
From: UCU Office
Sent: 04 March 2018 21:54
To: President; Provost
Cc: ucu-list; Sanderson, Muir
Subject: USS Pension

Dear President,

In your email to staff of 27th February 2018, sent jointly with the then Provost, you suggested a further delay to spend more time scrutinising the USS assumptions and methods of the valuation.

Senior people at Imperial have been involved with, and are well informed on, the technical aspects of USS. Imperial's Registrar has been a key participant in the Valuation Discussion Forum, Imperial took part in a preliminary consultation in February/March 2017 on the assumptions of the valuation, and a further consultation in September 2017.

As between the September and November valuation approaches, Imperial already has sufficient information to know that it makes more sense to delay the 'de-risking' to years 11-20 rather than to start it immediately. [The presentation which Imperial received in late November](#) reinforced this case.

Imperial's own expert working group said in their [final report](#) "It is important to realise that the words "de-risking" are being mis-used. Moving the scheme to less risky investments appears a "good" thing, but these less risky investments have historically poor returns and now is probably an optimally poor time to make this change. Other institutions within UUK appear to have misunderstood that de-risking now is potentially "risking" instead."

Whilst the valuation must be publicly scrutinised, there is no need to delay in the meantime. Imperial is already in a position to re-iterate its support for the September valuation, as compared with the November one, and to call for UUK and USS to return to the September valuation. We believe that this would be much more practically useful in resolving the current dispute than calling for further delay.

Best Wishes,

Imperial UCU