

# Minutes

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| COMMITTEE   | <b>ANU Pacific Institute</b>   |
| MEETING NO. | 1  |
| DATE / TIME | 10 March 2017, 03.00pm   |
| VENUE       | Regional Institutes Boardroom, 1.12 HC Coombs Extension  |
| ATTENDING   | Vicki Luker<br>Miranda Forsyth<br>Ila Lauouvea<br>Deveni Temu<br>Christine Bryan<br>Colin Filer<br>Peter Brown<br>Matt Tomlinson<br>Margaret Jolly<br>Mike Cookson<br>Alan Rumsey (chair)<br>Katherine Daniell (co-convenor)<br>Michael Wesley (CAP Dean), |
| APOLOGIES   | Sarah Beavis<br>Matthew Spriggs<br>Roanne Ng Shiu  |
| OBSERVERS   | Bronwen Douglas (observer)   |

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## 1. Approval of minutes of last meeting (11 November 2016)

No corrections proposed. Minutes are taken as an accurate record of the meeting.

## 2. Welcome to newly appointed PI board members Ilaïsaane Lauouvea and Matt Tomlinson

Alan explained that replacements had been sought for Chris Ballard and Ingrid Ahlgren, Alan welcomed Ila and Matt who were unanimously supported by the board.

**Action:** AR to update the list of board members in the PI Governance document.

### **3. Financial report – Alan Rumsey**

Alan noted that we couldn't carry forward funds from last year that were unspent. We have \$10,000 this year with none distributed or allocated yet.

### **4. Update on proposal for a PI art exhibition to be held at the School of Art Gallery – Bill Standish**

Bill was not present to give an update. Alan reported that Bill had told him late last month that the proposal had been submitted but that there had been no decision about it yet. On related matters, no Pacific art has been collected for the Institutes Boardroom as had been discussed at our last meeting. Margaret has noted she will provide some. Alan suggested that New Guinea art could be purchased for the Coombs building, through the Peter Grimshaw Endowment, which was established in 1978 'to acquire significant works of art to enhance the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies accommodation'.

### **5. Update on plans for development of ANU Pacific Pidgin language courses – Alan Rumsey**

These are in the first phase of development. In line with the PI submission on Pacific language teaching that was written in response to a request by CAP Associate Dean Stephen Fruehling last November and discussed with him at the last board meeting, a proposal has gone to the CAP Languages Strategy Working Group for the development of Tok Pisin courses to be taught on regular basis at ANU and made available online. The Working group has endorsed the proposal. In this connection it was noted that the separate bid that had been put into DFAT by ANU last year for training for service courses in Pacific languages had been unsuccessful. The contract for teaching again went to CIT, who had come in with a lower bid. A contract has reportedly been offered to ANU to provide accreditation for the courses, but under the circumstances this seem unlikely to be taken up.

## **6. Update on proposed visit to Canberra of Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine and possible sources of funding for it – Margaret Jolly.**

Margaret noted that \$6000 was allocated from PI in November, but dates were an issue and this funding has now been lost owing the prohibition against carry-overs. A plea was made to Christine Sullivan which was unsuccessful, but it is the view of the board that this matter should be taken up with Michael Wesley, considering the recent meetings with him and interest in Pacific-focused activities. Hilda Heine is now planning to come on the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May. Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner is her daughter, a famous poet. Approaches have been made to DFAT and University of Sydney (Warrick Anderson) for co-funding. Other funding options could be an out-of-round demand to the Gender Institute and Climate Change Institute. VL suggested the PI also revisit SSGM/Bell School for a contribution to the funding. \$20,000 is sought in total. Lecture series funding is another option.

**Actions:** MJ to follow up on approaches to DFAT, U Sydney, ANU Gender Institute and Climate Change Institute for further funding. AR, KD and possibly MJ to follow up with Michael Wesley on the matters.

## **7. Discussion and agreement on amount to be contributed by the PI for Hilda Heine's visit**

Regarding the amount to be allocated for the Heine visit it was agreed that this will have to be reconsidered in view of other budget commitments for this year. We discussed those and agreed to allocate \$2500 for the publication subsidy, \$2000 for the Elizabeth Durack exhibition, \$500 for other exhibitions, and \$500 for Pacific student events. That leaves \$4500, of which we agreed to set aside a max of \$3000 for Hilda Heine's visit, which we hope can be covered mainly or entirely from the other sources mentioned above.

