**Minutes Pacific Institute Board Meeting**

**31 March 2016**

**9.30 – 11.00**

**SSGM Reading Room Coombs Building**

Present: Colin Filer, Chris Ballard, Vicki Luker, Deveni Temu, Miranda Forsyth, Sara Beavis, Hannah McMahon, Roannie Ng Shiu, Mike Cookson, Peter Brown

1. The minutes of the meeting of 19 Feb were approved; welcomes were extended to new Board members Sara Beavis and Mike Cookson (also standing in for Matt Dornan).
2. Website discussions: Prizes and grants tab has been added to website but more work is required to get all the information up.
3. Annual events: subcommittee plans to convene soon and develop some events for the year. One event that has been organised is the HRC sponsored Pacific Knowledges workshop 6-7 June. Another possibility is a joint talk by Ian White and Mike Bourke on the El Nino event in the Pacific. Sara Beavis suggested this could also be a fundraising events and there were suggestions that the PNG students association could get involved. A possible date for this is Thursday 5 May.
   * Action: Chris to email everyone to set this up
4. EHESS (France) MoU: Chris reported that discussions are ongoing with Jacqueline Lo (ANU Europe Centre) about a new and more inclusive ANU-wide MOU with EHESS; this would complement another initiative under way to create a Maison des Sciences de l’Homme (Pacifique) relationship bringing together ANU, U Hawaii, Auckland and University of French Polynesia (UPF) being spearheaded by Serge Tcherkézoff.
5. Education subcommittee: planning to meet this week
6. USP MoU subcommittee: It was noted that the VC of USP had come and given a talk and both he and the CAP Dean were presented with a quite impressive list of activities that have taken place under the MoU to date (thanks to Matt Dornan for organising this in Roannie’s absence!). The message was conveyed to the VC that we would like a “contact person” to work with at USP. USP has also identified seven priority areas of research collaboration. Miranda suggested that this subcommittee could be expanded to be the Strategic partnerships subcommittee to deal with future MoUs etc.
   * Action: Roannie to follow up these seven areas with Iresh Lal and circulate
7. The Board was informed the current budget is around $20,000 and we need to spend it this year.
   * Action: By next meeting Miranda and Chris to have prepared a full budget statement and pre-circulate it, with allowances for annual events etc
8. Chris informed the Board that there were discussions within the newly constituted CAP International Engagement Committee of nominating three strategic partnerships which seem to be interpreted as countries of focus. In the interests of getting at least one Pacific example on the table he had proposed PNG, given the strategic spread of academics across CAP and beyond currently working on PNG. Mike also commented that DevPol had just won a multi-million dollar grant from DFAT to strengthen the teaching of economics and public policy at UPNG and that this increases the opportunities for ANU staff to engage in PNG in a variety of ways. Vicki Luker also proposed Fiji given all the work that has gone into the USP MoU to date. Proposals will come from individual schools in CAP, and Board members are encouraged to nominate Pacific partnerships to their school representatives or committees (or taskforces).
9. There was a discussion of the fact that there is an increasing interest at the university and government level to demonstrate impact of research, and it is also important for PI scholars to do this. There are initially 20 case studies being collected across ANU and it appears that a few of these that are likely to be proposed are Pacific related: DevPol’s work on seasonal workers and some work in SSGM. However, we agreed that PI members need to proactively identify examples of impact and one way we can start to do this is to create a tab on the PI website with little examples – a paragraph and a photo that demonstrates objective impact. We suggested calling this simply “impact” but another suggestion that has arisen during the writing of the minutes is “Pacific Institute Scholarship in the World.” We agreed to start this by writing to a few people and asking them to contribute such a paragraph (this list being very incomplete and in no way to be taken as making any judgment about the comparative value of different research, just a way of getting started). The people identified were: someone in Fenner for work on water quality; Pasifika narrative (Roannie); Geoff Clark and others for work on world heritage nominations, Miranda on Sorcery National Action Plan. Colin Filer on Seabed mining, Nick Evans on languages, George Carter on climate change; PAMBU; Matthew Spriggs for Lapita etc; Paul D’Arcy on climate change; Ian Fry on Tuvalu and Katherine Daniell.
   * Action: Different PI members were tasked with writing to these different people to ask them to contribute their paragraph and to send it to Chris in two weeks (14 April) who will work with Katrin to put them up on the website and also bring them to the attention of CAP Executive.
10. It was noted that the University of Auckland, AUT and Otago have just established the New Zealand Institute of Pacific Research (NZIPR).
    * Action: Chris to write to them to congratulate them and to build a relationship with them.