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Dear

Higher Education Dispute

I am writing to confirm the outcome of the meeting I convened today in Congress House to consider the position in the current Higher Education dispute. I am very grateful for the co-operation shown by colleagues from UCEA and the trade unions, and for the very helpful assistance throughout provided by Steve Hodder of ACAS.

At the conclusion of the meeting the attached texts were accepted by the negotiators on all sides as the best that could be achieved through negotiations to resolve the outstanding issues of difficulty and it will be recommended strongly for acceptance to colleagues on all sides.

It was agreed by all the parties to invite Mary Stacey to convene an urgent meeting of JNCHES in order that the text (attached) can be formally considered at that meeting.

The offer will be conditional upon the trade union side immediately suspending all industrial action. Other measures, as set out in the attached note on return to work arrangements, will also be required to restore good industrial relations.

I hope that JNCHES on Monday/Tuesday can formalise this agreement and strongly encourage all parties to accept these proposals as an honourable conclusion to the current difficulties.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN BARBER
General Secretary