

COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SECTOR UNION

STATE PUBLIC SERVICES FEDERATION (SPSF) GROUP - NEW SOUTH WALES STATE BRANCH

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Ron Hunter, Organiser
Floor 3, Suite 1, Devonshire House, 406-408 King Street, Newcastle West, NSW 2302
Phone 61.2.92200900 Fax 61.2.49294798 Mobile 0419 980 503
Email rhunter@psa.asn.au Website <http://www.thegeneralstaffunion.org.au>



THE
**PROFESSIONAL
STAFF UNION**

7 May 2013

EB BULLETIN # 1

Enterprise Bargaining has started for a new Agreement to replace the current one that nominally expires on 30 June.

The University convened an initial meeting on 11 April to discuss resources needed for the negotiation. We agreed on the constitution of the bargaining teams for University and Unions, established a protocol to release your bargaining team delegates from normal duties and we also set out a schedule of 2 hour meeting dates on a fortnightly basis.

During the past couple of months the CPSU conducted a series of Listeners in all locations of the University in the Ourimbah, CBD and Callaghan campuses and also ran an online survey that attracted a big response from Professional Staff. From this feedback we constructed a CPSU Log of Claims to reflect your interests and this was endorsed by General Meetings in Ourimbah and Callaghan. It was formally served on the University at the Enterprise Bargaining meeting of 2 May.

Your delegates spoke to the log, noting the opportunities that exist to negotiate in this Agreement initiatives to give effect to certain objectives of the New Directions strategic plan and particular aspects of Future Workforce. We said we would hope to be able to work in a cooperative mode with the University to identify and devise strategies to do this, rather than approaching bargaining as an oppositional exercise.

The University welcomed our approach and suggested that the first task might be to identify clauses which require no (or minimal) change and can be rolled over. This is consistent with our first principle, to at least maintain existing conditions, and we agreed to do it.

There was discussion on how the Federal budget and the education reforms might impact on the University's budget and an acknowledgement that pay increases would need to be negotiated in the context of the total package of the Agreement. The University is currently modelling the likely impacts and agreed to report that information to the bargaining team as soon as it is known. The University will also provide information via its web page "In The Loop" on the financial situation specifically as well as regularly on the progress of bargaining.

For our part, as you requested in the General Meetings, we will send an EB Bulletin after each fortnightly session, and we will convene Special General Meetings at least every six weeks, or more often as important issues arise. This negotiation is being conducted by your team of representatives on your behalf and you will be called on to give clear direction to them at various important junctures in the process. It is your Agreement, and in the final analysis it is you who will be asked to vote YES or NO about it.

Yours in Union,

Your Bargaining Team

Lead Negotiator : Sue Freeman (ph. ext. 15929)