

# College Representative Council – Minutes

6pm, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013, ANUSA Boardroom

## Attendance List:

### Executive

Aleks Sladojevic- President

Tasman Vaughan– Vice-President

Sophia Stanley– General Secretary

Amy MacKinnon– Education Officer

### General Representatives

Eric Chan

Vincci Lee

Sam Duncan

Jess Bolton

Michael Harrison

### College Representatives

Jennifer Darmody -CBE

Charlie Carroll- CBE

Laura Wey - Science

Zaiga Thomman- Science

Caroline Skinner- CECS

Ruohan Zhao - CASS

Melanie McLeod - CASS

Nick Horton – CAP

Antonija Kurbalija – COL

### Ordinary Members

Annika Humphries

Ellen Trevanion

## Item 1: Meeting Officially Opens and Apologies

### Meeting Opens: 6:10 pm

#### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to show my respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, of elders past and present, on which this event takes place.

#### 1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mark Jehne, Stacey Little, Lucy McFarlane and Milly Cooper.

## Item 2: Minutes from the Previous Meeting including Matters Arising

MOTION: That the minutes from CRC 4 be accepted

Moved: Tasman Vaughan

Seconded: Rouhan Zhao

**Motion: Passed**

## Item 3: Reports and Matters Arising

### 3.1 Executive Reports

#### 3.2.1 President [Reference A]

- **Jennifer Darmody:** Regarding the increase in parking prices. This largely affects Country kids who need to drive, do you think this hike in price is right?
  - **Aleks Sladojevic:** In the scheme of things much worse could have happened, they could have cut course programs, tutors etc. The University needs to find money somehow. Staff will still pay more than students, it seems to be a bigger issue for staff. It has already been decided and gone through council.

**MOTION:** That the Presidents Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Charlie Carroll

**Seconded:** Michael Harrison

**Motion: Passed**

#### 3.2.1 Vice - President [Reference B]

- **Aleks Sladojevic:** Can you discuss what happened at the Bus Forum?
  - **Tasman Vaughan:** Lots of good suggestions were raised. Including:
    - Clubs and societies Staff member, who would also be responsible for the bus.
    - ANU Student Equity Hyundai- look at how they are doing it,

- Trading the car in.
- There are other safety features you can get if you are worried about safety including reversing cameras.
- Driver accreditation process,
- Long term leases
- Looking into these options and are creating a proposal to put forth at the next OGM outlining these proposals.

### 3.2.1 Education Officer

**Action Point: Sam Duncan to provide Amy McKinnon with an appropriate contact at Uni Lodge regarding Mental Health Guide. Amy to get in contact with Uni Lodge regarding Mental Health Guide.**

**MOTION:** That the Education Officers Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Zaiga Thomman

**Seconded:** Jennifer Darmody

**Motion: Passed**

## 3.2 College Representative Reports

### 3.2.6 College of Science Report [Reference C]

**MOTION:** That the College of Science Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Nick Horton

**Seconded:** Jess Bolton

**Motion: Passed**

### 3.1.4 College of Engineering and Computer Science

- In the process of trying to replace Sanjay Govindan
- Education Community is this week where I will be giving an update on the systems engineering report

### 3.2.3 College of Business and Economics [Reference E]

- Review of SELT Reviews for Semester 1 2013
  - Once available we intend on perusing all SELT reviews and noting courses which have received consistent criticism from students. We intend to raise these issues at the Committee Meeting in September to attempt to address these issues;
- Draft email to CBE Committee regarding a mid-semester review of the course to be filled out by students in tutorial groups:
  - We believe students will be more inclined to offer feedback and criticisms of the course whilst there is opportunity for the course to change for the remainder of the term. This will also allow students to raise issues they are having in their tutorial groups.
- Draft proposal for CBE Committee Meeting regarding:

