

Thursday 4 May 2017

MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS NEEDED TO END STRIKES

Commenting after today's talks with the EIS to try to end the strikes, a spokesperson for the Colleges Scotland Employers' Association said:

"We are disappointed that the EIS is persistently refusing to suspend strike action unless we concede to all of their unreasonable demands despite new offers from the employers who have shown willingness to compromise. The EIS needs to demonstrate a willingness to engage in meaningful negotiations, and end the dispute without placing yet further unrealistic demands on the employers.

"The offer on the table meets the EIS requirement for standard pay and terms and conditions for all lecturing staff across Scotland. The current offer is a lecturer salary of £40,000 plus 56 days holiday and 24 hours teaching time per week with the facility to timetable up to 26 hours in any eight-week period. This is a fair and reasonable offer. It is worth noting that 24 hours teaching time is the current sector norm. It effectively means an average 9% pay increase will be delivered for the same number of teaching hours.

"Today, after almost a year of talks, the EIS has made inconsequential proposals with preconditions attached which is disappointing.

"The EIS is seeking no detriment on existing holiday entitlement for lecturers, which fundamentally undermines the principles of National Bargaining, and runs counter to their own argument for equality and honouring the deal. The sector norm is currently 60 days holiday; the employers are offering 56 which is twice the statutory minimum.

"The EIS demands for fewer teaching hours and more holidays, on top of the substantial pay rise we have agreed, is simply unrealistic and unsustainable. The employers are not withholding money as the EIS claim, the money will be paid once the total package, including changes to terms and conditions, has been agreed. We are pleased that the EIS has now accepted that terms and conditions are an integral part of the deal that was agreed last year.

"We are meeting the EIS again tomorrow to continue discussions and, in the interests of students, we urge the union to move from their intransigent position and call off their strikes while talks are ongoing."

ENDS

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