



Tertiary Education Union - Te Hautū Kahurangi
University of Canterbury Branch
UPDATE

July 2019

Welcome to our June Branch Newsletter

This newsletter is to keep you up to date with a number of things that your Branch Committee has been involved with this year.

Branch Annual General Meeting

Keep Wednesday 4th September 4.00pm free for the Branch AGM which will be held at the Shilling Club. The formal notice and call for nominations will be sent out by email two weeks prior to the meeting.

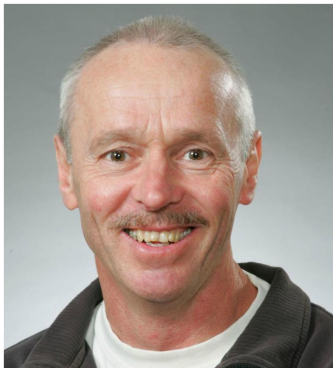
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TEU Facebook Page

Did you know that the Branch committee maintains a facebook page? <https://www.facebook.com/StandUpForUC>. Branch Committee members Samantha Armitage, Richard Davies and Rob Stowell add items of interest on a regular basis.



Eric Cox

Long standing member Eric Cox, of Mechanical Engineering, retired from UC service on the 5th of July after thirty three years. Eric has been a member of the TEU, AUS and Technicians Union (and former member of the Technicians Branch committee) for all of that time. Congratulations Eric and thank you for your support.

TEU Branch Meeting hosts UC VC Professor De la Rey

Your Branch Committee met on Wednesday 22nd May with our VC Cheryl for a convivial discussion of issues facing both the TEU and UC. Cheryl is the first

VC for many years to accept an invitation to talk to the TEU Branch Committee at our office. Also in attendance was HR manager Paul O'Flaherty. Cheryl was open to the points made by TEU branch committee members so we are confident that our friendly relationship will continue.

Want to see our collective agreements and more
[head to our branch webspace](#)

2019 adjustment to Paid Parental Leave payment rates

The Parental Leave and Employment Protection Act 1987 requires that the parental leave payment rate be adjusted annually on 1 July. The rate for the maximum weekly payment increases in line with the percentage increase for the average ordinary time weekly earnings for employees, while the minimum rate for self-employed persons is adjusted to be equal to 10 hours at the adult minimum wage.

This year, the maximum weekly payment will increase to \$585.80 (gross), due to a 3.8% increase in the average ordinary time weekly earnings for employees. The minimum weekly rate for self-employed persons will increase to \$177.00 (gross), due to the minimum wage increasing to \$17.70 per hour on 1 April 2019.

These new rates will be announced by the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety and published on employment.govt.nz prior to 1 July.

Academic Freedom

Our last TEU Branch newsletter covered Professor Anne-Marie Brady's Academic Freedom Award. It is pleasing to note that Professor Brady was the subject of a University of Canterbury news release acknowledging the award published on 5th June on the UC website. Entitled [Excellence award for UC](#)

[political scientist](#), publication of this article is another indication that UC takes Academic freedom seriously.

Professor Brady has also been asked to comment on National Media on the Chinese Communist Party's influence on New Zealand's media reporting of the recent mega protests in Hong Kong over the proposed extradition law.

Professor Brady has confirmed she will address our Branch AGM.

TEU National campaigns

The TEU is currently running campaigns to influence Government policy on these issues:

[Review of Vocational Education](#)

[State of the Sector](#)

[Tertiary Education Strategy](#)

Please log on to the TEU National website and contribute to the discussion.

UC Council elections

TEU hosted a lunchtime meeting on Wednesday 26th June where candidates for the UC council positions of Academic Staff Representative and General Staff Representative briefed interested staff on why they should be elected. Existing incumbents Roger Nokes (academic) and Malcolm Scott (general) were joined by new general candidates Liz Bond, Marcus Cullen, Amanda Derry, Rebecca Hurrell, Stephen Sheere and academic candidates Alison Griffiths and Euan Mason.

Also standing for the general role is Angie Willington. The meeting was chaired by Ekant Veer. There was plenty of agreement that staff were the most important part of the university, that "siloization" of functions was a problem and that the VC's academic plan is opening up some new and exciting challenges. The candidates all have long experience at UC and many have governance

experience. Staff participation in the selection of these two Council member positions helps to ensure a more diverse council and indicates the importance that we as staff and TEU members place on collaborative and collegial decision making procedures here at UC.

Thanks to the candidates and to Ekant for facilitating the meeting. Voting for the positions closed on Friday 5th July.

Congratulations to Roger Nokes (academic) and Liz Bond (general) who were the successful nominees. A vote of thanks should also go to outgoing UC council member and TEU member Malcolm Scott.

Message from the Organiser

Recently we have become aware that HR have asked staff to sign a consent for to have access to medical records. If you are asked to sign this form please contact the Organiser first as we do not agree with the wording on this form.

Contact gabrielle.moore@teu.ac.nz or libi.carr@teu.ac.nz.

Academic Strategy

Your Branch committee has been watching the developing Academic Strategy quite closely. We have been invited to comment and would encourage members to make individual responses as well. If you have issues that you would like the TEU Branch committee to consider relating to the Strategy document please email [Ravi Sharma](mailto:Ravi.Sharma) (with "VC's academic Strategy" in the subject line).

Note that comments are due Monday 22 July at noon and sent to the shared mailbox: strategicplanning@canterbury.ac.nz



Branch Committee meeting 17th July 2019: rear L-R, Rob Stowell, Ravi Sharma, Garrick Cooper, Grant Bush, Tim O'Sullivan. Middle: Gaby Moore. Front L-R Richard Davies, Steven Gieseg, Malcolm Scott. Thanks to Warwick Anderson for the photo.

Apologies were received for our meeting from Rā Steer, Ngaroma Williams, Samantha Armitage, Benita Rarere-Briggs and Sofia Daly.

Your 2018-2019 Branch Committee

Co-Presidents

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TEU websites of interest

TEU National webpage: <https://teu.ac.nz/>

TEU Canterbury Branch Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/StandUpForUC>

Academic Freedom Aotearoa: <https://www.facebook.com/academicfreedomnz/>

Our Collective Employment Agreements are available online

<https://teu.ac.nz/branches/universities/canterbury/> or

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/about/hr/employment-agreements/>

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 Website

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