- Reform of the criteria used to select tutorials;
  - What we discovered last terms was that the CBE is of the opinion that the quality of tutors offered in the CBE is at a good standard and does not require reform. Whilst we believe some courses in the CBE offer high quality tutors others consistently do not and we believe these are the areas that need to be addressed;
- Introducing special pre-exam tutorials run by students who performed highly in previous years:
  - The aim is to give students a non- threatening forum to raise their issues and concerns for the final exam whilst getting a student's perspective on how best to prepare for the exam;
  - The tute will basically cover the previous years final exam paper or other material, such as a practice paper, produced by the lecturer.
- Raise issue regarding, what appears to be primarily an issue in the college of economics, the refusal by lecturers to post lecture materials (i.e. lecture recordings) and tute solutions on Wattle.
  - We have received numerous complaints from students regarding this issue. We are of the opinion that whilst lecturers should be able to dictate how students are to learn in their courses, this should be achieved through alternative means, i.e. such as having assessment in tutorials like assessable tute solutions, quizzes or participation marks, and thereby encouraging and rewarding students for participating in the course rather than punishing students for not participating, by withholding tute solutions and participation – we believe this is more detriment.
- President's dinner – proposal:
  - Next week – a chance to meet and talk with the presidents and hear their proposals for the semester and where we can participate and help;
- Attendance at a mediation between FINSOC and AFEC in light of the recent conflict which has arisen between the two clubs;

### 3.2.2 College of Asia and the Pacific [Reference F]

- Ross Tan has replaced Ashley Ralph and despite being overseas he has been a great help

**MOTION:** That the College of Asia and the Pacific Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Michael Harrison

**Seconded:** Jennifer Darmody

**Motion: Passed**

### 3.2.1 College of Arts and Social Science [Reference G]

- **Aleks Sladojevic:** The Bachelor of Arts (BA) review has been largely tokenistic. It has not been like a review just a forum for people to air their grievances. ANUSA has given a lot of feedback they have not taken this in. To what extent do you want us to get the ANU University Executive to put pressure on them?
  - **Melanie McLeod:** If something is raised at the meeting that does not go how they want it to go, it gets deferred to the next meeting. The process is not improving the BA.

**MOTION:** That the College of Arts and Social Science Report be accepted.

**Moved:** Charlie Carroll

**Seconded:** Vincci Lee

**Motion: Passed**

### **Item 5: Items for Discussion**

### **Item 5: Other Business**

### **Item 6: Date of Next Meeting and Close**

The date of the next CRC is scheduled to occur in Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 6pm, ANUSA Boardroom.

**Meeting Closed: 752pm**

**PRESIDENT REPORT**

Aleks Sladojevic

## **ANU Budget Proposal**

### **Summary**

On 5 June, a Budget Forum was held for undergraduate students, to provide an opportunity for suggestions on how the ANU should go about tightening its budget. Suggestions were also being received via email submission, and ANUSA promoted both these opportunities to students.

On 2 July, the Vice Chancellor announced a budget proposal which included the following elements:

- Increases in international student fees of 5% in 2014 and 2015 (estimated revenue = \$6m each year)
- Growing undergraduate domestic student numbers by 5% in 2014 and 6.25% in 2015 (estimated cost of recruitment initiatives = \$3m; estimated revenue of additional students = \$7m)
- Growing international student numbers by 1.5% in 2014 and 2015 (estimated revenue = \$3m)
- Increases in parking rates for reserved undercover parking (250%) and surface permits (yet to be confirmed)
- A 230-person reduction in professional staff numbers (via a voluntary early retirement scheme)
- A 2% salary increase for ANU staff
- A \$2m savings target for energy use at the University
- A \$3.2m reduction in accommodation and travel expenses in 2014/15
- Increased efforts in growing philanthropic funding (e.g. Tuckwell-style donations to the University)

While it is great to see that the University has not directly targeted degree programs and courses within the University, it is important for us to monitor the changes that have been announced, particularly during the implementation phase, so we can make sure that the learning and general experience of students is not compromised.

