

Joint University/UCU Committee

22/19 A meeting of the Joint University/UCU Committee was held on Thursday 3 November 2022 at 14.00 in Committee Room 1, Whiteknights House/remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Professor Robert Van de Noort, Vice Chancellor [Chair]
Dr Simon Clarke, Senate Representative
Dr David Field, UCU Representative
Moray McAulay, UCU Regional Official
Dr Richard Messer, Chief Strategy Officer & University Secretary – via Teams
Sally Pellow, President of Reading UCU
Claire Rolstone, Interim Director of HR
Nat Willmott, UCU Representative – via Teams
Professor Parveen Yaqoob, Deputy Vice Chancellor
Katie Smith, Senior Governance Officer [Secretary]

22/20 Memorandum on Disclosure of Interests and Terms of Reference

- o (• In response to a query, the Vice Chancellor clarified that the University had initially been working on a request from Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to build Loddon Garden Village on Hall Farm. In the last election, the existing leadership at WBC had changed and the University had since been invited to build [Bottom] [p(m)] TJ de (n i)-p

scheme which also gave consideration to aspects such as retention within the higher education workforce.

- o The Vice Chancellor recognised UCU's right to decide on further industrial action but proposed that a better solution would be to work constructively together and prepare for the 2023 valuation.
- UCU had been receiving a significant amount of feedback from members in relation to concerns regarding the cost of living. This was becoming an area of heightened concern, as colleagues were having to navigate issues around accommodation and food insecurity. UCU advised that they had received a range of responses to a recent UoR article; whilst some had welcomed the discounts referenced, other colleagues had not responded so positively to the piece and it was suggested that the message might not have come across as intended - for example, some of the initiatives listed had been in place for many years and were not a direct response to the cost of living crisis. UCU did consider the reminder regarding these to be helpful but suggested that this be further expanded to include signposting to third-party organisations, such as national helplines and charities. The Interim Director of HR advised that a collection of resources regarding the cost of living was being created on the wellbeing webpages, including links to external resources such as the MoneyHelper service and local council support we14 Tc 0.014 and 21428 T07449(i)-0.6T-61 d(1)35 (14)3.65.

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