



Alistair Jarvis
CEO, Universities UK
Woburn House
20 Tavistock Square
London WC1H 9HQ

10 February 2022

Dear Alistair,

On 26 January, UCU released new pension proposals aimed at preventing devastating cuts to our members' retirement and averting widespread industrial action which is set to begin on Monday 14 February. These proposals represent a serious compromise on the part of UCU and its membership and should be welcomed.

Despite initially pouring cold water on UCU's proposals, I was pleased to later receive a letter from yourself confirming that *'if the USS trustee validates your proposal as an implementable solution to the 2020 valuation, we will formally consult employers on it'*.

I am pleased to say that the USS trustee, after working together with UCU, has confirmed that our union's compromise proposals are both viable and implementable. To be clear, the trustee has reported that there is *'no impediment to implementation of alternative compromise proposals put forward by UCU'*.

It is deeply regretful that UUK did not take the steps to consult before now, wasting two weeks of valuable time. I am urging UUK to now carry out an urgent and rapid consultation of university employers.

UCU's proposal present a solution to the current dispute by protecting benefits and providing room for both parties to immediately open productive discussions on the future of the scheme, which must include a new evidence-based valuation.

Together, we can protect pensions and avoid disruption to education. Will you choose to do that with me, and act in the best interests of the sector?

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by the name 'Grady'.

Dr Jo Grady
General Secretary UCU