For more information on the proposed budget changes, please see the Formal Change Proposal, available at:

[http://budgetsolutions.anu.edu.au/files/2013/07/Change-Proposal\\_Budget-Challenges\\_FINAL.pdf](http://budgetsolutions.anu.edu.au/files/2013/07/Change-Proposal_Budget-Challenges_FINAL.pdf)

The University is also still receiving suggestions and feedback via email to [budgetsolutions@anu.edu.au](mailto:budgetsolutions@anu.edu.au)

## Staffing

### Legal Officer

Our new Legal Officer, Michael Curtotti, started work on 15 July. He has settled in very well and there have been a number of students making appointments to come and see him.

### Communications' Officer

Our new Communications Officer, Jen Edmunds, also started work a couple of weeks ago. Jen has a really strong background in publications and she has been doing some great work in the marketing / promotional side of things. Some of her key focuses coming up, include: Student Assistance launch materials; website reform; and improving our communications strategy.

## University Committees

### Bachelor of Arts (BA) Review – Update

Phase I of the BA review is now complete. Many thanks to Ruohan Zhao and Melanie McLeod for the work they have done in contributing to that process. Phase II of the review will be happening at a School-level, and we have stressed that transparency to students throughout this process is crucial.

One of the greatest concerns we have raised to University Education Committee (UEC) about the outcomes of Phase I was regarding the proposal to introduce a BA (Advanced) (Honours). Our CASS representatives are not convinced that a 'higher tier' degree in CASS is necessary, and they have also raised concerns about the administrative burden that will most likely be placed on CASS, particularly when it comes to graduation checking and course advice. Concerns were also raised around the flexibility in the proposed BA particularly for double degree students.

The new learning outcomes that have been proposed for the BA are as follows:

*Upon successful completion of the Bachelor of Arts, students will have developed the appropriate disciplinary knowledge and acquired the skills to:*

- 1. Critically apply theoretical frameworks and research techniques to understanding national and international issues and problems;*
- 2. Identify, including through interrogation of databases, relevant sources of information from across a variety of media (print and digital, written and audio-visual) and judge the importance and reliability of those sources;*
- 3. Evaluate ideas and develop creative solutions to problems, including through independent pursuit of knowledge and making connections between different disciplinary approaches and methods;*
- 4. Communicate and debate both orally and in writing, and work with others, using a variety of media; and*
- 5. Understand the ethical implications of ideas, communications, and actions.*

Other changes that have been proposed, include:

- The introduction of a new minor in Heritage and Museum Studies
- Removal of the Film and New Media major and the introduction of a Film Minor (a renamed version of the Film and New Media minor)

The rationale that has been provided for these changes is as follows:

*The BA should prepare students to be engaged in society and to prepare them to lead intellectually fulfilling lives. The current learning outcomes do not clearly articulate this; they also create a division between disciplinary learning outcomes and generic learning outcomes, but they are achieved simultaneously. The revised learning outcomes draw on visions for the BA communicated in the various meetings constituting the review. Although further revisions to the BA are expected, it is necessary that the revised program level learning outcomes are approved before Phase 2 commences so that they can guide the review of each of the majors.*

This is a large process and we want to remain directly engaged with the College for Phases II and III. We are pushing for consultation and transparency as key focuses in the process.

### **Student Experience**

The next Student Experience Committee is scheduled for 1 August. Items on the Agenda for this meeting include:

- Development of a 'Student Experience Operational Plan'
- Better integration of domestic and international students
- Ways to enhance extra-curricular activities (such as internships) at the ANU, as well as ways to recognise extra-curricular involvement



- Setting up the Mental Health Working Group following the Roundtable which was held on 24 July

### **UniSafe**

The next Unisafe Committee meeting is being held on 8 August.

### **Academic Board**

The next Academic Board meeting is being held on 9 August. I will report back on the outcomes of this meeting at the next SRC / CRC.

