

MINUTES

MEETING **RSHA Executive**

MEET No. **10, 2014**

DATE/TIME Friday 12 September 2014, 2pm

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

CONTACT Ms Lindsaye Brown, ext. 52434

Part 1. Formal items

ITEM 1. ANU Public Interest Disclosure Policy and Procedures

Ms Jasmine Hope, Senior Lawyer, Legal Office, Office of the Vice Chancellor spoke on the ANU Public Interest Disclosure policy, highlighting the following points:

- From 15 January 2014, the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2013 (Cth)* gives a right to Public Officials to disclose information about suspected wrongdoing in the ANU.
- Public Officials include current and former ANU staff members and contracted service providers but not the general public, unless an ANU Authorised Officer deems otherwise. Current Authorised Officers are Ms Kate Molloy and Mr Andrew Heath.
- The PID Act provides certain protections, including discloser identity protection and protection from reprisals. Penalties include 6 months to 2 years imprisonment and/or fines of \$3,300 to \$13,300.
- Further information is available on the ANU PID webpage located at: <http://about.anu.edu.au/governance-structure/public-interest-disclosure>

ITEM 2. Data Centre and Fellowship

Professor Matthew Gray, Director, CAEPR - Research Director, CASS spoke on the Australian Centre for Applied Social Research Methods (AusCen), the Australian Data Archive and Fellowship applications for the RSHA.

2.1 AusCen and the Australian Data Archive

- Effective from 31 July, 2014 the Melbourne based Social Research Centre entered into an agreement with ANU, through ANU Enterprise Pty Ltd, to establish the Australian Centre for Applied Social Research Methods (AusCen) to be based at the ANU. The Australian Data Archive will also be housed with AusCen.
- The establishment of AusCen, which is to be staffed by survey methodologists, survey statisticians, data archivists and qualitative research experts, will:
 - help ensure the development of best practice research methods tailored to Australian conditions;
 - Build a world class team of researchers and graduate students in social research methodology, applications and techniques;
 - Develop and validate new and cost effective data collection methods;

- Increase the availability of and access to secondary data for researchers and graduate students resulting in high impact social research publications;
 - Produce a more sophisticated Australian skills base via training and educational activities; and
 - Become known both domestically and internationally as a leader in social research methods.
- The current structure includes interim Director, Professor Ian McAllister, Deputy Director, Dr Nicholas Biddle, a Management Committee and an Advisory Board, which is where the Humanities will be represented. Individual memberships/affiliations will be available. The Centre is organisationally linked to CAEPR however this is likely to change. CAEPR is currently providing administrative support.
 - The Australian Data Archive funding has been put into the Centre and The Vice Chancellor has agreed to provide \$500K per year. Other funding must grow from developing ideas and seeking support. Recurrent funding can only be viewed as seed funding to obtain further funding.
 - Professor Pickering reported that funding was available for the Humanities to participate and we should think creatively about how to best use it. The School of Music's comprehensive collection of music tapes sitting in the SOM basement was cited as an example of material suitable for inclusion in the Archive. Other areas of humanities collaboration include digital humanities, linguistics and archaeological data.

2.2 Fellowship

Professor Gray reported that the RSHA has done very well financially from the Matthew Spriggs Laureate and the Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language and funding streams from these will continue for the next 7 years. However, taking out these large ARC grants, the total ARC income was down significantly. The main reasons for this includes less grant money to apply for, high competition and there has been a drop in the number of grant applications submitted. CASS has also lost some senior academics to retirement without a new cohort coming behind them. There was a long discussion about what could be done to generate grant applications that are credible and have a high chance of success. It was agreed that to encourage people to apply (and apply again), all applicants, not just those who were successful, should be acknowledged and made to feel special. Professor Travis' suggestion of organising an event to celebrate research was well received and it could also be about celebrating a research culture. It was also agreed that those who could credibly apply would benefit from mentoring from those with experience in the grant application process. Professor Gray suggested that forward planning was essential and the biggest risk was to do nothing. He said that from a financial point of view, in the short term, there were big gains to be made from internal people gaining Fellowships but it was also important to attract outstanding new people in DECRA's and Future Fellowships, although this could be difficult as funding for continuing posts was not available. RSHA should also actively be pursuing potential Laureate applicants and COE bids in strategic research areas (e.g. in the area such as Heritage which crosses all Schools in the RSHA).

ITEM 3. Funding for Online Educational Programmes

Ms Veness was ill and did not attend.

ITEM 4. Attendance

Professor Pickering (Chair), Ms Hope (agenda item 1), Professor Matthew Gray (agenda item 2), Associate Professor Ferris, Ms Knight, Associate Professor Message, Professor Travis, and Ms Brown (Minute Secretary). Professor Tregear and Ms Deborah Veness (agenda item 3) were apologies.

ITEM 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

As amended - Professor Travis had suggested that all ARC applicants be invited to a congratulatory event, not only those in the top 10% range of assessment and those in the top 10% receive a small grant to assist them with preparing for the next ARC round.

ITEM 6. Matters Arising and Action Items

6.1 School Handbooks

It was agreed that a web based handbook was more effective than a hard copy as the information can quickly become out of date, as people leave and things change. It was noted that the three year course planner section was highly effective.

6.2 Go8 Fieldwork Funding Opportunities

Professor Merlan (SAA) phoned colleagues in Go8. She discovered that Anthropology PhD students in Sydney, Melbourne and La Trobe universities have higher fieldwork support than the ANU. Further research was needed.

ITEM 7. Confidential Items

There were no items discussed.

Part 2. Reports

ITEM 8. Director's Report

Professor Pickering reported that the HRC Review report was still being considered by the Dean and Acting Vice-Chancellor. It will be sent to the Head of HRC before being released. Professor Pickering reported that he was expecting tough budget decisions. The university budget was delayed so the upcoming budget meetings will be postponed.

Part 3. RSHA matters

ITEM 9. Education Matters

Professor Pickering discussed the effectiveness of the Education Development Studio and will propose a review of its operations especially given the tough budget environment. This was endorsed by the Executive.

ITEM 10. Research Matters

Items discussed as part of Professor Gray's presentation.

ITEM 11. Workplace Health and Safety

No items were raised

Part 4. Other business

ITEM 12. Any other business

No items were discussed.

ITEM 13. Next meeting

The next RSHA Executive Committee meeting will be held on Friday 29 September at 2pm.

Meeting closed at 4.30pm