

TUS NEWSLETTER

(December) 2009



The TUS office wishes you a good Christmas break and a Happy New Year!

Pay 2009-2010

We will be starting talks on a new pay structure shortly after the Christmas break. The TUS may be presenting a series of proposals to break the current impasse. The Treasury guidance for 2010 has already been received and is in the region of 0-1% and a freeze on the pay of senior civil servants and CEO's. Inflation is up the month for the first time. The Conservatives have made it clear that they would look to a pay freeze for all earning above 18 k if they were elected as the next administration. It will be up to members in all unions in the public sector to react to these proposed cuts.

TUS posts

The MRC has confirmed that they will continue to fund three full time equivalent posts. The 5 MRC trade unions represent and negotiate on behalf of all members and all members are entitled to individual representation; however we have an agreement with the MRC that we also represent all staff for information and consultation purposes.

The move to Swindon means there may well be a different structure in place but we need to look at filling the posts by March 2010. There will be hand over period whereby we will help train and support those in new posts and we are expecting expression of interest by the end of January 2010. We have already seen an interest for the support role. We are also looking to expand one of the three roles to include a more direct support role to UCU members and colleagues.

The roles are briefly detailed below:

Job specification:

TU co chair role is elected, currently Band 4 but open to all Bands –election by TUS committee and discussion with HRG –this role is funded by the MRC and accountable both to the MRC and to the MRC TUS committee

Role:

Liaison with all trade unions and all the TU committees

Chair meetings with management but this role is now shared with chairs of our subcommittees: Policy, Pensions; Equality; Health and Safety; Learning and Development

Liaise with HRG, Unit HRBP's and SUA when necessary

Visits to Units and help in setting up local trade unions sides



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Manage one TU project officer role (currently band 5)
Facility time for other union work depending on own union of candidate

TUS project officer role:

Band 5

Support the co chairs and the committees

Autonomous project work on specific fields of interest

Open to all the Research Council; RC UK SSC SSC members as well as MRC will also advertise externally if no candidates apply from these sectors

Based ideally in Swindon (part of the MRC retained function and new head office Swindon)

If interested in either posts please contact:

Alexandra McAdam Clark alexandra/mcadam-clark@headoffice.mrca.c.uk

Dr Terry McDonald t.mcdonald@mrcvu.gla.ac.uk

Dr Kelvin Cain kc5@leicester.ac.uk

Timeline:

TUS co chair: indication of interest by end of January 2010

Interviews: March 2010

Hand over period March to May 2010

TU project officer role:

Fluid timescale but start in May 2010

Expression of interest: end of January-beginning of February 2010 This is an appointed position so will need to follow the e recruitment system operated by the SSC

Interviews will include TUS committee member(s) and HR

2010

This will be tough year due to the predicted attack on current conditions of service for all in the public sector.

The MRC feels that the current science budget is ring fenced and is not currently under any pressure to make massive cuts although Units are being asked to cut their budgets. That is good news as is the continued commitment to the UKCMRI project and the commitment to protect and advocate continued intra-mural research. MRC Head office will be split into two sections with many new staff being employed in Swindon. Harmonisation of pay and conditions of all research council employees is on the agenda and the RC UK SSC Ltd is being expanded as more research councils' migrate' to the new SSC.

We need to see more active local trade unions and a trade union group in every Unit. Currently we have members in all Units but need a more focussed approach to linking the national TUS issues to the local trade unions. We will continue organising and recruitment events in the MRC Units and regions.

The TU office would like to thank all members and colleagues who have contributed their time and energy to all the MRC trade union activity. We would encourage you to and develop your union into a truly organising and campaigning union!

Alexandra McAdam Clark and Marie McGovern