## **Campaigns and Advocacy**

### **Mental Health Roundtable**

The ANU Mental Health Roundtable was held on 24 July, and it went from 9am to 3pm which allowed for a lot of in-depth discussion and brainstorming about ways we can improve mental health support provision at the ANU. This is something that I have been pushing for for quite a while, and I have to thank Professor Richard Baker (Pro-Vice Chancellor – Student Experience) for getting behind the idea and helping to co-ordinate its taking place. The main outcome of the day was a decision to establish a Mental Health Working Group which will meet fortnightly to help co-ordinate information and initiatives across campus that concern student mental health.

### **Bush Week**

Last week was one of the most phenomenal weeks that ANUSA has put on this year. Biases aside, in the five years I have been at the ANU, I have not seen a Bush Week as diverse and well-attended as the one that was heading up by our Social Officer, Liv Clark. A huge thank you to Liv and her team of Bush Week Directors, Gemma Butler, Georgia Ellen and Nick Butler. A special mention should also go to Tas Vaughan for the incredible amount of work he has done these past few weeks, especially manning the barbeques.



### **Visit from Bournemouth University Students' Union Representatives**

On 12 June, I met with representatives from the Bournemouth University Students' Union (SUBU) in the United Kingdom. SUBU were recently recognised as one of the best student representation organisations in their country and they represent about 18,000 students at their University. There is a lot we can learn from them with regard to their communication with students and how they have built their volunteer base (to comprise of over 1,000 students). I am hoping that contact with SUBU is something we can maintain in the future as it is a valuable information resource to learn how other student unions are operating. There also might be potential points of collaboration in the future.

### **ANUSA Mental Health Committee**

There is a lot that is going to be happening in the Mental Health Committee meeting this semester, with a campaign being planned on raising awareness and encouraging a strong ANU community when it comes to supporting good mental health. We are still yet to finish the Mental Health Guide and this is project that will take priority this term. The next Mental Health Committee meeting is going to be at 4pm on 7 August in Student Space. The meetings are held fortnightly.

Please come along if you are interested in being part of the Committee and please encourage any of your friends who are interested in student mental health issues to join the Facebook page (link below) and come along to one of the meetings.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/498050273589867/>

## Submission on Administrative Processes

We received a lot of student feedback on various administrative processes in the University, and this feedback formed a large basis of the submission we made regarding problems with and suggested improvements to administrative processes undertaken by ANU students. Issues were identified in the following key areas:

- Accessibility and communication of information
- Exchange programs
- Enrolment
- Course advice
- IT and library services, and
- Paper-based processes

The feedback is being used to help set priorities for the University in its Service Improvement Program (i.e. reform of administrative processes). The priority at the moment is improving enrolment. Other issues such as reducing paper-based processes, and improving management and communication of information to students have also been set as priorities for the next year.

## Student Assistance

The Student Assistance (SA) unit is really gaining momentum and more recently there have been quite a few students coming in to get advice on tax returns. The Student Assistance Launch will be taking place on 29 August. Our Communications Officer is currently working on the branding and promotional materials for the SA Unit. At the launch in late August, we will have a barbeque and our SA Officers will be out and about mingling with students and informing them about the services we provide at ANUSA. We will also be running a Drug and Alcohol Awareness program in Student Space at the same time. If you are interested in helping out with the launch, please email Laurin Milsom at [laurin.milsom@anu.edu.au](mailto:laurin.milsom@anu.edu.au).

## Other Items

### ANUSA Bus Forum

At the last SRC meeting, a motion was passed to sell the ANUSA bus. Following this motion, there was some strong dissent amongst some members of the student body. In order to hear the dissent as well as suggestions from these students, ANUSA held a student forum on 23 July. I will be putting forward a motion to reverse the SRC motion on 28 May so that the Bus can be discussed in a larger forum, at the next OGM. The Executive are also currently looking into and costing a range of alternative options to selling the bus, as well as the option

of selling the bus, so that several ideas can be discussed at the OGM, should the SRC motion be reversed.

