

# UNITE AGM

11<sup>th</sup> March 2010

## Minutes

**Apologies:** Julie Mercer, Sally Raines, Meg Stark, Phil Stewart and Ian Wright

11 members present

**Minutes of last AGM:** Read and approved

### **Election of officers**

- Chair Vacancy
- Vice Chair Mike Snelling
- Secretary Bob Hide
- Treasurer Richard Armitage
- Health and Safety Sue Firth
- Pensions Bob Hide (N) Lucy Hudson (T) Ian Wright (N) Norman Beach (R)
- Trade Council Vacancy

### **Departmental Reps**

- Auditors Chris Kelly

### **Reports**

#### **Secretary**

Branch accepted 0.5% pay offer.

Severe lack of new members, decided to have a publicity drive at YorkTech day on 16<sup>th</sup> April. We will hold a raffle for large box of chocolates in return for names and contacts which we can chase up at a later date and try to recruit to Unite. Bob and Mike had a positive discussion recently with VC about job stability and general financial position of University of York.

#### **Treasurer**

No expenses this year, we have £400+ in bank, maybe use some money towards a recruitment drive.

#### **Pension**

- Change in Representatives

#### Trustees

Vice-Chancellor (Chair)	Brian Cantor
Deputy VC	Trevor Sheldon
Director of Facilities Management	Keith Lilley
	Michael Sturge
	Phil Foster
	Tracey Issott-Parker
	Norman Beach
	Lucy Hudson

#### Negotiating Committee

Employer Representatives	Vice-Chancellor (Chair)	Brian Cantor
	Deputy VC	Trevor Sheldon
	Director of Facilities Management	Keith Lilley
		Mr Michael Sturge
Employee Representatives	Phil Foster	
	Bob Hide	
	Steve Walker	
	Susie Price	
	Ian Wright	
	VACANCY	

The VC has expressed his 'conflict of interest' i.e. that he is the chair with the casting vote and also controls the financial interests of the university. A new chair is being investigated it has been provisionally proposed that Trevor Sheldon become chair, which would be a favourable appointment for the trustees and employer representatives.

- Update on outcome of benefit changes to the Fund

786 members opted to remain on the 1/60<sup>th</sup> scheme

12 defaulted and 41 members (6.3% of membership) elected to change to the low-cost 1/85<sup>th</sup> scheme

- Pre-Retirement Seminar

The May 2010 seminar was already full by December 2009. Trustees are in negotiations with the university, who pay the bill to run two seminars per year.

- **Current Funding Position**

The fund is approximately £28m in red as of Nov 2009, due to poor returns on investments.

In response the fund introduced the 1/85<sup>th</sup> scheme and increased employer and employee contributions.

The university is still fully committed to the pension fund and has confirmed this with a new covenant signed by the VC.

As with all pension funds we hope to now be in the recovery period and the investment committee are following professional advice to manage our fund.

### **Health & Safety**

H&S website has improved over last year. New policies are being issued all the time, including MORR (Managing occupational road risk) which is relevant to many technicians.

### **AOB**

None