

Mr J Thompson

By email: [James.Thompson@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:James.Thompson@bristol.ac.uk)

**Professor Hugh Brady**  
**Vice-Chancellor and President**  
University of Bristol  
Senate House  
Tyndall Avenue  
Bristol BS8 1TH, UK  
T +44 (0)117 928 7499  
[www.bristol.ac.uk](http://www.bristol.ac.uk)

Ref: HRB/AO/Thompson/010318

01 March 2018

Dear James

Thank you for your message; it was invigorating for all members of Senate to hear from such articulate and passionate students.

With regard to your comment on Temple Quarter, the strategic vision for the University is driven by the shared aspirations of our community, both staff and students. While I appreciate that you only caught the end of the Temple Quarter presentation, I hope the presentation conveyed how our investment in the new campus, has a number of interdependent goals: (i) it will allow a number of our schools and research programmes realise their exciting academic ambitions; (ii) it will relieve some of the pressure on space on our already constrained Clifton campus; (iii) it will be a central element of regeneration of one of the most deprived areas of our city and serve as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation; and (iv) very importantly, it will over time be a key source of income that allows us to cover pension costs and continue to invest in staff, academic activities and the student experience in the future.

Like yourself, I welcome the resumption of talks between UCU and UUK, and the involvement of ACAS. What I have found most puzzling and concerning in the current dispute is how far apart both sides appear to be in their assessments of the health or otherwise of USS scheme. If we are to rebuild trust, I consider it essential that both UUK and UCU engage in the ongoing negotiation process in good faith and with full transparency from both parties regarding the modelling and valuation. Then, and only then, will all sides be able to make a judgement on the levels of contribution that can be justified and the amount of risk that can be reasonably borne.

I hope, of course, that UCU will consider suspending strike action while this negotiation takes place.

I believe in the collegiality and shared purpose of the Bristol community, and I trust that, as we navigate the weeks ahead, we can work collectively to help shape the best possible outcome for current and future staff and, indeed, for current and future students.

Yours sincerely



Professor Hugh Brady  
**Vice-Chancellor and President**