### **PARSA's New Team**

The PARSA elections took place on 31 May. I want to congratulate Arjuna Mohottala on his election as President. I also want to congratulate the rest of the PARSA Executive on their elections:

- Belynda Akello (Vice President)
- Louisa Tang (Treasurer)
- Naomi Rono (International Student Officer)
- Ben Niles (Equity Officer)
- Jesse Doyle (Indigenous Advocacy Officer)
- John Mwangi (Environmental Officer)
- Laura Parker (Social Officer)
- George Carter (Education Officer)
- Khushbu Agrawal (Communications Officer)

PARSA and ANUSA have been working very closely this year, and maintaining this closeness and collaboration is important for both organisations, particularly since many issues affect students across the board. Arjuna and I are meeting weekly to ensure that we identify potential points of collaboration, and keep open the communication channels between both Associations. We are also in the process of setting up a Joint Staffing Committee which will assist in the management of our three joint staff.

### **Student Space Refurbishment – Accessibility**

One of the things we would really like to get completed by the end of our term in office is a refurbishment of Student Space so that it meets accessibility requirements. Tas and I have been talking with ANU Disabilities and the Disability Services Centre to figure out the best way forward. We will set a meeting with Facilities and Services to discuss any considerations that need to be made in re-fitting the space. It is likely that the work will have to be undertaken through F&S as the building is owned by them.

### **ANUSA Annual General Meeting**

Congratulations to everyone who made it through the epic 2.5 hour-long AGM on 30 May; I really appreciate you giving the time to contribute to the meeting. A summary of the meeting is as follows:

- Previous OGM minutes, the President's and Treasurer's reports, and Audited Financial Statements for 2011 and 2012 were passed;
- The budget was not accepted as quorum was lost;

- There were two successful constitution motions regarding the Financial Review Committee and prerequisites to the Treasurer’s role;
- There was one unsuccessful constitution motion regarding Department Officer honoraria;
- Ordinary motions regarding
  - A migration lawyer was withdrawn
  - Office refurbishment was amended and passed
  - Department honoraria was passed
  - Communication of changes to majors / minors was tabled for the next OGM.

The new venue (ANU Bar) seemed to work reasonably well (especially considering that it was raining on the day of the AGM), however, we will be shifting future OGMs to Wednesdays instead of Thursdays so as not to clash with activities in the bar starting in the early afternoon.

### Dates for Semester Two and ANUSA Elections

Sophia Stanley has emailed out to all ANUSA representatives and students on the ANUSA mailing list, the important dates for Semester Two, including dates relevant to the ANUSA Election.

Please make note of the following Election dates, and distribute the information through your networks:

29 July 2013	10.00am	Nominations and ticket registrations open
12 August 2013	4.00pm	Ticket registrations close
14 August 2013	4.00pm	Nominations close
26 August 2013	11.00am – 4.30pm	Polling
27 August 2013	12.00pm – 6.30pm	Polling
28 August 2013	10.30am – 3.30pm	Polling
29 August 2013	10.30am – 12.30pm 1.30pm – 4.30pm	Polling

### ANUSA Office Update

In the mid-year break we did the final bit of rearranging to the ANUSA office by relocating the storage room (near the staffing area) to the old Executive office. The old storage room has been converted into another meeting room which has been really useful so far. The open plan work area is working really, really well and the staff seem very happy with it. It encourages a lot more collaboration between the staff and ANUSA representatives, and it also means that there is a strong presence of people every time students walk into the ANUSA office.

### Social Media Policy

Tas and I met with Luce Andrews (Director – Residential Campus Communities) to discuss the University's social media policies for both staff and students, and whether the policies reflect best practice and protect students who make comments on Facebook, Twitter etc. Tas and I also raised issues about the need to try and foster positive engagement on social media, and how we might be able to be able to go about doing that.

If you have any feedback on the University's social media policy, available at: [https://policies.anu.edu.au/pp1/document/ANUP\\_000785](https://policies.anu.edu.au/pp1/document/ANUP_000785), please email me at [sa.president@anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.president@anu.edu.au). It would be great to see a few people get together to discuss how we can encourage positive and constructive use of social media in the ANU student community. Please let me know if you're interested.

