The Early Dispute Resolution team at the University of Dundee and Scottish Mediation have been working with the Dundee University Students’ Association (DUSA) to arrange a series of interactive sessions to consider how mediation and negotiation is used in the student movement. The event will also consider how mediation skills can benefit Students’ Unions relationships with its stakeholders and members.

The event will begin from 12.30 with lunch, on the Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at the Scottish Mediation headquarters in York Place in Edinburgh (scottishmediation.org.uk). The event is expected to end at 3pm.

The programme for the event will comprise:

1) **Introduction:**
a discussion led by Fiona O’Donnell, Dundee University, and Stewart Squire, DUSA, on the delivery of mediation and negotiation training at the University of Dundee.

2) **Expectations:**
a negotiation situation between a university’s senior executive, a students’ association and reflections on some practical difficulties (Graham Boyack, Scottish Mediation)

3) **Live issues and approaches:**
a practical scenario – Fiona O’Donnell and Alun Thomas.

4) **Round up and conclusion:**
Graham Boyack.
A right wing European politician and academic historian is visiting “University Scotland” Social Science college/faculty. She has at the last minute also been invited by a Students’ Association society to speak to their members. The politician's outspoken remarks in the Press about UK immigration policy have recently resulted in extensive and controversial media coverage.

The University is aware there are deep divisions and tensions within the student body, giving rise to concerns around safety of students. The University is applying pressure on the Association and the school/faculty to stop her from attending her events. The invitation has now been cancelled due to the lack of planning time. In turn, this has sparked anger amongst the students at large, a group of students who insist on the politician attending campus and protesting at the high handed attitude of University management to academic freedom and freedom of speech.

However, a large number of students do not want her to attend and are pushing for a “no platform” campaign.

Exercise:
A meeting has been called to attempt to de-escalate the situation and enable each side to explain and understand the needs and interests of the other with a view to reaching a way forward.

A meeting proceeds with negotiation and mediation skills being demonstrated on each side in a goodwill effort to achieve some areas of resolution.