



Industrial action on 13 and 14 October

10 October 2022

Dear students,

I'm writing to provide you with an update on the industrial action taking place this week. Some of your lecturers and tutors are members of the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU), and as part of the process of negotiating a new Enterprise Agreement some NTEU members have chosen to take strike action on Thursday 13 and Friday 14 October.

I am disappointed that the NTEU has chosen to take more industrial action. From the start, I have clearly advised that the University will not be influenced by industrial action, but only by constructive negotiation around the bargaining table. That has certainly been the case for all the matters that have been finalised so far, as can be seen in the recent and pleasing progress in bargaining where constructive discussions on both sides have enabled us to reach agreement on numerous matters.

We know that staff working conditions are student learning conditions. That is why we're offering to maintain and enhance our sector-leading conditions and diversify our academic staffing model to better support the careers of our academics who excel in teaching. We've also proposed to hire an additional 300 continuing academic staff, including academics who are educational leaders in discipline-specific pedagogies so we can ensure that every Sydney student receives an outstanding classroom experience. And we're committed to reducing our reliance on casual sessional staff and creating more secure jobs.

Nevertheless, we support the right of our staff to take lawful strike action and to engage in peaceful protest. We have asked that any teaching staff who intend to take strike action let their students know in advance and are doing our best to minimise the impact of this disruption on you. It is, however, unlawful for staff to be pressured to either participate or not participate in industrial action.

Given that the NTEU has implied a different story in recent communications, it is important for you to understand that staff who are delivering classes on the strike days and students who are attending those classes, either online or in person, are entitled to do so by law. They have the right to a safe working and learning environment and it is illegal to try and prevent or disrupt teaching online or face-to-face. Bullying, harassment, or behaviour which otherwise contravenes our staff and student codes of conduct, including deliberate disruption of classes, will not be tolerated.

Furthermore, we expect that all protests on campus will be conducted with the safety and wellbeing of staff, students and visitors as a central consideration. The [NTEU has published protocols \(PDF, 37KB\)](#) for strike action at the University, setting out clear guidelines to ensure that picketers always behave legally and safely, and we expect all picket participants to abide by these

protocols.

[More information about what the strike action means for you](#) is available on our website.

Regards,

Annamarie.

Professor Annamarie Jagose
Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor

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