Dear colleagues

As you will be aware, some members of the University and College Union (UCU) are currently taking industrial action as part of the UCU’s dispute relating to pay and working conditions. This action took the form of a strike, which ran from 25 November to 4 December, and has been followed by Action Short of a Strike (ASOS).

The Executive Group recognises the strength of feeling on the issues raised as part of the action and welcomes yesterday’s national announcement that UCU and the Universities & Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) will be entering into further dialogue on Tuesday 17 December. The aim of this meeting is to explore some new sector-level joint work on the issues relating to workload, gender pay gaps/ethnicity pay and casual employment, all of which are key elements of the UCU claim.

We particularly welcome this news as, here at Kent, we want to do the best for all our staff and have made significant strides in the areas of equality, casualisation and workload. However, we know there is more that can be done and believe that further work in these areas at national level would be highly beneficial.

We will continue to keep you updated.

Alison Ross-Green | Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development