Minutes
Emeritus Faculty
The Australian National University

Minutes of the 25th meeting of the Committee of the Emeritus Faculty held on Wednesday 3 April 2002 at 4.00 pm in the Matisse Room, Cellar Bar, University House.

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Postal Distribution: John Hearn, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

PRESENT: John Molony (Chair), Chris Bryant, Gavin Byrne, Adrian Gibbs, Beryl Rawson, Peter Scardoni, Judy Slee, Peter Stewart, Giles Pickford.

John Hearn was in attendance for item 3.3

1. Apologies, Resignation and Cooption

Apologies were received from Stewart Turner and Russell Doust.

The Chair reported that Tony Proust had resigned for health reasons. His resignation was accepted and the Committee resolved to write to him thanking him for his contribution.

It was also resolved that Wendy Brazil be coopted to the Committee to assist the Secretary with the processing of the members' survey and its incorporation into the web site, in collaboration with Gavin Byrne.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the 24th meeting were confirmed subject to the correct way of writing EFmessages and EFtalk.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

1. Summer School for Science Teachers

Peter Stewart reported that the Convenor of ANU Science had not yet responded on the question of renewing funding for the 2003 Summer School for Science Teachers. The Committee noted that the report on the 2002 School had been received at the 25th Meeting and that the grant had been acquitted by the CCE in its dealings with the Chancelry.

2. Summer School for Australian History Teachers

John Molony tabled the report on the Summer School for Australian History Teachers, which was complete except for the acquittal. This was still being finalised.

The Committee congratulated the organisers, but suggested that the work that had been done by the Selection Committee on assessing applicants against advertised criteria be recorded and archived in order that the appropriate procedures be available for future Schools. There would be advantages in comparing procedures used by both Summer Schools. The procedures had not been followed through in 2002, as there had been enough applications to fill the places without using a selection process.

3.3 Visit of Deputy Vice-Chancellor

John Hearn addressed the meeting on his current work as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

His work falls into the three divisions described below.

A. RESEARCH AND DISCOVERY

ANU is pre-eminent in Australia and highly regarded overseas. This quality is evenly spread across all disciplines. The aim is to maintain best practice and to continue to support pure research as well as that which is more technological and applied. The ANU's new relationship with the ARC and NH&MRC is working well. The national average success rate in grant funding is 23%, while the Institute achieved 29%, and the Faculties (which have more past experience in the game) achieved 35%. The new thing for ANU is that whereas in the past it may not have competed in all areas of grant funding, in future it must.

B. RESEARCH TEACHING AND TRAINING

Competition for postgraduates is heating up across Australia. A stronger effort is being mounted in the area of marketing. One of the hardest nuts to crack is the 'Canberra Effect', where the city is not seen as being as attractive as some others. The idea of an Honours School is being discussed, and will be supported by an Honours Scholarship program. There will also be an increase in PhD studentships.

Judith Slee put forward an argument that the supervision of Honours candidates was best done by academics who had followed the student through their earlier years of study, and this was noted.

C. INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

This is proving the hardest area to tackle. It is essential that ANU get this program right as it will eventually provide other income streams. All ANU policies on commercialisation and conflicts of interest are being revised in such a way that will better structure our efforts without killing the entrepreneurial spirit.

On this matter the following comment was put forward by Adrian Gibbs: "I am convinced that the request by John Hearn for comments on the proposed policy document on commercialisation is an opportunity for the ANUEF to mark out an area that would be

interesting, useful and totally appropriate for the ANUEF to be involved in, helpful to the University, and close enough to the action to remind the Chancelry that it has a useful group of senior citizens. As I am particularly interested in the subject of commercialisation at ANU, I would be pleased to organise an ANUEF group to make a considered response."

NATIONAL INSTITUTES

During question time Chris Bryant asked if the University had a clear idea of the direction that the National Institutes are taking. John Hearn responded that the aim was to gather all possible talents together under the various banners so that critical mass is reached and artificial barriers are broken down. However, he said that only a few overall university-wide directions were being imposed on the Institutes. Instead they are being encouraged to invent themselves according to their own disciplinary needs and priorities, which will result in a desirable diversity with local ownership and control.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ANU AND ANUEF

The Committee discussed various ideas with John Hearn, and continued on after he had to leave the meeting. These can be summarised as follows:

1 The ANUEF can assist the university by providing it with a forum where various ideas and policy documents can be commented on by a group of deeply informed but disinterested people, with nothing to gain from any of the decisions made.
2 The ANUEF can and will become involved in the National Institutes, and continue to assist in the marketing programs. It has done this already with the two Summer Schools for Teachers of Science, and of Australian History. The Science Summer School is now under the umbrella of the National Institutes and the Humanities School may follow suit.
3 The University can assist the ANUEF by formalising the relationship. This could take the form of one of the senior officers of the University being given carriage of the relationship and being our advocate at the highest levels.
4 The University should try to find accommodation for the ANUEF, which needs a place for members to gather and do the work that the University requires of it.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee agreed that it should invite Malcolm Gillies, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), to address a future meeting.

3.4 Web Site Officer's report

Gavin Byrne reported that EFmessages and EFtalk had been implemented and the members informed. He was congratulated on this further development of the web site. The next stage of development will be the incorporation of the data derived from the members' survey.

3.5 ANUEF Data Base

Dealt with in items 1 and 3.4 above.

3.6 ANUEF Accommodation

The Chair reported that he had not yet received any news from the Chancelry on this matter. However, the Head of Facilities and Services had been contacted and he had informed the Secretary that the old electrician's cottage had been set aside for Graduate Students. He was currently looking for alternative space should the Chancelry determine in favour of the ANUEF request.

3.7 National Institutes

Beryl Rawson reported that the Convenors of the National Institutes now had the ability to coopt any person into their membership, including people who did not have a payroll number. She read out a very encouraging report from the Convenor of the Humanities Institute in this regard.

3.8 Invitation to Emeritus Professors

The Secretary reported that he was having difficulty in obtaining the addresses of Emeritus Professors, which are incorporated in the Convocation Roll, but not separated out into their own category. The Alumni Office is trying to figure out how to do this. In the meantime, the Chair is writing to those he knows well in order to start the process.

3. Lecture Series

Deferred in the absence of Russell Doust.

4. Treasurer's Report

Peter Scardoni tabled his report, including the progress with membership renewals. The Committee noted that there is $1,030.67 in the bank and that of the 74 current members all but 31 had renewed.

5. New Members

The Chair informed the Committee that Ian Hancock had become a member.

6. Next Meeting

The meeting schedule for 2002 is as follows:
May 8
June 5
July 3
August 7
September 4
October 2
November 6
November 27
December 4 AGM

GP 7/4/02