlined the UCU position that the Chair should not take a formal vote on either of the proposals, but a Trustee representative reminded them of [the deadline for the JNC decision making period](#). The Trustee representative noted the importance of the JNC negotiating a suitable outcome, but emphasised that any further delay would make a scheme changes implementation date of 1 April 2022 almost impossible;
- The Chair noted that the Trustee had already [passed the statutory deadline for the valuation](#) and therefore it could decide that it would proceed with the default option and implement the 2020 Schedule of Contributions with a contribution rate of 34.7%;
- The group went on to discuss these points in detail and debated about the ability of committee members to vote on the proposals.

## UUK

- A UUK representative noted that UUK committee members wished to vote and reach a decision on proposals at the meeting;
- They provided an [overview of the UUK proposals](#);
- The group went on to discuss the UUK proposal and associated issues in detail;
- Following this, some committee members left the meeting and as it was no longer quorate the Chair adjourned the meeting and agreed to reconvene on 31 August.

### Tabling and voting on the stakeholder proposals

The Chair noted that 31 August was the last day of the extension to the JNC decision making window and asked the UCU and UUK representatives to confirm the status of their proposals.

A UCU representative explained that since there was not agreed covenant support package for their proposals, UCU would not formally table them. A UUK representative confirmed that UUK would like to table their proposal and were seeking the outcome of a decision on their proposals.

A UCU representative asked the Chair to refrain from using their casting vote in order to provide more time to find a negotiated agreement and avoid sector wide industrial action.

The Chair expressed their regret that the JNC had not been able to reach a negotiated outcome.

The committee was asked to vote on the UUK proposal. UUK representatives voted for the proposal, and UCU representatives voted against it. The Chair was then called on to use their casting vote.

The UUK proposal was carried by the Chair's casting vote.

Following this, the group were asked to consider and vote on the Fifteenth Deed of Amendment, a change to the rules to support the UUK proposals. The Deed was also carried by the Chair's casting vote.