

MINUTES

MEETING **RSHA Executive and School Managers**

MEET No. **11, 2015**

DATE/TIME Friday 6 November 2015, 2pm

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

Open Session: RSHA Executive and School Managers

ITEM 1. Attendance

Associate Professor Message (Chair), Mr Buzby, Dr Denham (until 3pm), Associate Professor Ferris, Ms Knight, Ms Komidar, Ms McConchie, Professor Simpson, Professor Smith, Ms Webster and Mrs Shepherd (Minute Secretary). Professor Christie, Dr Gustavson and Professor Travis were apologies.

Dr Denham, the new Associate Dean (Higher Degree Research) was welcomed to the meeting.

ITEM 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were approved with the following amendment. Under item 4.3 the final sentence in the first paragraph should say "ANU Council (2 Oct) postponed approval of the proposal".

ITEM 3. Matters Arising and Action Items

3.1 Philanthropy and update on Philanthropic Advancement Officer

Associate Professor Message reported that she will meet with Ms Gonsalves and Ms Knight to discuss the endowments across the Research School.

The recruitment process is underway for a Philanthropic Advancement Officer who will be based in CASS. The position is part-funded by the College and the Centre.

Ms Knight was asked to follow up the administrative posts for the CASS Philanthropy and Endowment portfolio and clarify any future appointments.

Action: Ms Knight to seek clarification regarding the organisational arrangements for philanthropy posts in CASS.

3.2 Echo360 in RSHA teaching spaces

Dr Gustavson has reported back which teaching spaces in the Sir Roland Wilson building and Baldessin Precinct building will have Echo360 installed.

3.3 CASS HR report

The detailed CASS HR report was tabled for information. In the future leave will not be automatically rostered for academic staff. It is important for staff and supervisors to be aware of the change in academic leave arrangements and to discuss when leave will be taken.

Action: Academic leave to be discussed in Schools and with supervisors.

3.4 Review of International Student Recruitment and Admissions Final Report 2015

All Schools have provided feedback on the report apart from the School of Music.

Action: Ms Knight will request a copy of the final CASS response from Ms Giugovaz.

3.5 HRC archive access

Ms Knight reported that she had organised HRC archive access for Professor Christie.

ITEM 4. Director's Report

Associate Professor Message congratulated Dr Dougald O'Reilly on being awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Public Policy and Outreach.

4.1 Beonics paper

This paper was distributed and discussed at the CASS Executive. It notes the decline in the numbers of students attending lectures as well as the decline in the use of lecture recordings. The issues raised by the discussion paper extend ongoing conversations about the need for proper resourcing of diverse delivery modes for teaching (including the issues around ECHO 360), and problems with the University's assessment models (lecturers cannot mandate or give marks for attendance).

The paper uses a small-scale study that committee members felt was not adequate as the basis for making significant changes. The study's methodology (only two rooms of a particular type were studied in each College) was questioned. The study could be improved by benchmarking against what other universities are doing in terms of lecture-style delivery of courses. Further analysis needs to be conducted to better explain low attendance at lectures (low attendance at lectures does not necessarily relate to low student satisfaction with either the teaching model or lecture format). The full range of teaching experiences should be considered in this research, and extend to consideration of a full variety of indicators of quality.

Action: Schools to prepare feedback and send to Ms Knight who will collate and send responses to the College.

4.2 Gender Institute Review

Committee members discussed the Review's recommendation to exclude education from the Gender Institute's remit. Rather than divorcing education from research, committee members suggested that the Gender Institute should work closely to link with the Gender major. Reasons for doing this would be to increase the profile and impact of the Institute, to provide pathways to HDR programs which are privileged by the Review's recommendations, to heighten the research-led education framework promoted by the ANU, and to provide an income stream to contribute to the requirement that the Gender Institute become self-sustaining. The committee agreed that the Gender Institute's submission would have been stronger had it included evidence based on international comparison or benchmarking.

Action: Associate Professor Message to send feedback on the review to Kate Bisshop-Witting.

4.3 Nominations: 2016 Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in Education

Noted.

ITEM 5. Service Improvement Group

Ms Knight has contacted Schools asking for nominations as to which SIG Forum session's staff will be attending. A one page report needs to be written by staff for each session they attend.

