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Minutes of CPACS Council Meeting – Tuesday, 4 October 2011, 6.00pm

PREAMBLE AND WELCOME

1. APOLOGIES, ATTENDANCE, DOCUMENTS

Present: Erik Paul (Chair), Jenny McNaughton, Amanda Ghahremani, Andrew Greig, Jake Lynch, Lindsay Mell, Greg Ashton, George Varughese, Peggy Craddock, Wendy Lambourne, Roger Wescombe, Chris Hamer, Neven Bondokji.

Apologies: Ken Macnab, Raja Jayaraman, Peter Herborn, Benjamin Oh, Laurie Craddock, Frank Hutchinson, Suzanne Rutland, Stuart Rees,

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of previous meeting accepted, but with three changes.

- (a) Lindsay Mell attended the last meeting
- (b) Date for the last meeting was August 16th
- (c) Point 3.5.c. to be amended as follows: Wendy reported on the Faculty's new structure for student support. Faculty advisors for both undergraduate and postgraduate students are now merged in one unit/division.

3. REPORTS TO COUNCIL

3.1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT — Erik Paul

- (a) Erik reported on a conference he attended organized by the Australia Institute and Catalyst (catalyst.org.au). The theme was on 'the rhetoric and reality of the mining boom'.
- (b) Erik also informed the Council that Peter Griffin attended the Sydney Alliance launch on behalf of CPACS. Erik reminded members that Ben shared details at an earlier council meeting about the Sydney Alliance and possible collaboration with CPACS.
- (c) He also reported that three executive committee meetings, which he attended, were held in September and October to discuss the SSPS review.

3.2 DIRECTOR OF CPACS — Jake Lynch

- (a) Jake gave a seminar at Mercy Catholic College; the College is to send a donation to CPACS next week.
- (b) Jake also provided the Council with details of the HERDC (Higher Education Research Data Collection) points and CPACS performance, which are available on CPACS website. SSPS research officer asked CPACS to remove details of SSPS other departments because the information is confidential. CPACS contribution was outstanding with 14% of SSPS total research output and given that CPACS is one of the smallest units within SSPS.
- (c) Jake shared details of the SSPS review and Jake's presentation on behalf of CPACS. Jake said that the SSPS review panel was in favour of encouraging academic approaches that challenged academic orthodoxies in areas like asylum seekers, War on Terror, free market economy, neoliberalism, etc.
- (d) Jake spoke of the need to engage students in advocacy work, and in partnerships with social movements and partner organizations.

- (e) In response to a question from Greg Ashton on the current approach within the university in relation to academic orthodoxies, Jake shared his impression that during the branding discussion the University was keen to have the university brand advertised when staff gave public talks rather than that of individual centres/departments. George Varughese noted, during the Alumni Council meeting, the vice-Chancellor concern about managing structural change and financial pressure on the university.
- (f) On Saturday Oct. 8, a soccer match will be held between CPACS and the Centre for International Security Studies (CISS) at Sydney uni. Council members are welcome to attend/participate.

3.3 CPACS FINANCES — Erik Paul

Nothing new to report.

3.4 SYDNEY PEACE FOUNDATION —

The council noted and discussed the following:

- (a) That the Peace Lecture has been advertised as part of the Festival of Dangerous Ideas.
- (b) That the Town Hall Lecture has sold out and tickets were on sale for the following day Opera House Q&A session.
- (c) That, in contrast to previous years, no lecture at CPACS for students and members is scheduled. Council members expressed the importance of such venue in coming years.
- (d) Wendy mentioned the tradition for CPACS student volunteers to a complementary dinner and raised the question about this year's arrangement, and Wendy was asked to approach Stuart about opportunities for students to meet this year's winner.
- (e) Andrew Creig moved for SPF to arrange a small meeting/lecture with Peace Prize winner and CPACS students and members as in previous years—all in favour. Jake will take up the matter with SPF.

