UniSuper Consultative Committee

Representation for UniSuper members

UniSuper has a consultative committee structure as part of its governance arrangements. This is unusual amongst Superannuation Funds and UniSuper is the only fund that has such an arrangement.

Representatives to the consultative committee are either appointed or elected and the number of representatives is based upon the institution’s member numbers.

ECU as an employer has two representatives and these are appointed – not elected. ECU staff also have two representatives, one for professional staff and one for academic staff, and these were elected for terms of four years, with terms to expire late 2019.

At ECU these positions are currently filled by:

Employer Representatives:

Ms Jenny Robertson, Director, Human Resources Service Centre
Mr Scott Henderson, Vice-President (Corporate Services)

Staff/Member Representatives:

Academic Staff: Dr. Lelia Green, Professor of Communications; School of Arts and Humanities
Professional Staff: Ms. Kim Brayshaw, HR Account Manager; HR Services Centre.

What is the role of the Consultative Committee?

The consultative committee approves changes to the Trust Deed: this approval is mandatory except where the changes are required to comply with superannuation law. The Committee also elects four members to the Board of Trustees of UniSuper. The committee’s power to advise is limited to matters included in the Trust Deed. It may advise and make recommendations on matters of difficulty in implementation or application of the Deed, or on any other matters on which the trustee requires advice. It is part of a regime of checks and balances in relation to the powers available under the trust deed’s operation – which has not changed since 1982.

What does the Trust Deed cover?

- It establishes the levels of contributions;
- It defines benefits;
- It says who can be a member and who can be a participating employer;
- It establishes the trustee, its powers and responsibilities.

The consultative committee meets once a year usually in November. The sorts of issues raised and discussed can include:

- Structural changes to UniSuper such as the merger between SSAU and TESS;
- The distribution of any surplus;
- Flexible employee contributions;
- Ethical investment;
- Switching and investment choice.
If you have any issues about UniSuper service-levels or the flexibility/suitability of the product range or benefits rules in relation to your particular circumstances and needs then contact:

**Academic Staff:** Lelia Green l.green@ecu.edu.au ext. 6204

**Professional Staff:** Kim Brayshaw k.brayshaw@ecu.edu.au ext. 2192

The representative’s role does not include giving advice about UniSuper products or superannuation in general, nor any type of financial advice. Any specific complaint about a product or service should also be notified to UniSuper to give them the opportunity to address the matter within their governance arrangements. Call UniSuper Helpline on 1800 331 685.