

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the ANU Pacific Institute

12:30 – 1:45pm 12 April 2013

McDonald Room, Menzies Library, ANU

1. Introductions and Apologies

Attending: Joel Nilon, Samuel Yuguru, Jenny Homerang, Deveni Temu, Francis Essacu, Joanne Wallis, Richard Eves, Miranda Forsyth, Peter Brown, Nicole Haley, Dana Rawls, Kathy Lepani, Vicki Luker, Bryant Allen, John Burton, Matthew Allen, Colin Filer, Michael Cookson (minutes), Rachel Morgain.

Apologies: Sinclair Dinnen, Margaret Jolly, Katerina Teaiwa, Nicolas Mortimer, Kylie McKenna, Jean Kennedy, Katherine Daniell, Ian White, Paul D'Arcy, David Hegarty, Roannie Ng Shiu, Christine McMurray, Graeme Whimp, Nick Evans, Jenny Blaik, Pam Thomas, Gordon Peake, Areti Metuamate, Mike Bourke, Chris Ballard, Robert Attenborough, Scott MacWilliam.

2. Presentation of Annual Report for 2012

The Pacific Institute Annual Report for 2012 (October 2011 to March 2013) was presented to the AGM. Michael Cookson, Acting Executive Officer of the Institute, stated it was prudent, given the uncertainty surrounding the funding and future of the Institute, to give a full account of activities to date in this report. This led to a discussion about the funding and future of the Institute (see Section 5).

3. Consideration of Draft Constitution of the ANU Pacific Institute

The Draft Constitution of the ANU Pacific Institute, which had already been approved by the Pacific Institute Board, was put to the AGM for discussion. Suggestions from the floor that may need to be incorporated into the draft Constitution include:

- The Board should be broadly representative of constituent members.
- The time period Board members serve be limited. There was no consensus on this issue - other members spoke in support of an unrestricted term for Board members provided they were actively engaged with the Institute.
- The way(s) new members are appointed to the Board be formalised.

4. Update on Pacific Institute websites

Michael Cookson gave a brief update on his work with the College of Asia and the Pacific (CAP) to develop web-resources and a website for the Pacific Institute and other area institutes at the ANU. He noted that the funding (and contract) for this work will run out late May / early June 2013, when he will no longer be responsible for running the Outrigger blog or the Pacific Institute website. Responding directly to concerns from the floor, he expressed his hope that a new events feature on the Outrigger blog might provide a stronger incentive for members to post material directly to Outrigger – which should significantly reduce the ongoing effort required to run the blog. He noted that the main Pacific Institute website, which will feature newly digitized material from ANU's back-catalogue of Pacific publications, will also be able to receive direct contributions from members (with website moderation).

5. Plans for 2013

A number of members present at the AGM expressed their strong support for the work of the Institute over the past 18 months and their concern for its future. With no funds for a Secretariat position and the Acting Executive Officer completing his related website work for the Institute in mid-2013, members at the AGM were keen to explore how best to continue the work of the Institute in 2013. This discussion canvassed various ways the Institute might seek funds from its constituent groups for an Executive Officer position (currently unfunded), the possibility of involving graduate students and/or interns to assist with Secretariat functions of the Institute, and other ways the Institute might continue with limited funds *but still maintain* effective outreach (such as the greater use of Facebook by members to promote the Institute and its objectives at ANU). Michael Cookson, on behalf of Ian White, noted that the PACE-Net coordination team based at the ANU had helped advance the interests of the Institute and that new synergies may be possible between the European Union's proposed PACE-Net+ initiative and the Institute.

Rachel Morgain proposed the idea of establishing a working group to scope out possibilities for how best to advance the Institute in 2013 (with a specific focus on funding). Miranda Forsyth indicated her willingness to be involved with this working group – which will most likely be constituted at the first Board meeting after the April 2013 AGM. Colin Filer noted that the issue of sustainability and funding for the Institute was a major preoccupation of the Board, so it was suggested this working group begin by reviewing the minutes of the Board over the past 18 months.

6. Other business

Michael Cookson put a motion to the AGM that Chris Ballard be recognised for his central role in formulating and promoting the Institute and its ideals. This point was strongly endorsed at the AGM, and Deveni Temu noted that most recently it was Chris's efforts that helped to secure the renewal of an archivist position for the Pacific Research Archive following Karina Taylor's departure earlier this year. Kathy Lepani put a motion to the AGM that Michael Cookson's work for the Institute also be recognised and formally noted. This was also endorsed by consensus.