UNITE AGM
11th 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 16th 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 1/60th scheme
12 defaulted and 41 members (6.3% of membership) elected to change to the low-cost 1/85th 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 1/85th 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