REPORT OF THE HUMANITIES RESEARCH CENTRE SUB-COMMITTEE

The HRC Sub-Committee met on 10 and 21 October to discuss issues relevant to the governance and administration of the HRC within the new School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics.

The Sub-Committee was mindful of the mandate to preserve the HRC’s independence as well as to foster inclusiveness across the Research School of Humanities and the Arts (and the College), while, at the same time, ensuring appropriate integration of the Centre in the new School.

Our recommendations are as follows:

**Governance:**

**Executive:**

- That the HRC remain a formal Centre as defined by the University but that it not become an AOU within the School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics.

- That an Executive be established comprising the Heads of Schools (or their nominated substitute**) within RSHA, the Head of HRC and the Director, RSHA.

  **The sub-Committee expressed a preference that substitute be a senior staff member.**

- That the Executive will be responsible for setting the strategic direction of the HRC and ensuring that it fulfills its core objectives, and meets its obligations to the Research School and the College.

- That the Executive will be responsible for overseeing the fulfillment of the HRC’s national and international leadership role for the humanities.

- That the Executive will be responsible for ensuring the independence and interdisciplinary mission of the HRC.

- It is expected that the Executive will meet three or four times a year or as required.

**Academic Committee:**

- That an Academic Committee be established comprising representatives of the following disciplines, areas of study and organizational units:
1. English
2. Classical Studies
3. Art History and Theory
4. Languages
5. Anthropology
6. Archaeology
7. Linguistics
8. Music
9. Gender Institute
10. History (RSSS)
11. Philosophy (RSSS)

These representatives will be nominated to serve on the committee by the Head of the relevant School or organizational unit.

• That the Academic Committee be responsible for making recommendations to the Executive in relation to the three key areas of HRC activity:

1. Annual Theme
2. Annual Visiting Fellows Program
3. Annual Conference Program

It is expected that the Academic Committee will meet twice a year: once to select visiting fellows and then to decide on the annual theme and conference program for the following cycle.

**Head:**

• That in accordance with the University’s rules in respect of Centres the HRC will continue to have a formal Head.

• That the Head of the HRC will report directly to the Director of the Research School of Humanities and the Arts.

• That the Head will be nominated to the Dean by the Director, RSHA, following consultation with the HRC Executive.

• That the selection a Head will be based on a call for expressions of interest within RSHA.

• That when considering the appointment the subcommittee recommends a devolved model. Although the Headship will not be subject to mandatory rotation, the sub-committee believes that the appointment should be made with the firm expectation that over time all disciplines within RSHA will be represented in the post. This would not preclude the Executive recommending the re-appointment of an incumbent director.
• That the term of the Headship should be three years.

• That the appointment of the Head should be made on a rolling basis viz. that an incoming Head will be designated one year before the completion of the incumbent’s term. This will allow them to have a substantial input to the program that they will oversee.

Advisory Board:

That an HRC Advisory Board be established.

That the purpose of the Advisory Board will be to:

• To enhance the visibility or the HRC nationally and internationally
• To build congruence between the work of the HRC and the programs of other Canberra-based cultural institutions
• To canvass possibilities for partnership and sponsorship for HRC activities

That the Board will comprise five external representatives drawn from:

• cultural institutions
• government departments and other public sector organizations
• the private sector.

• Director, RSHA (ex-officio)
• Head of School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics (ex-officio)
• Head of HRC (ex-officio)

• That the HRC Advisory Board be Chaired by an external member elected by the Board itself

• That the Advisory Board meet annually

Budget:

That the HRC budget continue to be hypothecated to fund:

• Annual Visiting Fellows
• An Annual Conference Program
• Head of HRC

• That the Budget Delegate will be the Head of the School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics.
Administration:

- That the HRC be supported by a Program Manager.

Space:

The sub-committee noted that there has been a committee established to consider space issues within RSHA. We understand that issues of relocation may emerge during the deliberations of the committee. We would like to record our strong view that, irrespective of the location of the HRC, it continues to be a tight cluster of contiguous office space with easy access to conference space and administrative support. This is absolutely essential for the HRC to successfully deliver its programs.

Graduate Students:

In fulfillment of our terms of reference a meeting with doctoral students in the Interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Research Program was held on 9 October. The meeting also included students in the Archaeology and Anthropology Graduate Programs. It was attended by Paul Pickering, Director, RSHA, Kylie Message, Head of School, A&A and Ann Evans, Associate Dean, Research Training, CASS.

HRC Review:

The sub-committee noted that a review of the HRC was due in 2012 and that this had been deferred by the RSHA Director until the conclusion of the restructure process. The sub-committee recommends that the review proceed in 2014.

Nicholas Brown
Debjani Ganguly
Melinda Hinkson
Sharon Komidar
Elizabeth Minchin
Paul Pickering (Chair)
Organizational Chart:

- HRC Executive
- Director, RSHA
- Head, HRC
- HRC
- HRC Advisory Board
- Head of School Financial Delegate
- HRC Academic Committee