

# National Executive Council Report

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*Amicus NEC Meeting – 18th July 2007*

## **Policy Conference**

The Conference was generally considered to be a success. The President did however recognize that some debates had been severely curtailed due to time constraints and it was agreed that a full Conference Report of all debates be published with the next Unite-Amicus publication.

## **Merger Progress**

### **I Regional Structure**

The Joint Executive Council has decided that the 10 Regional Secretaries should be selected equally from the Amicus and T&G sections as follows:

Ireland - Jimmy Kelly (T&G)	Scotland – John Quigley (Amicus)
London/ Eastern – Steve Hart (T&G)	South East – Jennie Bremner (Amicus)
South West – Andy Frampton (T&G)	North West – Lawrence Faircloth (Amicus)
West Midlands – Gerard Coyne (T&G) ;	East Midlands – Adrian Axtell – (Amicus)
Wales – Andy Richards (T&G)	North East/ Y & H – Davey Hall ( Amicus)

The new Regional Secretaries are already in place and the NEC agreed that Branches and Workplace Representatives should be informed of the change as soon as possible.

Work will now begin on matching the regional boundaries and regional lay structure of each section. This must be completed by the end of the transitional stage in November 2008.

### **II Industrial and Regional Elections**

National Sector Conferences are to be held before November 2008. Some NEC members were in favour of holding Conferences of the Amicus section only early in the year but some argued for delaying the Conferences until integrated industrial structures were in place. A final decision will be made at the September NEC.

A decision about the timetable for Amicus Section Regional Council Conferences and elections will also be made at the September NEC.

### **III NEC**

The first Unite NEC will be elected in March 2008 with the term of office starting on 1st May 2008 for 3 years. The first NEC will consist of 80 members with the Amicus and T&G sections each electing 40 NEC members. The detailed process and timetable for the Amicus section elections will be decided at the September NEC.

### **IV Rules Commission**

Minutes of the first Rules Commission meeting were available. The Rules Commission will attempt to produce a first full draft of the rules in September. A request that the first draft be circulated to Amicus section NEC members was refused.

### **ACUA**

It was reported that the transfer of members from the Association of Cambridge University Assistants was nearing completion.

### **Finances**

An operating deficit of £328K was reported for the first 4 months of 2007 and with non-recurring items there is an overall surplus of £287K.

The most worrying trend is that subscription income is currently £909K below budget. The income figures should improve as the increased subscription rate takes effect, but membership income is still expected to be lower than forecast and will be closely monitored over the next few months.

### **Pensions Funds**

It was reported that all Amicus pension funds apart from the AEU and EETPU schemes were inflation-proofed for entitlements prior to 1997. It was agreed to extend this to the 2 funds at a cost of £4M. It was thought that rising equity values would cover the cost of making the change.

### **Organizing and Recruitment**

The 2 sections of Unite have identified separate recruitment strategies and priorities for 2007/2008 during the integration process.

The T&G section has have identified priorities for the next 18 months based on the section membership profile. It was agreed that Amicus should also identify key sectors for recruitment opportunities as follows:

Heath	Finance
Community & Not for Profit	Construction
IT & Business Services	Publishing, Media, Newspaper & Packaging
Civil Air Transport	Youth

Regional and workplace recruitment campaigns in other areas will continue to be supported.

It was reported that 1:3 new members now join online and efforts have been made to ensure that senior reps receive prompt notice of new joiners.

### **Officer Appointments**

- 5 FTOs who had been acting as National Officers were promoted to NO posts.
- 3 new Organisers have been appointed with responsibility for Health Sector, Eastern region and North West region. A further post in West Midlands remains vacant.
- 7 Organisers who have been carrying out FTO duties and paid FTO rates for the past year were given the title of Full-Time Officer.

### **Unite Amicus Section PALS Project**

It was agreed that a national trial of a successful Union Learning Fund project based in Yorkshire & Humberside region be carried out. The project trains workplace reps to lead induction sessions promoting trade union membership to young people both at work and in schools and colleges. Four organizers will be seconded internally to work on the project.

### **Other Matters**

An NEC member queried why a recent meeting of the London Regional Council had been cancelled. The Chair stated that any complaints about Regional Council meetings should be made in the first instance by Regional Council members.

An Industrial Tribunal has made an award for compensation against the union. It was agreed that this be accepted and paid

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