

From: Vice-Chancellor and CEO
To: une-official@une.edu.au;
Subject: [une-official] Enterprise Bargaining Update
Date: Thursday, 6 August 2009 10:44:40 AM
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Dear Colleagues

Since the last une-official in regard to negotiations for new Workplace Agreements at UNE on 24 July 2009, UNE provided the CPSU and NTEU with a 'without prejudice' Final Settlement Offer for a new 'UNE General Staff and ELC Teachers Union Collective Agreement 2009 – 2012'. The parties discussed this on Wednesday 29 July. The Unions undertook to respond by the middle of this week, and yesterday the CPSU provided UNE with a constructive response. The parties are meeting next Monday 10 August for General Staff and ELC Teachers bargaining.

UNE provided the NTEU on 31 July with a 'without prejudice' Final Settlement Offer for a new 'UNE Academic Staff Union Collective Agreement 2009 – 2012' which the University looks forward to constructively progressing with the NTEU in the forthcoming week, including at Academic staff bargaining next Tuesday 11 August.

You will be aware from recent communications from the NTEU in the media, and from the notices put up yesterday around the University as required by the Australian Electoral Commission, that the NTEU will shortly be balloting NTEU members about strike action commencing from September 2009. The NTEU is planning industrial action at a number of Universities, with media reports of a proposed national 24 hour strike

on 16 September.

Talk of a strike at UNE is disappointing, as we have been and will continue to negotiate with the Unions in good faith, and as negotiations at UNE have been well in advance of the University sector generally.

It should be noted that this is a ballot of NTEU members, requiring at least 50% of members to vote and of those who vote at least 50% to support the strike action - so it is not yet a fait accompli that there will be a strike at UNE. The issues raised by the NTEU in the media as problems in University negotiations either are not particularly applicable to UNE, or have been actively discussed in the UNE-specific negotiations and we believe can be finalised without having to resort to strikes.

The University is understandably most concerned about the impacts of such action on our students, and is actively planning how it will deal with this should strikes occur. The University is also planning how it would implement the provisions of the new Fair Work legislation, which provide that an employer must not pay, either wholly or partly, employees taking protected industrial action.

The University will provide you details shortly of, I hope, draft new Agreements for your consideration.

Regards

Alan Pettigrew

Professor Alan Pettigrew
Vice-Chancellor and CEO
University of New England

Armidale NSW 2351

Tel: 02 6773 2004

Fax: 02 6773 3710