

The Mentor Newsletter Vol. 1 No. 6

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STU Virtual Open House

Feedback for the event was unanimously positive.

"I had no idea how the STU is a lifeline/one stop for all teachers' needs. Now I know my rights and how union works hard for us"

"I appreciate President for being real. Workload is tough to handle. STU is working hard for members' work well-



being."



"The whole event was very relevant; worth my time attending. I found out about the benefits of being a union member, case studies and how nice you guys are".



About 100 participants signed up for the inaugural STU Virtual Open House. We shared with them the history and services of STU as well as case studies of our Industrial Relations and Counselling Services. We wanted participants to fully appreciate the impact of STU on members' careers and lives.

- Participants were also treated to an engaging dialogue with our President, Mr Salleh, and our General Secretary, Mr Mike Thiruman. Some of the pressing issues discussed included teacher workload, mental wellbeing, deployment of young teachers, and the future of older teachers.
- We were also honoured that one of our advisors, Dr Wan Rizal, took time to grace the occasion.
- We would be holding a second run of our Virtual House in June 2022; come join us to learn more about our services.

Designing Your Growth Strategy Webinar

- More than 50 STU members benefitted from the rousing sharing by Ms Shirley Tham on Designing Your Growth Strategy.
- We were heartened by the positive feedback; participants were touched by Ms Tham's sincerity and illuminated by her vast knowledge and experience.
- Ms Tham has agreed to conduct a second webinar for STU members. Stay tuned for more details.





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Singapore Teachers' Union

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What factors must I consider before applying for No-Pay Leave?

- If I am on continuous NPL of more than 6 months and returning via Central Deployment, I have to confirm my return from NPL in writing upon the MOE's request for my confirmation at least 5 months before my NPL ends.
- If the MOE does not receive my confirmation by the stipulated timeline, there would be a consequential delay in my posting and I will be required to report to MOE HR on the next working day upon the expiry of my NPL. Failing which, I may be treated as having vacated office in accordance with the Government Instruction Manual 2, Section P.
- Any request for extension of NPL must be submitted at least 5 months before the end of the NPL. Such requests will be considered on a case by case basis and will be subject to exigencies of service.

I am thinking of applying for No-Pay Leave.

During No-Pay Leave Before the end of No-Pay Leave

After No-Pay Leave

- My deployment after No-Pay Leave is affected by the duration of my leave period:
 - a) NPL up to 6 months: I will return to the same school/branch.
 - b) <u>NPL more than 6 months and up to 2 years</u>: I can apply to take part in Open Posting Exercise or I can ask to be centrally deployed.
 - c) <u>NPL more than 2 years or did not meet the 1-year dwell time before applying for my next episode of NPL of more than 6 months</u>: I will have to seek a posting through the OPE. If I do not find a posting through the OPE, my NPL will be extended for up to one year per instance to facilitate my participation in the subsequent OPE.
- If I have been on more than 2 years continuous NPL, I would be required to attend a refresher course when I resume teaching duties.
- If I am an appointment holder, and I was on NPL for more than 6 months, I will be deployed to an alternative job role upon my return from NPL. While the alternative job role will correspond to my substantive grade, it may not be in the same job role prior to my NPL as deployment is subject to my suitability and availability of job.
- ❖ Are you thinking of taking No-Pay Leave? Do you need help thinking through the application process? Contact us at stu@stu.org.sg for a consultation.

MOE News

- Some members informed the STU that due to the terms of their casual employment contracts they were not paid during the isolation period due to COVID.
- · STU raised their concerns to MOE.
- MOE has thereafter made special provisions to grant casual employees (including FAJTs) who are currently not entitled to any benefits yet, and are fully vaccinated or medical ineligible casual employees under Protocols 1 and 2 to be compensated up to 3 days (for the days that they are supposed to be working). This is aligned to the isolation period, i.e., 72 hours as stipulated by MOH. If casual employees continue to test positive from Day 4 onwards and are required to continue with self-isolation, they will not be remunerated as no work was done.
- Confused by any of the HR policies? Contact us at <u>stu@stu.org.sg</u> so that we can give voice to your concerns.

The Run to C.A.R.E.



- Our General Secretary, Mr Mike Thiruman, recently completed a 42.2Km run in support of the NTUC U Care Fund.
- Click <u>here</u> if you would like to find out more.



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