IHUG SUBMISSION.

At a meeting of academic and professional staff in IHUG on 29 July 2013 there was a consensus in relation to the following principles:

- That IHUG be disestablished as an AOU.
- That a Centre for Heritage and Museums Studies be established in the School of Archeology and Anthropology.
- That the Institute for Professional Practice and the Arts be transferred to the proposed Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in the School of Archeology and Anthropology.
- That the Centre for Native Title Anthropology be transferred to the proposed Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in the School of Archeology and Anthropology.
- That the Convenorship and Administration of the Liberal Arts program be transferred to the proposed Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in the School of Archeology and Anthropology.
- That the Convenorship and Administration of the Interdisciplinary Cross Cultural Research Program be transferred to the proposed Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in the School of Archeology and Anthropology.
- That the Humanities Research (and the Freilich Foundation) NOT be located in a School.
- That the Digital Humanities Hub be folded into the Humanities Research Centre and become a program within it.

Disestablishment of IHUG as an AOU.

We believe that IHUG has performed an important and necessary role in RSHA as currently configured. It was a structure of convenience. We recognize that the present proposed restructure allows issues to be addressed that, should they proceed, will obviate the need for an umbrella administrative structure.

The establishment of a Centre for Heritage and Museums Studies in the School of Archeology and Anthropology.

One of the key issues/concerns that inspired the formation of IHUG was the future of research and teaching in the area of Heritage and Museum Studies. In particular there was concern that those efforts would not be given sufficient prominence should they be located in the School of Archeology and Anthropology. Despite the fact that key staff in this area were transferred to A&A
it was not clear at that time what the School was proposing to do with the programs. This led to a bifurcation of the teaching and research efforts in this area. It has also proven to be administratively complex. However, the fact that the A&A had only part of the programs meant, we feel, that the School did not fully embrace heritage and museum studies and that without due prominence we felt that our successes (and opportunities) in this area would be endangered.

We believe that changing the name of the School would address our concerns in this respect.

We recognize, however, that the A&A have rejected the proposed change of name. We welcome the fact that the School has agreed to consider the name change over coming months.

The Head of IHUG attended the A&A School meeting and reported that the School has unanimously supported the creation of a high profile Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in the School.

IHUG believes that this is a positive and appropriate alternative and at the meeting unanimously agreed to support it.

Contingent upon the creation of a Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies would be the following:

- The transfer of the Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts (into Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in School of A&A).
- The transfer of the Centre for Native Title Anthropology (into Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in School of A&A).
- The transfer of the Convenorship of the Liberal Arts program (into Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in School of A&A).
- The transfer of the Convenorship of the Interdisciplinary and Cross Cultural Research Graduate Program (into Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in School of A&A).
- The transfer of related academic and professional staff (into Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies in School of A&A).

There was NOT a Consensus in relation to the transfer of the visual culture component of Digital Humanities Hub to the Centre for Visual Anthropology in the School of A&A. Colleagues recognized the merits of this proposal as well as the strategic advantages of keeping that part of the program in the Hub.

Members of IHUG also believe that it is vital to recognize the importance of the ongoing contribution of HRC and HUB staff to the graduate program of Interdisciplinary and Cross Cultural Research.
Members of IHUG noted the importance of preserving the high profile of the Interdisciplinary Program for the Research School and the College as a whole.

However, we recognized that the proposed restructure means that the program should be administered in the School of A&A. A large number of ICCR students have supervisors based in the School of A&A, and the external convenorship of this program in IHUG has created duplication and confusion for some students and supervisors alike.

We also recognize that the proposed relocation provides an opportunity to build critical mass for HDR students in the growing field of Heritage and Museum Studies, and believe that the consolidation of programs under the new Centre will do this.

Nevertheless, members of IHUG noted the importance of

- preserving the high profile of the broader interdisciplinarity of the ICCR program for the Research School and the College.

- recognizing that there are many students in ICCR who are working in unrelated areas of the Humanities and that it is important to reassure them that the program will retain its broad Humanities focus (ie that this move will not represent a narrowing of the program to projects in Archeology, Anthropology or Heritage and Museum Studies).

- that it is vital that we make every effort to continue to attract students to ICCR who are working in areas of the Humanities beyond those covered by A&A and the new Centre (eg. Interdisciplinary biographical studies, human rights, and world literature).

The location of the HRC, Freilich Foundation and the Digital Humanities Hub.

Members of IHUG OPPOSE the proposal to integrate the Humanities Research Centre within one or other of the four Schools on the following grounds:

Humanities Centres and Institutes have been established in all major research universities around the world precisely to generate an environment for advanced research in interdisciplinary humanities outside the conventional departmental/school structure. Indeed, no other major Humanities Centre or Institute globally sits in a Department or School.

Centres like the HRC work primarily as sites where humanities faculty from ANU and other parts of the world retreat from their core departmental responsibilities in order to undertake a period of concentrated research. At the same time, the programs of humanities centres such as the HRC - comprising of projects, fellowships, conferences, symposia, seminars and workshops – foster a
research and teaching culture which draws in scholars from across the campus. They bring a cohort of fellows into active contact with scholars and students from all disciplines.

The HRC’s permeable culture of excellence ought to benefit the whole of RSHA and CASS.

In terms of discipline previous visiting fellows, conferences and themes extend far beyond the disciplinary remit of any single School. For example, over the past 40 years fellows have come from literature, history, biography, art history and theory, art, music, musicology, philosophy, cultural studies, gender studies, linguistics, heritage and memory studies, cultural studies, gender studies, linguistics, heritage and memory studies, landscape architecture, archeology, anthropology, classics, film studies, law and human rights, criminology, political science, sociology etc., etc.

Realistically speaking the academic autonomy and diversity of the HRC would undoubtedly be compromised over time if it were to sit under any disciplinary based AOU.

Freilich Foundation

The HRC established the Freilich Foundation in 1995 through a major bequest (between $6-8 million) from Herbert and Valmae Freilich. The Head of HRC is the Chair of the Freilich Foundation Board and, along with the Freilich Fellows, is responsible for the delivery of research and programs in accordance with the primary remit of the Foundation.

Moving the HRC to a school defined by specific disciplines would impact upon the continuing relationship between the HRC, the College, and the endowment. The surviving donor, Valmae Freilich, has a strong intellectual commitment to the Foundation’s location within an explicitly interdisciplinary humanities centre.

Digital Humanities Hub

We believe that the DHH should be folded into the HRC as separate and clearly identifiable program. We believe that this is important in light of the growing role of digital humanities in interdisciplinary Humanities Centres and Institutes globally. The core international projects in the Digital Humanities are currently linked directly to the HRC. Incorporating the Hub into the HRC would consolidate this leadership role on behalf of the College.