

## NEU Executive meeting on Thursday 28 February. Report for District 3

The following is a summary of a lot of debate. If you would like further details please contact me – Wendy Hardy [wendy.hardy@neu.org.uk](mailto:wendy.hardy@neu.org.uk)

The **Member Defence Committee** met in the morning. Philippa Harvey, the Chair was elected at the last meeting. We decided to wait until the next meeting to elect a Vice Chair.

We found that we had similar hopes and aspirations, using our experience of case work to improve the system for members. We were invited to pay a visit to the Advice line in Doncaster or London to see how calls are handled.

We had a useful presentation by Clive Romain, Assistant General Secretary on “Law and Rights”. The discussion after this included, we need to celebrate our victories and make sure that Reps are given time for their role as the case load is beyond that District secretaries alone. Are their trends in queries to the Advice line? If so, there could be a FAQ section on the website.

Morris will continue to offer a wide level of legal protection.

### General Secretary report

In the afternoon, Mary spoke of the NEU@s work against academisation. Kevin spoke of the rules regulating the use of the political fund money. These funds can be used against racist parties which did not include UKIP, but their recent change in rhetoric may change this. A paper is to go to District Secretaries for comment and then to the Executive for a final decision. Mary spoke on the Indicative Ballot outcome. We need to listen to what is really concerning our member – possibly pay and workload.

### Steering Groups

- There was a vote about the **delegation to Palestine twice a year, and to Cuba**. The debate was robust with questions about validity of this for our members. There was an amendment to delete the visit to Cuba, but this was not passed.
- The resolution for the **NEU Leadership Committee** to provide support and training for leaders and governors, as well as advocating for more secure employment environment for skilled school and college leaders was agreed.
- **Member complaints** resolution. The NEU code of conduct has now been issued and will stand until 2020. The Defence Committee were asked to establish a mechanism to monitor and scrutinise the progress of all complaints.
- Item on the constitution of the **Executive Policy Group EPG** was deferred.
- **Affiliation, donations and sponsorship** – many of these have been removed or reduced.
- **Honoraria payments** – there is to be a survey of honoraria to see how much and to whom payments are made and why.
- **Delegation to EI World Congress** – Mary to be a candidate for the Chair. The cost of sending is £1,500 ahead.
- **National Negotiating Bodies** – it was agreed that there should be a wider number of lay members be included.

### Warwick University

There was a call to boycott this university for their handling of the rape of a female student. The resolution was amended to be that NEU would write to them asking them to review their decision. We will wait for their response, and then consider further action if needed.

### Further items

There had been a lot of debate with some strong opposition. This led to many amendments which were read out. We were all confused so I asked that we have these written down and this was agreed. Unfortunately, the IT system does not allow for these to be projected. The delay this caused meant that the rest of the agenda had to be suspended and the proposers will have to re-submit them if they want them heard next time.