

9 February 2021

Dear Dr Williams and UCU Sussex branch executive and representatives,

Thank you for your open letter, dated 29 January, outlining the UCU Sussex branch's concerns on transparency at the University of Sussex and the USS 2020 valuation. I also want to thank you for your positive feedback on UUK and UCU's collaborative approach on the joint position statement on key issues relating to USS.

Professor Adam Tickell is a respected Chair of the Employers Pensions Forum (EPF) and spokesperson for employers in the scheme who has the support and full confidence of Universities UK – and regularly comments on behalf of USS employers. It is possible that Professor Tickell's statements may differ in his different roles; speaking on behalf of 340 employers, as Chair of the EPF, or in his institutional capacity as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sussex. We will do all we can to ensure it is clear when he is representing the collective position of employers.

In regard to the concerns outlined in the letter on joint working and information sharing between the University of Sussex and the UCU branch at Sussex, these are issues that should be taken up locally with the leadership team at Sussex. UUK represents the collective views of employers in the USS scheme and has no power to intervene at an institutional level.

UUK supports an approach where universities engage regularly with USS members so that their views are taken into consideration by employers in response to consultations. We expect to consult employers over the next few months on how we can tackle the scheme's financial challenges to create valuable, affordable, and sustainable pensions for all staff, and address the high opt-out rate among early career staff. We will be asking employers to seek and consider views from staff as part of this.

Yours sincerely,



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The voice of universities

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