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VOTE



NEC Election Special

Election for New Unite Executive Council called

Amicus Section



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September 2007

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Unite the Union was legally formed from a merger of Amicus and TGWU on the 27th April 2007. Under the merger agreement the first Executive Council must be elected to take office within the first year of the new union.

The first Executive Council will consist of 80 members – 40 elected by and from the Amicus Section and 40 elected by and from the TGWU section. The Unite Joint Executive Council has agreed that Electoral Reform Services Ltd, (ERS) 33 Clarendon Road, London, N8 0NW will be the Independent Scrutineer for the whole election. The timetable for the Amicus Section will be as below. Each section is responsible for determining constituencies and nomination arrangements:-

Week Commencing

October 8th	Nomination forms for Amicus Section regional and women's seats sent to Amicus Section branches and chapels and available in Amicus Section union offices for sector seats
November/December	Nomination period for Amicus Section branches, chapels and working representatives
January 11th 2008	Last date for receipt of Amicus Section nomination forms by independent scrutineer.
February 1st 2008	Last date for receipt of acceptance of nomination by the Amicus Section returning officer – Derek Simpson General Secretary
March 3rd 2008	Amicus Section and TGWU Section Ballots open
March 28th 2008	Close of both Ballots

The Amicus Section constituencies will be

Sectors 26 Seats allocated to sectors as follows

Constituency type – sectors	NEC Seats
Aerospace and Shipbuilding	2
Chemicals and pharmaceuticals and Process including offshore oil and gas	1
Civil Air Transport and Railways, buses and ferries	1
Community and not for profit	1
Construction and Contracting	2
Education, MoD and government departments and CMA	1
Electrical Engineering, Electronics and IT	1
Energy	1
Finance and business services	4
Food, drink and tobacco	1
Foundry and Metals	1
General industries and Servicing	3
Graphical paper and media	2
Health service	2
Local Authorities	1
Motor components	1
Motor vehicles	1

Regions

One to be elected per Unite Region. The ten Unite regions are Ireland, Scotland and Wales and North East and Yorkshire and Humberside, East Midlands, London and Eastern, South East, South West, West Midlands and North West(see map)

Women

4 Seats elected in one national ballot

Who can nominate?

Every branch or chapel of the union can nominate one member from their region and up to four women who can come from any region. Every workplace representative can nominate up to as many members as there are vacancies in their sector and upto four women.

How are nominations made?

At quorate branch or chapel meetings, or meeting at workplaces convened by working representatives in **November or December. Nominations made before November or after December will not count.** The Independent Scrutineer is sending nomination forms to branches and chapels from 8th October. From 8th October nomination forms are available in union offices for sector and women's elections – one form for the sector and one for the women's election can be obtained by each registered working representative.

How many nominations are required?

A candidate in the regional seats needs at least five branch or chapel nominations.

A candidate in the industrial sector seats needs at least five nominations from workplace representatives drawn from at least three different workplaces.

A candidate in the women's seats needs at least five branch nominations drawn from at least two different regions and at least five workplace representatives drawn from at least three different workplaces.

Once candidates have achieved the necessary nominations they will be asked by the Returning Officer to accept nomination and provide an election address of up to 500 words.

Members who are nominated for more than one seat must choose in which seat to be a candidate.

Who administers the election?

The Unite Joint Executive Council have appointed Electoral Reform Services Limited, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW as the independent scrutineer required by Section 49 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations [consolidation] Act 1992 (as amended) The terms of this appointment and the requirements placed upon ERS are in accordance with that section.

The Amicus NEC have appointed Derek Simpson, Unite Joint General Secretary as Returning Officer for the Amicus Section election.

The Amicus NEC have appointed Professor William Brown, Senior ACAS arbitrator as Election Commissioner [see below].

Who votes?

All members vote in the regional elections.

Retired, honorary and student members do not vote in the women's and Industrial sector elections

Who decides which industrial sector?

Some members are allocated to a sector by their occupation or profession but for most members this is decided by the Union's record of your current or last employer. Working members who do not have an employer record will be allocated to the sector the NEC considers most appropriate – normally general industries.

Voting System?

The method of voting will be by first past the post.

Complaints

Complaints should be made in writing and sent with all backing paperwork to the Election Commissioner via Derek Simpson Returning Officer, 35 King Street, London WC2 8JG [see Rule 28, Clauses 16 – 25]

What is the period of office?

Members of the Unite Executive Council hold office for three years.

