

# MINUTES

MEETING      **RSHA Executive**

MEET No.      **9, 2015**

DATE/TIME     Friday 25 September 2015, 2pm

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

## ITEM 1.          **Attendance**

Associate Professor Kylie Message (Chair), Professor Will Christie, Dr Kate Mitchell, Professor Helen Ennis, Professor Laurajane Smith (left meeting at 4pm), Dr Samantha Bennett, Ms Suzanne Knight, Ms Alice Macdonald (minute officer)

**Apologies:** Associate Professor Denise Ferris, Dr Royston Gustavson, Professor Catherine Travis

## ITEM 2.          **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The title of Item 7.1 should say "Funding" and not Finding.

## ITEM 3.          **Matters Arising and Action Items**

ANU Workers Compensation and Self Insurance Project - Ms Deaner met with RSHA School managers to discuss local insurance requirements.

Honorary Degree Nominations - Ms Knight was advised by the Honorary Degree committee secretariat that Dr Gustavson had been notified of the confidential outcome of the School of Music nominations to that committee made by Professor Tregear.

**Action:** Dr Gustavson to confirm the outcome of those applications.

**Action:** Ms Knight to draft nominations for Ian Donaldson (on behalf of submission by CASS Dean) and Andrew Sayers (on behalf of submission by RSHA Director). Nominations to be submitted by November deadline.

Redevelopment of Union Court - held over until Item 5.1 of this meeting's Agenda.

ECHO360 - General discussion regarding the absence of ANU communication, consultation and poor decision making for the introduction of ECHO360 to replace DLD recording equipment at the ANU, with many venues not earmarked for installation. It is still not clear which rooms have received Priority One status for the installation of Echo360.

RSHA feedback has been sent to Deborah Veness who is collating requests for upgrades from the College.

**Action:** Associate Professor Message will seek a response from the CEC Chair about whether the problems have been reported to the Centre and ask for a brief verbal update at the next RSHA Executive.

Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements for Higher Education - discussed in Item 7.1 below.

#### **ITEM 4. Confidential Items**

No confidential items were noted.

#### **ITEM 5. Director's Report**

Associate Professor Message reported on a number of items:

##### 5.1 College matters/CASS Executive committee update

5.1.1 2016 Budget. CASS Finance are still waiting for the final budget model to be confirmed, however the RSHA budget is consistent with expectations. There is a 2% increase from increased student fees, and the deficit remains similar. The sessional allocation budget is yet to be determined. Preliminary meetings have been held with all Schools except the School of Music.

5.1.2 School of Music 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Successful celebration was held last weekend. It was noted that Erin Helyard and Events Coordinator, Emma Patterson, did an outstanding job at organizing the events.

5.1.3 School of Music applications closed on Monday. There has been a lot of interest from potential applicants.

5.1.4 IPRS Scholarship ranking process is underway. 15 applications were received in CASS (3 or 4 from RSHA). CASS likely to get one scholarship.

5.1.5 Review of international recruitment. A preliminary review has been undertaken by CBE into its markets (China and India) and this model may be applied to all Colleges. It is likely that Schools will be asked for information about what current activities they currently do to recruit internationally; and where they see their target markets being.

##### 5.1 Reimagine Our ANU

A draft paper was tabled for further discussion and comments. The Chair thanked those Schools which had already sent feedback. Professor Hughes-Warrington will attend the RSHA Executive meeting on Friday 20 November, however we need to provide feedback sooner than this.

The committee agreed to articulate our vision for RSHA accommodation into the future so that our relocation needs are met and so we can develop an interdisciplinary "arts precinct" that is not fractured across the ANU campus. A summary of comments included:

- Focus should be on the permanent relocation of affected RSHA areas into a precinct (rather than single building or demountables) that allows for interdisciplinary dialogue across Schools and Centres.
- The Friends of the Classics Museum are concerned that the museum continues normal hours of operation and it not be closed during any demolition period. It is well utilised with high visitation rates and acts as an important conduit for the community to access the humanities at the ANU.
- The RSHA's relationship with our stakeholders and the community must be maintained with access to open collections in permeable, versatile and flexible spaces, including open lab spaces with glass where the public can see work being done.

- Visiting artist studios should be included in any RSHA redevelopment / museum space.
- Museum space useable for the whole of RSHA including workshop spaces as well as lab and studio spaces could be considered.
- Space for collections storage and laboratory spaces must be factored into any redevelopment project in order to address the currently inadequate state of our infrastructure.

**Action:** Associate Professor Message to prepare and submit formal RSHA response for Professor Hughes-Warrington ahead of next University Council (2 October).

**Action:** Professor Ennis will contact Dr McAuliffe for feedback on the *Reimagine Our ANU* proposal and how the RSHA can maximise the opportunity.

5.2 (Research Matters – moved from item 7. so that Prof Smith could leave early)

7.1 RSHA submission to Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements

The final RSHA submission to the Government's Review of Research Policy and Funding Arrangements for Higher Education was tabled for noting. The response had been submitted directly from the RSHA to the Department of Education in order to provide the humanities with a higher profile than may have been the case if the response had been amalgamated into a wider ANU submission.

7.2 Research Quality Indicators

The DVC(R) has requested information about how HASS disciplines assess and measure research and teaching excellence. We have been asked to provide input into the development of quality measures to be collected for use in the Statement of Academic activity for each staff member. This information is likely to be used for the purposes of reporting to government and for benchmarking our research against other universities, particularly in disciplines that rely primarily on peer review.

