Dear colleague,

I am very pleased to write to inform you that UCU today confirmed a suspension of all industrial action called by them in relation to their USS dispute from 20 November until after 15 January 2015.

The suspension has been agreed between UCU and UUK in order to allow a period of intense negotiation with the aim of seeking an agreement on reforms to the USS. We are pleased at this development and hope that this gives both parties the opportunity to explore an agreed solution in the negotiations.

Under the terms of UCU’s agreement with UUK, the 66 affected universities have been asked to confirm that they will not be applying their policies on the withholding of pay for breach of contract in respect of any individuals who actually participated between 6 and 19 November on the condition that those individuals make up all work missed in a reasonable period of time.

At Leicester, we have already established that the few individuals who advised they were participating between 6 and 19 November will be making up all work that they missed within a reasonable period of time. As this will be the case, we can confirm that we will not be applying our policy on the withholding of pay for breach of contract in respect of those individuals. This course of action should not be seen as setting a precedent and is without prejudice in respect of the right of Leicester to apply its policy fully on future occasions.

We are delighted that, as a result, our students will not have been adversely impacted and are very hopeful that this will now allow time for a joint proposal for reform that offers an affordable and sustainable pension scheme that remains attractive for both current and future members.

Yours sincerely,

Chloe Grobler
Acting Director of Human Resources