

MEDIA RELEASE

FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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Students the focus in University-TUU agreement

The University of Tasmania has reached agreement today with the Board of Management of the Tasmanian University Union (TUU) on the terms of the transfer of the TUU's commercial operations to the University.

As a result, from the beginning of 2012 the University will directly manage the catering, retail and housing services currently provided by the TUU.

The transfer will provide substantial additional funding to the TUU, the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Professor Peter Rathjen, said.

"This agreement opens many opportunities for the University and the TUU to further develop and enhance the services and facilities we can offer our students across our campuses in Hobart and Launceston.

"For the University it allows us to make needed investments in the communal fabric of all our Tasmanian campuses, to create revitalised social and learning spaces to enhance the campus experience for all members of the University community," Prof Rathjen explained.

"For TUU it will allow a re-focusing on its primary roles of supporting students' activities and representing students' interests."

The Chair of the TUU Board, Russell Reid, said the TUU had "a vision for increased services to students and opportunities to support sporting and cultural activities".

"As part of this vision, the TUU welcomes the agreement reached with the University. It will result in improved services for students, with the opportunity for investment in key facilities. It will also provide a secure income stream for the future of the TUU."

The TUU President, Saleh BinTalib, said the negotiations resulted in the best possible outcome for all stakeholders, including students.

"The ongoing and secure funding opportunities delivered by these negotiations will provide for improved student representation through State Council and its subsidiary councils.

"This agreement will provide an opportunity to provide some of the services to students that have been lost during the Voluntary Student Unionism period and, importantly, reinforce the role of the TUU as the primary student representative body within the University, with representation on University bodies relevant to student education and wellbeing."

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