### Surveys

The academic probation survey went live a couple of weeks ago, and the link has been sent to students who were on academic probation at any time during 2010 to 2012. This survey will be open for another several weeks, after which I will be meeting with ANU Planning and Statistical Services to work on analysing the results.

## **Reference B**

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### **EDUCATION OFFICER REPORT**

Amy Mackinnon

#### **Mental Health Committee**

Will meet at 4pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2013, I am currently working on putting together the campaign that has been discussed at previous meetings.

#### **Mental health Guide**

I am happy to announce since we have a communications officer that is proficient in graphic design the mental health guide is moving into its final stages and should be published this semester.

#### **Education Committee**

Will also be meeting at 6pm on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August to discuss the National Day of Action planned for the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.

#### **NUS Education Conference**

Over the winter break both Tasman Vaughn and I attended the NUS education conference. Overall the conference was a success and it was a fantastic opportunity to meet other education officers and presidents from around the country and compare tactics and campaigns. The National Day of Action on Tertiary Education is planned for August 20.

#### **Bush week**

A big congratulations to Liv and our amazing Bush week team that pulled off and absolutely incredible week, the number of international and exchange students that attended all of the events was fantastic and the range of events catered to a wide variety of students.

## **Enrol to Vote Campaign**

The ANUSA enrol to vote campaign will be kicking off in week 3 – please contact me if you would like to be involved.

## **Changes School of Politics and International Relations**

Rhuohan, Mel, Tas and I are currently in the process of investigating changes that are reported to have been occurring in the School of Politics and International Relations. Details are to follow when we have a concrete picture of the proposed changes.

## **Reference C**

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### **COLLEGE OF SCIENCE REPORT**

Zaiga Thomman and Laura Wey

Projects currently being undertaken:

- Science Week
  - in conjunction with the science societies we are helping to organise an event for Science week. This will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August and will consist of a lunchtime science carnival, a science in the pub event and a movie night.
- Science Course Rep Protocol
  - we have drafted a document (huge thanks to the CAP reps, we couldn't have done it without them) that documents the regulations and standards that we believe the class rep system should comply to. We have shown this to the Director of Education of Science and received feedback.
- Current Course Rep focus group/training
  - we are planning to conduct a meeting in week 3 with the current course reps to discuss with them what they see their role to be and the ways in which they could go about collecting feedback from their class this semester.

Projects for the future:

- Careers fair



- in conjunction with the Science and general science societies we would like to run a careers fair for science students. We see this happening later in the semester, perhaps two weeks after the mid semester break

Other stuff that's happened:

- New Director of Education
    - we met with the new Director of Education in Science, Barbara vanLeeuwen. She's great!
  - First year enrolment
    - compulsory attendance by first years for subject selection advice and enrolment at Melville Hall in orientation week has been scrapped. First years may enrol in their first semester of university by themselves online on ISIS. Also the number of days that the academics will be present in melville hall to offer optional advice in o-week has been shortened from 5 day to 2 days. The joint college of science support our stance that this will just result in 5 days worth of students trying to see academics over just 2 days, students enrolling in the wrong streams of subjects (e.g. too high a level of mathematics), students not meeting pre and co requisites or other mistakes because they were given the impression that they did not need to seek academic advice.
    - we proposed in the CEM meeting to have a day in the biology courtyard/near the metal ball where clubs and societies, pal mentors, chem peer mentors, first year coordinators and other academics be present to offer first years subject selection advice. We will work closely with next years ANUSA Science representatives to make this happen
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## Reference D

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### **COLLEGE OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REPORT**

Nick Horton and Ross Tan

1. Course representatives reform
  - Overview:
    - New system of student leadership throughout the College, with one student representative per course <50 students, and two for >50 students
    - Aims not only to connect the student population and create a more extensive and in-depth system of feedback, but also increase the opportunities for students to lead and make a difference
    - Semester 2 pilot project focusing on all undergraduate Language Courses in CAP, expanding this to all courses next year
    - Representatives to be elected by the end of Week 3; Orientation session with Andrew Walker (sub-dean Education) and ANUSA reps to follow
    - Representatives to meet with Course Convenors twice a semester, and write a one-page review of the course to be submitted to and compiled by the ANUSA reps at the end of the Semester, to supplement SELT data
    - Fully supported by Andrew Walker and the College (met with AW on Tuesday 23 July, and subsequently drafted and sent out two emails first informing course convenors, and then students, of the changes)
    - We will continue to meet with Course Representatives, and act as the mediator between Representatives and the College to address any major concerns

