

“U OK, UUK?”

Early on Monday evening, staff and students were shocked to learn that **Universities UK, the employers’ association, was refusing to meet for further Acas talks until Wednesday.** Talks are desperately needed to resolve the dispute and end the strike.

UUK said it needed more time to study the University and College Union’s proposals – though it has already had them for a week.

The UCU said: **“We would stay day and night if that is what it takes to reach an agreement... but we cannot negotiate with a row of empty chairs.”**

Then, at 7.44pm, UUK put out a new statement, saying, **“We are willing to meet with UCU at any time or place.”**

And a multitude of people took to Twitter and said, meet them at Acas tomorrow, then. But UUK replied that it couldn’t, because:

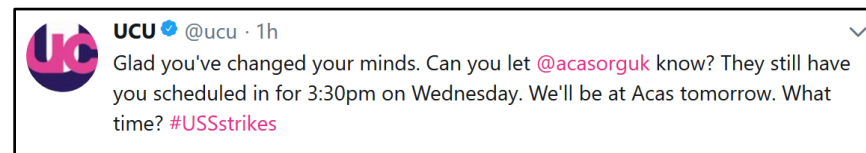


And so people asked why it would have taken a week to spot this, and also why they’d said they would meet any time if they wouldn’t meet tomorrow.

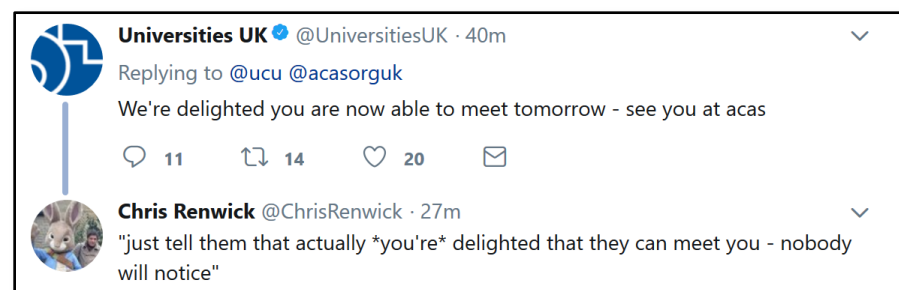
And then, at 8.02pm, UUK began to say:



And so the UCU replied:



And this happened:



This is not a game, as UUK’s attitude seems to imply. Students are losing weeks of classes and suffering incredible disruption. Staff are losing thousands of pounds in pay from strike days.

But **UUK knows it can’t ignore us.** The strike is growing, and the UUK’s bizarre behaviour means it’s increasingly isolated from what individual leaders are saying. Over 20 of them have made public calls for an outcome that works better for everybody.

Please show your support to make sure UUK comes back to the table and takes its responsibilities seriously.

For ways you can help, including contact details and sample letters, see UCUstrike.wordpress.com