Regarding other events Mike Cookson mentioned that a PNG film night is going to be organized this year; no funding for that is being sought from the Pacific Institute but on Mike's request agreed that the film night could be co-branded with the PI.

## **8. Update from Prizes and Scholarships subcommittee regarding its proposals for uses of the Davidson, Knight and Te Rangi Hiroa endowed Funds, consideration of those proposals by the board and agreement about how to proceed – Alan Rumsey**

As reported at the last PI board meeting, the consolidated account for these funds now has a balance of over \$700,000, of which ca. 30,000 may be spent each year. The endowment has grown to that level in part because no grants have been awarded from it since 2002. This is due in part to its very complicated history and long-standing sensitivities over how it should be used. The PI subcommittee on Scholarships and Prizes (chaired by Alan) has met twice during the past few months to consider those issues, both times with the participation of ANU Endowments Officer Tracey Guest, and most recently with Vicki Luker also attending to give us the benefit of her long-term familiarity with the issues. With a close eye to the benefactors' stated intentions for the endowments, the sub-committee drafted a set of recommendations to the board as to how the funds should be spent (a revised version of the ones tabled at last board meeting). Those were discussed at length and some amendments and additions were proposed. The board agreed on the following version:

The funds that are available each year from the Pacific Institute Endowment fund shall be used for the following items:

1. \$23,000 towards an ANU PhD scholarship or stipend to be awarded to a Pacific Islander, to be called the Jim Davidson Award;
  2. \$2,000 for a prize for the best student essay about a Pacific-related topic submitted to any university, to be called the Te Rangi Hiroa Award;
- The remaining funds for education  
be called the John Knight and Jim Davidson Award.

The awards will be managed and awarded by the Pacific Institute subcommittee on scholarships and prizes. The judging panel for them will consist of:

- The Pacific Institute subcommittee on scholarships and prizes
- At least two Pacific Islanders, one of whom will be a citizen, of any ethnicity, of a Pacific Island country or territory who can represent the interests of the Island Pacific.
- The Dean of CAP or his/her delegate

- **Actions:** AR to send the new agreed award conditions to ANU Endowment Officer Tracey Guest to be included in the records and publicity regarding the awards and the use of the endowed funds for them. MJ to lead the prizes and scholarships subcommittee in managing the awards under the new conditions.

## **9. Update on request to change ANU Pacific Studies flyer – Miranda Forsyth**

A Pacific flyer was produced by CAP but there were problems with it. PI needs to decide what we want and they will produce it for us. There is also a previous Pacific Institute flyer developed by Mike and Katherine. This should be sent to CAP for formatting. Roannie is well placed to consult with others to improve the Pacific Studies one. A further general brochure should be developed on 'Pacific Research at the ANU' or 'The Pacific at the ANU' and this can be done as part of the Pacific Studies legacy project referred to in Item 14 below.

**Actions:** MF to send earlier version of PI brochure to CAP media officer for formatting. RN-S to lead the further development of the Pacific Studies brochure. The steering committee for the ANU Pacific Studies legacy project to oversee the production of the proposed Pacific at ANU brochure.

### **New matters:**

## **10. Report from Libraries/PRA/PMB**

Christine reported about the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau and how Kylie has been in Solomon Islands. The PMB will digitize the Solomon Star and are also getting audio reports. Kylie is about to go to Port Moresby to work on the Catholic archives. Christine noted other activities: Burns Philip is a priority and is the biggest collection in the archive. There will be a Pacific navigation exposition in July in the Menzies Library foyer. Questions were also asked of PI staff about how PMB and University Archives staff could help and be integrated more into teaching and learning. They posted a notice about this on the PI website, but haven't had any feedback and would be keen to incorporate archives and archival techniques into the teaching program, including helping students to access online resources - Not just ANU but Deveni reported that a presentation was made to CAP & CASS students during the orientation period. A handful of tours were conducted then and during weeks 1-3 of the semester. A library session was conducted by Kylie and Deveni

and another will be conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. It was also noted that we talked about digitizing collections at last meeting. If there are any that need to be digitized – i.e. runs of Pacific journals – PI members should let Christine know!

## **11. Review of the current membership of PI subcommittees and their activities; agreement on replacement of some departing members**

Alan Rumsey declared his intention to give up his role as acting head of the Prizes and Scholarships subcommittee, Margaret will take over as chair. Colin agreed to take up the other position on that subcommittee. Ingrid is no longer on the board and Ila will take over on the Annual lecture/events subcommittee. Matt Tomlinson will join the Publications Subsidy subcommittee.