## 2. CAP Student Services Review

- Tas and Nick met with Georgie Lees and Claire Shrewsbury during the Break to discuss the University-wide review of student services compiled by ANUSA. Georgie and Claire requested a CAP-specific review
- Submissions from Honours, Security Studies and Bachelor of Asia-Pacific Studies students
- General Findings So Far:
  - There is a break-down in communication between certain sectors of the administration, especially in terms of applications to programs like Honours and Year in Asia (e.g. sometimes there is no record of transcripts, language placement tests, etc)
  - Year in Asia application process seems unnecessarily drawn out
  - Many students who study non-language-specific courses overseas in their target language (e.g. Chinese law at Beijing University taught in Mandarin) cannot get these courses credited for their language major

## 3. CAP Student Centre

- Due for opening at the end of September. On the opening day, all student services will be transferred to the new space in the Coombs building, and the office in the Baldessin Precinct will be closed

## 4. Wattle Page Project

- After a protracted process of design and discussion, have come to the conclusion that it will not be feasible to complete the project this year
- Project should not be abandoned, however, and we are thinking of making a submission to the CAP Marketing and IT team to keep the project alive, and employ students (as they do with the Student Ambassadors) to create a student-led, CAP-supported universal Wattle page that reflects (and hopefully builds upon) the Law LLB Page

## 5. Other Plans for Semester

- Like Semester 1, we want to have consultation hours again this Semester. We will have to publicise these better than last semester, so it can become more established
- Increasing our social media reach – increase our “likes” on Facebook from 187 to 250-300 through a competition. The current idea is for all people who like the page in a set period to go into the running to win an iPad Mini, etc (using our left-over budget)

## Reference E

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### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE REPORT

Ruohan Zhao and Melanie McLeod

#### RHSA

The Research School of Humanities & the Arts (RSHA) is part of CASS. It is currently divided into the following 6 schools and centres:

- School of Archaeology and Anthropology
- School of Art
- School of Cultural Enquiry
- School of Language Studies
- School of Music
- Interdisciplinary Humanities Group (iHug)

The proposal will restructure the existing schools, reducing the number from 6 to 4.

Under the proposal the new schools will be as follows:

- School of Archaeology, Anthropology and Heritage and Museum Studies
- School of Art
- School of Language and Literature
- School of Music

Key changes:

- Establishment of the new School of Archaeology, Anthropology and Heritage and Museum Studies.
- Establishment of the new School of Language and Literature which brings together the existing School of Language Studies and School of Cultural Enquiry.
- Moving the discipline of Art History from the School of Cultural Enquiry to the School of Art. At present there are Art Historians in both schools, the proposal will bring them together in the one School.
- iHug will be disestablished.

RSHA staff are adamant that the changes are structural and will not result in changes to the curriculum nor loss of staff positions (neither academic nor administrative). Under the proposal, some majors and programs will be administered by different Schools, but none will be disestablished. RHSA have stated that the key objective of the proposal is to take existing processes and reposition them in better ways. The proposal aims to streamline and make more efficient the current RSHA Schools.

CASS and RSHA are welcoming submissions and feedback from students on the changes. Please email:  
[rshastudentconsult@anu.edu.au](mailto:rshastudentconsult@anu.edu.au)

### **CASS Education Committee Meeting #5 (Monday 22nd July)**

This was the first meeting for the semester and was largely discussions of minutely changing the structure of the PPE degree, to include more options for core courses.

