

Service Excellence & Efficiency **SE²**

**Human Resource Services
Service Excellence & Efficiency Initiative**
Semi-Monthly Pay Change



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

"uplifting the whole people"
—HON. MARSHALL TOWN, FOUNDER PRESIDENT, 1908

Service Excellence & Efficiency Initiative Overview

- Multi phased program designed to improve the services, processes and systems Human Resource Services offers to all university stakeholders.
- Program goals
 - Improve customer service
 - Streamline current business processes
 - Introduce new efficient and effective processes
 - Capitalize on functionality within PeopleSoft HCM
 - Reduce system customizations
- First phase – Semi-monthly pay cycle implementation

Service Excellence & Efficiency **SE²**

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

What Is Changing?

- On July 1, 2012, the University will implement a semi-monthly pay cycle for all NASA employees, graduate students, excluded students and postdoctoral fellows
- The semi-monthly pay cycle will integrate the current monthly and biweekly pay cycles into a combined pay cycle featuring two pay periods and two pay dates per month
- Pay dates will be 10 days after each pay period end date
 - Payment for the 1st to the 15th of the month will be paid on the 25th, and payment for the 16th to the last day of the month will be paid on the 10th of the next month
 - If 10th or 25th non-banking day, pay date previous banking day

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA


Why Change Pay Cycles?

- Careful analysis of current payroll processes was completed
- Each monthly pay cycle requires about 10 calendar days of payroll processing time to complete pay. Payroll completes pay about the 7 days before the end of the month.
- Deadlines to departments must be approximately 10th of each month to ensure HRS/Payroll can complete pay.
- Changes for employees that occur between cutoff and end of the month may not be processed in that month.
- Forecasting is required for transactions between cutoff and end of month. Results in overpayments, underpayments and off-cycle cheques.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

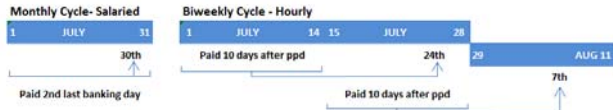
Why Change Pay Cycles?

- Employees/students frequently paid incorrectly due to forecasting of transactions. Results in underpayment, overpayment and late payments.
- Off-cycle cheques are required to correct payments. Each off-cycle requires 7-9 persons and costs the University \$90. Last year, payroll completed over 8000 off-cycle cheques.
- Goal is to pay all employees/student correctly, on-time, the first time by direct deposit.
- Increase service to staff and students and make entire process more efficient for all employees and departments.




Why Change Pay Cycles?

- Currently process monthly and biweekly pay cycles for NASA staff
 - Salaried employees paid on 2nd last banking day of the month.
 - Hourly employees paid 10 days after each pay period.




- To pay staff correctly, accurately and on time each time we pay, we must move to a payment system where we pay after the pay period ends.




Why are NASA staff the first group to move?

- NASA staff and graduate students are the groups most impacted by the negative affects of the current payroll system. Most of the off-cycle cheques are for non-academic staff.
- NASA Collective Agreement contained Memorandum of Agreement added to the agreement in 2000 based on member's request to change to a more frequent pay cycle.
- Memorandum allowed the University to change pay cycles with six months notice of the change to the Association.



Who Is Not Impacted By The Change?

- Employees in the AASUA agreements will remain on the monthly payroll cycle and will not change pay frequencies unless they also have a concurrent appointment outside AASUA. In this case, the AASUA appointment will be paid monthly and the non-AASUA appointment will be paid semi-monthly.
- AASUA has 7 staff agreements that must be negotiated in bargaining to get language changed to allow semi-monthly pay. Discussions with AASUA are occurring.
- Long-term goal is to have all University payments on a semi-monthly pay cycle, paid 10 days after the pay period.



New Cycle

- Two semi-monthly pay periods
 - 1st pay period 1st – 15th of the month, paid on the 25th.
 - 2nd pay period 16th – last day of month, paid on the 10th of the next month.

Semi-Monthly Cycle - All NASA, Students, PDF

1 JULY 15 16 JULY 31 1 AUGUST 15 16 AUGUST 31

Paid 10 days after ppd

Paid 10 days after ppd

Paid 10 days after ppd

Paid 10 days after ppd

25th 10th 24th

How does this impact NASA staff, students and PDFs?