**Action:** AR to update the record of sub-committee members in the PI governance document.

## **12. Proposal for a collaboration between the PI and the New Pedagogical Documentation Center of New Caledonia – Ilaïsaane Lauouvea**

Ila explained the role of the "Pedagogical Documentation Centre" which is a public institution placed under the supervision of the Government of New Caledonia. It is part of the French network for publishing, producing and developing educational resources. The PDC publishes a collection '**101 words to understand...**' series of books to understand different topics, where 2 pages max is given to 101 sub-topics of the chosen area. They are currently developing a book on Australia and invite PI to work with them on it and for it to be co-badged. The book is published from one country to another and has a role in building Francophone/Anglophone connections in the Pacific. The work is both encyclopedic and popular. Peter Brown will be one of the two editors. PI members were supportive of the relationship and suggested that Peter be the PI contact on the project.

**Action:** PB to continue collaborating on the 101-words series. IL to inform her colleagues in New Caledonia of our willingness to co-badge to series.

### **13. Budget submission for the Elizabeth Durack exhibition to be held at the Menzies Library Foyer – Deveni Temu**

Following discussions about the whole of this year's budget as described in item 7 above, \$2000 will be allocated.

### **14. Report on meeting called by CAP Dean Michael Wesley to request a new initiative for the celebration of ANU's past achievements in Pacific Studies**

Michael Wesley asked the Pacific Institute to think about a project that had been discussed the previous day with his proposed members of a potential steering committee for it. The project would remember the intellectual history of Pacific Studies (as a whole). Who came before us? What is the broad overview – key scholars and scholarship. He has a vague understanding that Pacific Studies at ANU has been pivotal and transformational, but it is difficult to find and identify this across disciplines. Such work should help to provide a platform for thinking about the future of Pacific Studies and its relation to other areas of study at ANU over the next 5-10 years – it needs to have forward intent. The future doesn't need to be the same as the recent past. There is nothing dictatorial on what he wants to see. What form, choice is ours – monograph, film, set of histories, website – up to us how we do it – disciplinary groups, sub-regional work, conference – we have the archives so we have a lot to work with.

MC asked about the issue of funding, as the exercise sounds expensive. MW noted that there is a budget and some capacity to make discretionary activities function – obviously cheaper is better than expensive.

MJ noted that text and image could work well together, as in an initiative of this kind that had been taken by the China in the World Centre. PI needs to get a proposal to MW soon, which could be a model for other institutes and groups. There is a rich collection of intellectual histories across CAP and the ANU. He needs a ready resource to give to people (staff and students). MF suggested MW look at the intellectual history that had been compiled and published by RegNet. Peter Drahos edited an ANU Press collection for that, on planning, themes, methodology and how things fit together. The output of the China-in-the-World initiative was a small book. MW noted that such a project requires judgement – what were the big ideas – game changing ones – how did things develop? How did the idea of the 'Pacific Region' develop? How has this influenced the setting of agendas? The proposed Pacific Studies initiative links to the history of Coombs. Could include oral history and website development. Reach out to some who are no longer at the

ANU. VL noted the presence of BD and her work on Pacific history that could form a contribution to such a project.

**Action:** MJ, CF, NH, SD, GF, MF, KT, PD, BD, SF, KD and VL to meet to decide on the composition of the steering committee for the ANU Pacific Studies legacy project and a plan of action for it.

## **15. Planning how to position Pacific Studies in relation to the ANU Strategic Plan – Katherine Daniell**

KD noted that the PI needs to figure out how to orientate itself under the new ANU strategic plan. There are lots of opportunities for the PI as we speak to several of the key areas that have been mooted for the plan.

MJ noted the continuing strong pressure from Council about academic excellence and the reputational challenges ANU faces and associated issues of ranking.

We can't do the same things as the 'big' units. 'Impact' as doing good in the world – intellectual and education impact (including on curricula).

There are questions to ask about Indigeneity and Gender.

Possible candidates for the five 'big themes' are being discussed. We need to be proactive in ensuring PI's interests can be incorporated on many of these.

## **16. Any other business.**

Peter and Kylie were congratulated for a fabulous Oceania knowledges conference. Peter expressed gratitude to PI members for their support.

Minutes by KD with revisions by AR after vetting with the board