

MINUTES

MEETING **RSHA Executive**

MEET No. **10, 2016**

DATE/TIME Friday 9 September 2016, 2pm

VENUE Lady Wilson Seminar Room, Sir Roland Wilson Building (120)

ITEM 1. Attendance

Professor Christie (Chair), Ms Knight (Minute taking), Professor Smith, Associate Professor Ferris, and Professor Travis. No apologies received.

ITEM 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes for the previous meeting were confirmed with one small amendment at 7.1.

ITEM 3. Matters Arising and Action Items

3.1 RSHA strategic direction statement

Professor Christie has worked on the draft and would like the Heads to consider this and bring their final feedback to the next meeting. We will then decide if the draft should be considered by School Executive committees and if a condensed version should be circulated and/or made available on our website. It was agreed that this document does provide us with a good summary of our most important goals and directions as a research school and will be useful if required to provide a statement at short notice to the College or Chancelry.

Action: Ms Knight to circulate the draft to the Heads of School who will consider it and bring any feedback to the next RSHA Executive committee meeting.

3.2 Union Court redevelopment and flow on affects for AD Hope building

There is an embargo on information regarding the Union Court redevelopment plans and hence how it might affect the AD Hope building. Information on construction timeframes is not available. Professor Christie has a meeting with Professor Hughes-Warrington on Thursday next week and he hopes to find out further information then.

There was general discussion about Professor Hughes-Warrington's previous visit to the RSHA Executive last year and her commitment to keep us informed of developments with the Union Court proposals. Heads reported that staff need to stay informed to ensure morale is not effected and that stories by disgruntled staff do not circulate outside the University.

Air quality testing is now taking place in AD Hope offices and teaching spaces after reports of poor WHS standards, including mould spores, possums urinating and biting bugs.

3.3 Invitations for welcome for Professor Malcolm Gillies

Professor Gillies will now start at the School of Music the week starting 3 October 2016. The welcome reception will take place in School of Music on Thursday 6 November, 3.30-5.00pm.

3.4 Report on maintenance issues in RSHA

This item was discussed below at Item 8.

ITEM 4. Confidential items

Confidential items were discussed but not minuted.

ITEM 5. Acting Director's Report

Professor Christie asked Heads to encourage their staff to upload as much information as possible when applying for international travel, especially if there is a document approving the funding. The committee discussed the online travel process and problems encountered around financial endorsement where sometimes it was not always apparent that the funding was available. Committee members would prefer if the online form had finance office approval of funding before the delegate is asked to approve the travel.

The CASS Executive is preparing a proposal to establish a CASS Diversity committee, in the same way there will be a CASS Equity committee.

CASS Matters

ITEM 6. CASS HR report

This report was noted.

ITEM 7. Changes to cleaning contract

The College has been asked to consider a revised cleaning contract. We are still waiting for the details to be forwarded to us for consideration.

ACTION: Ms Knight to table proposed cleaning contract changes at next RSHA Executive meeting.

RSHA Matters

ITEM 8. RSHA Accommodation priorities

The committee discussed the need to have a capital bid request prepared and ready for a quick response when required on our future RSHA building aspirations. At the next meeting, we should table the documents prepared so far, which were previously sent to the DVC-A for discussion and development.

ACTION: Ms Knight to table RSHA "blue sky" documents previously prepared for the DVC-A at the next RSHA Executive committee meeting for discussion and development.

ITEM 9. Institute for Australian Studies proposal

This proposal is under discussion by the CASS Executive. It was noted by the RSHA Executive that many of the Centres named in this draft are located in RSSS yet the proposal situates this Institute in the RSHA. However many of the RSHA areas do include Australian Studies and these are not mentioned in the document. Professor Pickering is revising this draft to include more humanities areas. The RSHA Executive supports an Australian studies centre at the ANU but would like further discussion regarding how it is structured and governed and funded. Although this institute should be strongly linked to the humanities, the RSHA Executive asks whether it might not sit independently within the ANU or CASS structure and if it might be recurrently funded. Otherwise would the Director or administrative support need to be cross-subsidised and would any teaching need to be paid out from the School where the Head of this Institute belongs to?

ITEM 10. Percentage values for PDR activities across RSHA

There was much discussion regarding the variations in PDR percentages for teaching, research, and service across and within Schools. There was agreement that there is a huge unevenness in these percentages across the ANU. We should start a conversation around the current CASS minimum standards, which are 30% research, where some staff are able to do more and others cannot, due to lack of sessional support.

ITEM 11. ANU Indigenous Health Initiative

This proposal was noted.

ITEM 12. Education matters

There was a discussion about Masters programs, where low enrolments trigger reviews. However low enrolment figures do not take into account students who are enrolled in a different program. Schools are being asked to increase Masters programs, but then are also being asked to justify low enrolment numbers and RSHA Executive members noted that they cannot grow Masters numbers if the programs do not exist and the success of Masters programs is measured by Masters course enrolment numbers. There was also agreement that contradictory messages are being sent: they are being asked to increase Masters programs when it is acknowledged that Honours is a cheaper route for students to undertake.

ITEM 13. Research matters

13.1 Inbound Research Mobility Scheme 2016-2017, CUHK

This item was noted.

13.2 ARC Laureate Fellowships 2018

This item was noted and Heads will consider eligible staff.

13.3 Library policy for acquiring new books and resources

This item is being discussed at the CASS Research committee. As the Australian dollar has recovered we should make a case for purchasing new books as these are important to

RSHA disciplines. Professor Christie would like to invite Ms Roxanne Missingham to an RSHA Executive Committee meeting to discuss the status of purchasing ANU library books.

ACTION: Ms Roxanne Missingham to be invited to attend the RSHA Executive Committee to discuss the status and long term plans for library purchasing.

13.4 ARC Linkage grants

RSHA Executive members were encouraged to let their staff know that they could apply for ARC Linkage grants at any time.

13.5 Industry, Business and entrepreneurial appointments

The RSHA Executive committee discussed this item and noted that although a person could be approached to be a professorial fellow and that the ANU would pay for it, the School would still miss out as the person could not provide input to teaching or research needs. For the School of Art, however, the person may come with GLAM sector experience and entrepreneurial skills, which might suit the new Design degree. Schools really need staff who can holistically meet their needs for ERA, teaching, research grants, and HDR supervision and who can develop for promotion purposes. These industry appointments may suit the sciences more than they would suit the humanities, but it was agreed that if the University were to adopt such a policy we would need to insist that the word 'industry' be interpreted generously to include the cultural institutions and the creative sector and to think of ways in which we could take advantage.

ITEM 14. Workplace Health and Safety

Associate Professor Ferris reported that the new WHS committee lines of reporting are not adequate for our College and at the higher levels the particular requirements of some Schools become invisible.

Mr Chris Grange and Ms Christine Allard are visiting the School next week to see the kiln area and Associate Professor Ferris will report on this visit at our next RSHA Executive meeting.

ITEM 15. Next meeting Friday 23 September, 2pm

ITEM 16. Other business

16.1 ANU Alumni of the Year candidates

A potential good candidate was discussed. Ms Knight will pass this suggestion onto the CASS Advancement Manager.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.