

Dear members

TRANSITIONAL LEAVE BALANCES

A number of members have contacted UKSU regarding their Transitional Leave balances. Please refer to the attached Transitional Arrangements – you will see that the last year for selling was 2020. This does not mean that any balance at the end of 2020 is forfeited.

What happens from now is that each year 10 days are released from that balance. These 10 days must be taken during each particular calendar year and are only forfeited if those 10 days have not been utilised during that year. This will happen each year until the balance is zero.

Please be reminded that this information was shared in presentations in late 2017 and in 2018. UKSU messages also provided an explanation, 11 December 2017 and 16 January 2018, 12 April 2018. There were also HR notices after Council had approved, e.g. 16 March 2018.

UKSU OFFICER ACCESS

The UKSU Officer has had access to University systems, email, UKSU cost centre reports, the Notice System, etc., for many years. However, for 2021 this has been refused by the ED: HR, whilst the ICS Policy allows for non-staff to be granted access. The UKSU Executive then resolved to submit a grievance to the VC as the line manager. The VC has responded “to look for a suitably qualified senior person to apply themselves to the issue and to offer me a view for consideration. I will set this process in motion immediately and revert when I receive a report”.

UKSU views this issue as a personal issue against the current UKSU Officer and UKSU itself. It hampers UKSU’s ability to carry out its functions effectively and the official to carry out their role in terms of the responsibilities set out in the LRA.

FUTURE PROFESSORS PROGRAMME

A recent Ndaba publication reported on those staff who had been selected to the Future Professors Programme of the Department of Higher Education and Training. UKSU congratulates those staff.

The programme is set to “prepare promising mid-career academics to be a new cohort of South African professors across disciplines”.... targeting “young academics in order to accelerate their readiness to become university professors”.

UKSU trusts this programme will be ongoing and suggests that its members who meet the criteria look out for further calls in the future.

OTHER RESEARCH DIVISION MESSAGES

Academic members are reminded of the two notices on 8 April. The one being the “Black Academics Advancement Programme”, which closes on 16 April. The other being a call for nominations for 2021 NRF Awards, closing 20 April.

Regards
UKSU Executive