



EDUCATION SECTOR

Our Ref: MJR/VT/HE/27/10

28th August 2010

To: All Unite Members working in Higher Education

Dear Colleague

This is an important communication from Unite about the pay and grade boundary negotiations in higher education for those staff whose University or College are a subscribing Higher Education Institution (HEI) to the University and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA).

You have been sent this letter because the union believes you may be affected by issues raised in that bargaining group and therefore eligible to take part in a consultative ballot on whether to accept the current offer made by UCEA on behalf of its subscribing Institutions.

After following the explanation attached with this letter as to who is eligible to vote, if you believe you are not entitled to take part in this consultative ballot, perhaps because you have left your employment with a University or HE College, retired, left the union, our records are incorrect as to your current employer or for any similar reason, please complete and return the notice accompanying the ballot paper indicating on it why you think you are ineligible to participate and return the incomplete ballot paper without voting.

It is important for the union records to be undated with your details and a prepaid envelope is enclosed to enable you to do that.

If you believe you are eligible to vote a consultative ballot paper is attached that the union would be pleased to receive your indication as to whether the union should formally accept or reject the offer on pay, job security and other terms and conditions from UCEA as part of the 2010 bargaining process. Please note UCEA have firmly rejected the claim to extend the pay spine upwards for other staff.

An explanation as to what the offer is, the background to the negotiations, the recommendation from the Unite national education industry committee and the implications for you if the offer is accepted or rejected is also attached along with the consultative ballot paper.

If you have a query about your eligibility to vote or about the offer itself or about the implications if the offer is rejected or accepted please contact your nearest Unite office and ask for the union official that covers the higher education sector who will endeavour to respond to your query direct.

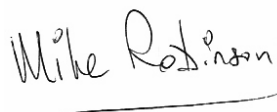
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If you are in contact with anyone who you believe may be eligible to vote but has not received a ballot paper perhaps because we no longer have their current address or details please ask them to contact the nearest Unite office with their membership details place of work and occupation and the union will advise as to their eligibility or not to participate.

It is important that only eligible members participate in the consultative ballot. It is also important that members who are not eligible to vote (for the reasons described earlier) return their ballot paper to Unite so we can amend our records.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Robinson".

Mike Robinson
National Officer
Education Sector