

## **22 August 2017 – EA Bargaining Update**

Bargaining for the enterprise agreement continued last week (17 August 2017) with several key issues discussed in an attempt to settle some of the items where the parties remain apart.

Proposals on employment costs (salary and superannuation) continue to be refined and a number of options are being explored in regards to the potential timing and allocation of payments. The NTEU has introduced the proposition of combinations of percentage uplifts and fixed dollar payment amounts, a concept which Curtin is currently considering. In arriving at an agreed outcome for salary and superannuation increases, the favourable position already held by Curtin staff relative to the rest of the Australian higher education sector and the broader Western Australian market, is being considered.

A great deal of work has been done on the matter of academic workload. At the last meeting, agreement in principle was reached on this. Likewise, fixed-term employment has been the subject of significant focus and has now been notionally settled.

Other items discussed at the most recent meeting included misconduct and unsatisfactory performance, the administrative arrangements for superannuation, intellectual freedom and the management of disputes. Bargaining representatives have committed to further refinement of their positions ahead of the next meeting.

Bargaining is planned to continue on Tuesday, 29 August 2017.