

Maintain the Boycott - No to Intimidation and Pay Docking

We have reached a critical juncture in our dispute with UCEA. At first, the employers refused to meet for months. Next, some institutions desperately attempted local bargaining. Then came threats to dock pay and reduce salaries. Now we see UCEA's sheer contempt in the shape of the latest 0.5% on top of an already roundly rejected 3-year offer.

We must remain firm with the exam boycott in the face of intimidation from senior University officials and line managers. This boycott, however, may only have a limited shelf life if UCEA fails to come up with a decent offer. We need other forms of boycott and action if the dispute remains unresolved over the summer. The one-day strike in March was a success and we need more of the same as well as other creative action such as boycotting of University committees and the paperwork for new courses. Any attempts to dock pay must be met with walkouts, as colleagues at Northumbria University have shown.

Furthermore, we must question how it is that managers who are members of the UCU can undermine and attempt to break our current action. We do not need managers in our union and should look forward to the day when all workers in higher education - academics, administrative staff as well as all manual grades - are in the same union for unity and strength.

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