Action: Schools to advise Ms Knight which session's staff are going to attend.

ITEM 6. RSHA matters

6.1 CHASS 2015 National Forum Reports from students

Noted.

ITEM 7. Research matters

7.1 ARC successes

RSHA did exceptionally well in this round of ARC funding, with 2 DECRA's and 5 Discovery Projects awarded. Associate Professor Message congratulated the successful applicants and thanked everyone who was involved in working on the grant applications, including supervisors, peer reviewers, and the Research Office. She also congratulated unsuccessful applicants and noted that most of the grants awarded were for applications that had been submitted two or three times with extensive reworking done each time.

The Committee discussed how to support the people who came in the top range of unsuccessful applications. One option would be teaching relief and the other option may be for them to become HRC internal fellows to work on revising their grant applications. This possibility will be discussed further by Associate Professor Message and Professor Christie, who is currently drafting guidelines for an HRC Internal Fellowship scheme.

7.2 Higher Degree Research policy changes

Dr Denham briefed Committee members on:

7.2.1 Incoming changes to the Research Award Rules and subsequent policy changes

Main changes include the introduction of a completion deadline from 2017, where HDR students will have a maximum period of 5 years fulltime for their degree. Guidelines and terminology around supervisor roles have been clarified. The full changes are outlined in the PPT presentation presented by Dr Denham (attached).

7.2.2 2015/16 IPRS and APA scholarship rounds

The IPRS round has been completed. The University has established a small number (11) of new 'international fee scholarships' for international students where the Centre pays enrolment fees to local areas (so these are not like standard 'fee waiver' or 'merit' scholarships). CASS was awarded one IPRS scholarship only this year.

There is a new methodology for ranking scholarships across the University that relies more extensively on quantitative data (e.g. GPA) than on qualitative indicators (e.g. proposals). There is a concern that this will reduce the number of scholarships awarded to CASS and favour STEM areas.

7.2.3 2016 priority – HDR recruitment

Discussions will be held into next year about ideal numbers of HDR students. Contributing factors include:

- Quality of HDR research and supervision vs quantity of completions (requires benchmarking against other Go8s);
- Ongoing challenges about how to properly resource fieldwork based research, particularly in light of changed funding formula and new time limits;
- How to increase international students, particularly given the fact that there are even fewer scholarships now (AusAid scholarships); and
- How to provide teaching experience for HDR students.

ITEM 8. Education matters

8.1 CASS Change of Preference 2015 – Campaign plan

This item was noted.

8.2 Undergraduate Awards 2016

This item was noted.

ITEM 9. Workplace Health and Safety

Ms McConchie updated on ANU's move to self-insurance.

ITEM 10. Any Other business

Nothing was raised.

ITEM 11. Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 20 November at 1pm. Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington will be attending the meeting.

Closed Session: RSHA Executive

ITEM 12. Confidential items

No items were discussed.

Meeting closed at 3.25pm.



HDR Developments 2015

College Presentation
PVC (RRT)
Nov 2015



HDR Developments 2015 Overview

- Policy Revisions
- HDR Administration Support Project
<https://services.anu.edu.au/planning-governance/project-management/hdr-administrative-support>
- Pathways to PhD implementation
- Scholarships
- Information, web pages, marketing
- Strategic Issue (2016) – HDR Recruitment



Policy Revisions

Research Award Rules

Related Policies complete:

- **Submission & Examination**
 - Resolution of conflicting examiners' reports
 - Submission without supervisor support
- **Supervision and Candidacy responsibilities**
- **Progression (milestones)**
- **Joint and Dual Awards**
- **Admissions in progress**



Pathways

- **Key dates:**
 - New procedure may be used from January 2017
 - Must be used after December 2017.
- **Master (Advanced) arrangements in place December 2015;**
- **Master Philosophy arrangements in place December 2015;**
- **Terminology for Masters classifications changed to "with commendation" for 80%+**

Scholarships

- New ranking model for candidates, pilot implementing from IPRS round October 2015
- 11 new international fee scholarships created (fewer stipends).

Web pages, information and marketing

- Marketing campaign ran Sep – Oct (short and aimed at potential domestic)
- Improved research student landing page [page](#)
- Next stages of web pages in progress
- Target state: online handbook