- Salary rate will not change, but monthly salaries will be divided by two and paid in each pay period.
- Staff will be paid for all time worked in the pay period.
- Semi-monthly pay will not result in a loss of earnings, just payment after the pay cycle.
- Exception pay (ex. Overtime) will be paid in the same pay period that it is worked.
- Pay will reflect all changes to the employee's pay in that pay period.
- Pay dates will be the 10th and 25th of each month (or previous banking day)

How does this impact salaried paycheques?

- Semi-monthly salary is monthly salary / 2
- Hourly salary remains the same.
- Employee paid deductions (parking, computer purchase plan, garnishees, United Way, Canada Savings Bonds, etc) will be split in two and equal amounts taken each pay period.
- Employer paid benefits processed in the first pay period of each month only. Exception: pension taken each pay period.
- Optional benefit deductions (ex. Optional life insurance) taken first pay period only.
- Income taxes, CPP, EI will be half of monthly amount.
- NASA dues taken to maximum of \$12/ppd rather than \$24/month

How does this impact hourly paycheques?

- Hourly employees will still be paid for all hours worked each pay period.
- Timesheet deadline will be approximately 2 days after each pay period is over.
 - Allows accurate reporting of all time worked in the pay period.
- Semi-monthly pay is hourly rate times number of hours worked in period.
- # of hours worked differs based on length of each pay period.
- Online timesheet will be changed to semi-monthly.

The transition challenge

- July 2012 is the transition month.
- Salaried NASA employees, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows will only receive one pay cheque/deposit for period July 1-15.
- Payment made on July 25.
- Gross pay will be ½ of the monthly pay.
- Next pay will be on August 10 for time worked between July 16-31.
- First pay five days earlier in July than normal but second pay not till 10th of August.
- No loss of salary or earnings, everyone paid for all days earned, just paid 10 days later.



The transition challenge

- Hourly employees will receive last biweekly payment on July 10, then first semi-monthly payment on July 25.
- Only receiving one payment in July will lead to financial concerns for staff & students.
 - How will salaried staff and students make mortgage payments, car payments, utility payments with only half the normal take home pay in July?
- Financial assistance will be offered to eligible salaried staff and students in the form of a one-time optional cash advance.
- Advance designed to provide approximately the same amount of net pay in July on semi-monthly cycle as on a monthly cycle.



The cash advance

- Option to choose up to 70% of July 1, 2012 semi-monthly gross salary.
 - No taxes, CPP or EI withheld from the advance.
- 70% of gross is approximately the amount of net pay received after taxes from the gross pay.
 - Ex. Salary of \$5,000 per month is \$2,500 per semi-monthly period. 70% of \$2,500 = \$1,750 advance.
- Advance is paid on July 25, 2012.
- Advance must be repaid in equal installments over a maximum of 24 pay periods.
- Repayment will begin August 24



The cash advance

- Cash advance is not a payroll advance, more like a short-term interest free loan.
- CRA requires the University to assess a taxable benefit on the value of the interest not paid on the advance.
- Interest at CRA prescribed rate of 1%
- Taxable benefit reported on each pay cheque with a repayment.
- Tax on the taxable benefit of the interest is minimal.
- Ex. On a \$2,000 cash advance repaid over 24 pay periods in equal payment of \$83.33, taxable benefit on first repayment is \$0.83. Each subsequent taxable benefit declines. Actual tax impact depends on tax bracket. If someone in 26% tax bracket, actual tax is \$0.83 * 26% or \$0.22. Total tax impact over 24 ppd less than \$5.00.



Communicating The Change?

- Email to all impacted staff, graduate students and PDF's as well as DDC, APO's, personnel contacts on February 10.
- Website with up-to-date information about the project, the change and advance program is available.
- Posters and pamphlets will be developed to support the communication of the change
- Ads/articles in campus publications (e.g. Folio, Gateway, etc)
- Meetings with key stakeholder groups to brief on the change
- Town hall sessions will be held to support information sharing and allow for staff to ask their questions directly



More Information

- <http://se2.ualberta.ca>
- 780-492-4395
- se2help@ualberta.ca



Questions?