New additions to the BA from 2014:

- Human Rights Major/Minor
- Australian Indigenous Studies Major/Minor
- Advanced Hispanic Studies Major/Minor and Specialisation

The BA Review was raised and academics expressed significant concern over the draft, especially over the 4 areas which the committee felt all BA students needed to have before graduating. They are quantitative research, digital arts, Indigenous studies and languages.

- Philosophy department questioned the rationale behind these 4 areas, arguing why philosophy should not be an area, especially given our expertise and world-class teachers. Toni Makkai, the dean, explained that many CASS departments are world-class. The decision to choose these areas was not based on the quality of teaching, but what important skills we would need in the 21st century.
- History was very concerned with the lists of courses under each category. For example, US Politics was listed as a quantitative course and they questioned what connection to quantitative research methods US Politics had. Royston said that the list of courses was merely preliminary and would be examined by the discipline sub-committees.
- CASS reps expressed concern that the structure prejudices double degree students who may not have spare electives to make up the 4 core areas. Royston replied that many students can count courses from other faculties (e.g. CBE course as a quantitative research course). We still want to work on this issue.

### **BA Review Update**

The BA Review is now in **Phase 2**. This phase involves the creation of disciplinary sub-committees to nut out the implementation of the recommendations. The rationale is that disciplines are in the best position to determine how their courses

#### **1. BA (Advanced)(Honours)**

On the administrative level, we are sceptical of whether CASS student services can cope with dealing with 3 different 'variations' of the BA – normal BA, BA(Adv)(Hons) and PhB. Given their already stretched capacity to cope with graduation checking, degree planning and course advising, we feel that a BA (Adv)(Hons) will further confuse staff and students and create larger bureaucratic procedures which will be the detriment to everyone, including non-BA(Adv)(Hons) students.

We have already made it clear to the committees that a new BA (Adv)(Hons) will create greater friction between students because it seems like a 'second tier' degree. Although CASS is conducting market research into a viability of a BA (Adv)(Hons), we are still sceptical that it will work in a department as large and *underfunded* as CASS.

## **2. Double Degree Students**

The proposed structure will impact on the degree planning and flexibility of double degree students. The main problem we foresee is that the double degree is already constrained by having only 96 units. In a double degree, there are 48 less units to work with than a normal BA and this means that it will be harder to comply with the requirements of the proposed structure. We do not think it is impossible to achieve them in a double degree, we are concerned that it will severely impact degree planning and force students to lock themselves in earlier to a major/minor so that timing of courses can be correctly mapped out. This will impact the flexibility, a major draw card for the existing BA.

For students who want to enter Honours, the discipline often requires completion of at least 9 or 10 courses (more than a major). Again, this constricts double degree Arts students who want to study Honours from exercising freedom in choosing courses.

Double degrees make up a large part of BA students and the new structure will require them to plan significantly ahead if they want to graduate with their intended majors/minors/specialisations.

## **3. Strain on CASS administration**

Although we are not opposed to these changes, we feel that the university needs to seriously improve CASS administration in order to ensure a smooth transition, given that the new proposed structure is significantly different to the existing BA.

### **Other concerns include:**

- We want some transparency regarding what is discussed at the discipline sub-committee meetings during Phase II (unsure at the moment whether ANUSA is privy to those meetings).
- Digital Arts and Indigenous Studies will face a massive increase in burden due to their numbers increasing substantially. Imagine if 1000 or so new BA students who want to complete a first year Indigenous studies course – problem with staffing and resourcing for these smaller departments to keep up with these demands.
- Constant changing of degree structure – there was significant restructuring in 2012. Will need to convince students that these changes are good.

### **CASS Admin Ongoing Relationship**

We are still working with CASS Admin to improve their provision of services to CASS students. In particular, they are trying to improve in:

- Reducing waiting times for appointments to check completion of majors or for help with degree structure and course credits.
- Improving awareness amongst students of the services offered by CASS Admin.
- Student self-service to reduce need for appointments with CASS Admin staff.

The team of CASS Admin staff are very much aware of the criticisms some students may have towards them and we have been impressed with their determination to work towards solving these problems.