Specifically, we have been asked to identify which research quality measures are most relevant to our disciplines, and while metrics for HASS disciplines are often difficult to determine, measures of quality could include citations, h-index, m-index, publishers, journal list, and journal impact factor. Schools in which peer-review disciplines dominate will need to be able to document the criteria against which 30% of outputs were selected for peer review in ERA. Key questions discussed:

- How are disciplines supporting researchers to publish in high quality journals and other outlets and to make effective publishing decisions?
- How do we best support ECRs to understand and develop publication strategies, noting the competing agendas between volume (HERDC) and quality (ERA)?
- What is the publication strategy in disciplines where conference papers are the norm, noting the impact that this output profile has on the current ERA rules?
- Can we establish and define international benchmarks for peer-review disciplines using methodology in ERA to select peer-review outputs? What data or information is needed to set these criteria?
- Are there potentially mixed messages to researchers regarding the importance of education that is not extending to high quality education research?

Assessing the quality of an individual's research performance in the context of the SAA (for HASS scholars) requires a holistic approach that includes research supervision, conference

presentations, editing and research capacity, as well as publications. It is important that we understand the different values of HERDC and ERA eligible research outcomes and that we are able to advise staff appropriately without getting tied up in quantity (HERDC) vis quality (ERA) confusion.

Feedback from committee:

- Professor Christie (HRC) tabled a University of Sydney chart that offered some criteria by which the research performance of a research scholar might be assessed.
- Professor Smith (SAA) outlined the measures used in ERA Heritage assessments, where journal ranking and publisher reputation are the most significant indicators of quality, and metrics provide a useful add-on. This is in contrast to Science disciplines, where research outcomes generally privilege metrics (mathematics being an exception). She explained the pros and cons for HASS-based Archaeology scholars using a Science based metric system.
- Professor Ennis (SOA) outlined how the ERA 19 code (visual and performing arts) looked for equivalent research indicators that were externally viable and recognized. These included the status of an exhibition venue, ranking of either a group versus a solo exhibition, the status of the curator as a peer assessor, acquisition of work as an indicator of excellence, prizes and awards. She also noted that an international publication is not necessarily an indicator of international quality and that often Australian art history and literature cannot find international comparisons.
- Dr Bennett (SOM) outlined similar comparative research measures for Music where performance venue (Street Theatre versus Sydney Opera House), critical reception in newspapers and magazines, radio and/or TV plays and viewings, were important factors. It was agreed that audience numbers in art and music can provide an important measure of impact.
- Dr Mitchell (SLLL) discussed the differences for HASS versus Science where HASS does not weight their publications with research supervision capacity. Science add HDR students and fellow researchers as authors which skews the metrics by the number of researchers listed. They can produce a sheer quantity of research outcomes by the number of people listed on the article with full citation credit.

The committee also discussed the related point of the National Institutes Grant (block grant), which is an upcoming Hot Topic for Academic Board. Key questions brought us back to discussions about how to understand and assess research quality and impact. Key questions considered:

1. How can ANU ensure the performance of staff and the university as a whole reaches the highest levels?
2. Should ANU target how it spends the NIG to ensure there is a focus on activities in the national interest? If so, how should ANU do this?
3. Traditionally, the NIG has been used to support research. Should the NIG also support other activities such as education in the national interest or public policy?

The committee agreed that it would be less than beneficial to HASS disciplines if the NIF/NIG only supported national interest items prioritised by the government. One suggestion was that the university would receive greater productivity from NIF/NIG if it was used to support research-led teaching, so teaching staff would have more time and support to produce research, as research and teaching are not mutually exclusive.

**Action:** Committee members asked to send written information about criteria for peer review benchmarking to Associate Professor Message.

**Action:** Associate Professor Message to prepare and submit an RSHA response to the

'Identifying quality measures for HASS disciplines' request by the College/DVCR by 29 September deadline.

### 7.3 HERDC 2014 Go8 comparison

This item was noted in reference to the Research Quality Indicators item above.

### 7.4 QS World University rankings

The latest ANU performance in the QS Times world university rankings was discussed where HASS has been ranked 1<sup>st</sup> nationally and 12<sup>th</sup> internationally.

## ITEM 6. Education matters

### 6.1 ECHO 360 update

Discussed and noted in Item 3, Matters arising above.

### 6.2 New Wattle theme

There was discussion that the new Wattle theme was not chosen for pedagogical reasons but rather for "look and feel". Staff need to be aware of these changes as pre-existing sites will need to be completely rewritten and reloaded. Pre-existing pages cannot be carried over to the new version.

**Action:** Heads to contact Fredrick Chew from the CASS Student and Education Office to visit their Schools and discuss the Wattle changes, implications and support available to staff.

## ITEM 7. Research Matters (moved to 5.2)

## ITEM 8. Workplace Health and Safety

No items were discussed.

## ITEM 9. Any other business

9.1 Review of University Medals - this item was noted.

9.2 Financial Shared Services - this item was noted.

The new CASS Associate Dean, Research, is Associate Professor Ann Evans. She is keen to discuss the role and membership of the CASS Research Committee. It was noted that the CASS Research webpage lists CRC membership from 2014.

**Action:** Heads to check the TOR and membership of the CRC and ensure that their School is represented.

Professor Catherine Waldby, the new Director RSSH, will attend our next Executive meeting as a guest. Professor Christie will make a presentation about the HRC at the next meeting.

Professor Ennis reported the SOA's concerns about the library's extended freeze on new acquisitions, which represents both an underinvestment and a lack of confidence in the ANU's high-ranking HASS disciplines. There was a suggestion that the statistics used for

extending the freeze are incorrect (it claims databases have not been accessed whilst staff know that they have been).

**Action:** Associate Professor Message to request ANU Library Committee members (Professor Pickering or Professor Peterson) to address this concern at the next Library Committee meeting.

**ITEM 10. Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 23 October 2015 at 2-4pm.