

MINUTES

MEETING **RSHA Executive**
MEET No. **7, 2013**
DATE/TIME Friday 31 May 2013, 2pm
VENUE Lady Wilson Seminar Room, Sir Roland Wilson Building (120)

Part 1. Formal items

ITEM 1. Three minute thesis competition

Dr Evans briefed the Committee members on the three minute thesis competition which the University is running. Two representatives from our College (one from RSHA and one from RSSS) will be in the University competition. Heats will be held in both Research Schools and then there will be the important College final which will have four students from each Research School participating. Dr Evans said she would be happy to help organise the registrations for RSHA and it was agreed that once we had the numbers it can be decided if one or two events will be held. A possible time for the competition would be the alternate Friday to the RSHA Executive Committee meetings. Two workshops will be organised for the students by the College. There will be some prize money for the College winner and the student who wins the ANU competition will receive \$5,000. The CASS final will be held on 22 August and the RSHA competition will need to be held before then. The ANU final will be held on 18 September.

Dr Evans asked for suggestions for possible judges. Committee members suggested Robyn Archer, Ross Solly (ABC Radio), Andrew Leigh (Federal politician) and Maurice Riley (President, National Press Club). Professor Morphy thought it would be inappropriate to have a politician as a judge. Dr Evans agreed to set up the registrations and she will send an email to Heads of School about the competition.

Action: Dr Evans to set up the registrations.

Action: Dr Evans to email Heads of School about the competition.

ITEM 2. Attendance

Professor Morphy (Chair), Dr Evans (for agenda item 1), Dr Ferris, Dr Kennedy, Ms Knight, Dr Message, Professor Pickering, Professor Simpson, and Mrs Shepherd (Minute Secretary). Professor Tregear was an apology.

ITEM 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted from the previous meeting.

ITEM 4. Matters Arising and Action Items

4.1 Staff Survey groups

Professor Morphy noted that the School of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Interdisciplinary Humanities Group had nominated staff members to be on the three working parties but that no other School had. He stated that RSHA has fulfilled all the ANU's requirements in relation to the staff survey as we held the staff forum. Professor Morphy suggested that perhaps we have one working party instead of three or perhaps in the possible

restructure discussions people could raise the issues. He asked the other Committee members for their advice.

This item was then discussed at length and a number of comments were made. In the end it was agreed that the reports which had been written by the School of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Interdisciplinary Humanities Group be circulated to all Committee members and that the link to the Staff Forum minutes be circulated to members.

Action: Ms Knight to circulate the two reports she has received to Committee members as well as the link to the Staff Forum minutes.

ITEM 5. Confidential Items

There were no items discussed.

Part 2. Reports

ITEM 6. Director's Report

Possible RSHA restructure

Professor Morphy reported that the Vice-Chancellor has decided to delay the formal process for the RSHA restructure proposal change management from starting on the 17th June to starting on the 15th July. This is because he wishes to have the budget discussions held first with staff followed by the restructure discussions. It was noted that this timeline was not necessarily good for staff. Professor Morphy made it clear that informal discussions should be occurring in the Schools with both staff and students until the formal process starts and it is important for Heads of Schools to give feedback about this at their next staff meetings.

The change management document has largely been prepared and will be released the night before the formal consultation process starts. The formal discussion period will be two weeks. The Interdisciplinary Humanities Group is included in this process. Professor Morphy noted that there is a push across the University to have larger Schools and that there will be no staff redundancies as a direct result of this process. The visibility of the Digital Humanities Hub is important and it is important to maintain the Humanities Research Centre budget. The way forward will not be known until after the formal discussion process.

Professor Simpson reported that it is proposed that there be a joint administration between the School of Language Studies and the School of Cultural Inquiry no matter what happens as a result of the consultation process. Setting this in place was a matter of urgency. Professor Morphy stated that he would follow this up.

Action: Professor Morphy to discuss the joint School administration proposal with senior CASS administrators.

Budget

Professor Morphy noted that we do not know what the budget is going to be for next year and that he did not get the budget until January for this year. It was noted that there has been a drop in student numbers which will have an impact on the budget. Heads of School may be aware of solutions to help save costs in their particular School. ANU budget forums are being held to discuss ANU's budgetary situation for next year and possible solutions.

Part 3. ANU Matters

ITEM 7. Proposed ANU Key Performance Indicators from CASS Executive agenda

This item was noted.

ITEM 8. 2013 ANU Early Career Researcher Travel Grant Scheme from CASS Executive agenda

It was noted that there are some funds available for early career researchers to apply for to travel. Professor Morphy asked Committee members to encourage relevant staff to apply for these funds.

Part 4. RSHA Matters

ITEM 9. Education matters

It was noted that the important Bachelor of Arts review is being held. As part of that review it has been proposed that there should be an undergraduate course in digital humanities, a course in indigenous studies and a unit in languages.

ITEM 10. Research matters

Professor Pickering reported that one staff member had been having a dreadful time getting copyright clearance for some images for a new book. Professor Morphy suggested that they should contact Roxanne Missingham, who is the Head of the Library, to see if she can help.

ITEM 11. Workplace Health and Safety

There were no items reported.

Part 5. Other business

ITEM 12. Any other business

Professor Simpson tabled a Language Studies Institute of Australia proposal and stated that she was seeking feedback from Professor Makkai and Professor Morphy on it. Once she has received that feedback she will put it to the College of Asia and the Pacific.

ITEM 13. Next meeting: Friday 14 June 2013

This was noted.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm.