

Just a brief update on the latest goings on at UWA ASA and across campus.

CONSULTATION ON UNIVERSITY HOLIDAYS

In the most recent UWA Forward, the SDVC announced he is seeking feedback (due this Friday!) on the University public holidays with a view to observing all the public holidays when they fall and then requiring staff to take annual leave during the Christmas/New Year close down. See the link below for details:

<http://www.news.uwa.edu.au/2018092410970/september-2018/seeking-your-feedback-university-public-holidays>

Here is what Campus Morning Mail had to say about the "UWA management wants a **Christmas gift from staff** – a **Santa-season shut-down** without people being paid when they aren't at work or using their leave." Read more at: https://campusmorningmail.com.au/news/what-uwa-management-wants-for-christmas/?utm_campaign=website&utm_source=sendgrid.com&utm_medium=email

While I acknowledge there may be a range of views on this proposal, for Academics involved in standard semester teaching, the disruption to first semester teaching schedules is significant. For instance, taking Labour Day (in addition to the days we already observe Easter, ANZAC Day and Prosh) would be a disruption to the teaching schedule right at the beginning of semester. Given that the public holidays all occur during important teaching periods it is unlikely that many teachers will actually be able to take the day off, even if we are obliged to. Further, a requirement to take annual leave when it suits the management, rather than when it suits you, is one that we should all consider carefully.

I strongly encourage you to give feedback to the management on this issue.

NEW CHAIR OF ACADEMIC BOARD

We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate immediate past-President of UWA ASA, Ray Da Silva Rosa on his election as Chair of Academic Board. We would also like to thank long-term UWAASA member Cara MacNish for her four years of service in the role.

FEEDBACK ON PROMOTIONS PROCESS

Feedback is also being sought on changes to the promotions process. I encourage all Academic staff to contribute their views to this consultation process. <http://www.news.uwa.edu.au/2018092510973/september-2018/proposed-options-change-academic-promotions-process>

YOUR SAY SURVEY RESULTS

The UWA ASA Committee felt that the results from the 2017 Your Say Survey were not adequately disseminated and, on repeated occasions, has asked the UWA Management for access to the raw data. We were particularly interested to perform multivariate analyses across gender, age, academic level and faculty, because we believed that the results of such analyses would be of great interest to our members.

We wanted to let our members know that the request for the raw data, which was collected under the assurance that it would be fully de-identified, was declined on the grounds that

"all employees have the freedom to provide answers secure in the knowledge that their information (and therefore the raw data) will remain confidential."

UWA ASA FORUMS

You might remember that UWA ASA hosted a very interesting forum on the topic "Students as Customers" earlier this year. We are seeking your feedback on possible topics of interest for future forums. Please let us know if you have a suggestion of a burning issue on which we could host a forum.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS

I encourage all UWA ASA members to forward this newsletter to their colleagues (or to their School) so that non-members are made aware of the proposal to change the University Holidays.