3.5 TEACHING —Wendy Lambourne

- (a) Wendy shared information on the Graduate Expo held at the university before mid-semester break where she gave a presentation on behalf of CPACS. It was a joint presentation with the Department of Development Studies. While attendance was moderate there was a small group of enthusiastic and interested students; some have since contacted CPACS.
- (b) CPACS website sections are being updated beginning with teaching-related information. This will help market CPACS to advantage.
- (c) Enrolment for Summer School opened on Sept. 28 and the two SS courses offered by CPACS were full by Oct.2nd. Regarding enrolment for Community Mediation (PACS6928) and Conflict in Organizations (PACS6913), some CPACS students may have missed out because both units attract students from business and other departments.
- (d) Amanda raised the concern of some students that the assessment methodology of their post graduate course was not sufficiently reflective in design of their post graduate level and research emphasis. There should be more flexibility regarding deadlines and more feedback on assignments, particularly in regard to lower marks. Amanda shared her experience with the sociology department where students are encouraged to propose research topics and where staff provided valuable guidance in their design and preparation. This approach, she suggested, led to a more successful learning outcome and should be considered by CPACS. Wendy will examine assessment procedures in other departments to ensure equity and equality for students; however, she added, that it was against university guidelines not to have deadlines for assessment tasks. On feedback, she clarified that all lecturers are required to provide feedback. Early in 2011 a teaching day was held with all part-time lecturers for 2011 to explain guidelines and procedures.
- (e) Erik reminded Council that lecturers faced pressure from faculty and school administrators regarding deadlines. But he also suggested that students provide feedback on assessments as part of their course evaluation.

6. RESEARCH — Jake Lynch

- (a) Jake informed Council that he and two PhD students Leticia Anderson and Maria Frenchie Carreon presented papers at the International Association of Media and Communication Researchers Conference held in Istanbul.
- (b) Jake spoke on his research, assessing viewers' responses to news reporting. News bulletins on war and peace journalism are used. The research is conducted in Australia and the Philippines. Next year it will be either in Mexico or South Africa. The research is conducted through questionnaires and Focused Group Discussions.
- (c) Council was informed that Lynda Blanchard is on sabbatical till February 2012.
- (d) Wendy said that she started researching on the interest in Transitional Justice among refugees/Diaspora in Sydney. She will focus on Rwandan and Cambodian refugees/Diaspora to link with her previous work.
- (e) Wendy has been invited as a trainer in Northern Uganda to address the issue of how people remember the genocide in Rwanda.
- (f) Wendy also noted the importance of CPACS first PhD graduate, David Penklis, who will graduate on Oct. 16th. Another PhD student, Camellia Webb-Gannon, has submitted her PhD.

3.7 MEMBERSHIP—Admin Assistant

- (a) One new member since last meeting.
- (b) An event will be held on Oct. 27th on Sri Lanka war crimes and the media; it could attract new members.
- (c) Wendy suggested that CPACS graduates be invited to become members during Career Info day.

3.8 LIBRARIAN –Peggy Craddock

- (a) Peggy reported that the Resource Centre database had crashed and will be reinstalled next week; and reported on new acquisitions from the Vice-Chancellor's book fair

3.9 PUBLICATIONS —Admin Assistant

- (a) Neven advised that a CPACS student had volunteered to make the graphic design for the coming issue of PeaceWrites. Changes to the layout will be considered and circulated to Council members.

3.10 SEMINARS/TALKS

- (a) Jake reported on the Sri Lanka war crimes and the media event to be held on Oct. 27th
- (b) Jake spoke on the event celebrating the life of Stella Cornelius; it was a great success, and CPACS received a total of \$400 in donations.
- (c) Neven noted that the date for the BDS event had not been finalized.

3.11 MEMBERS' MATTERS

4. OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Greg Ashton said it was important for Council to discuss and clarify CPACS role and relation with the Sydney Alliance, and any other organization, as a matter of policy.

5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- (a) Amanda is to share details on CPACS statement on refugees and asylum seekers at the next meeting.

The meeting finished at 7.53 pm

Next meeting is on Nov. 8, 2011 at 6.00pm

Minutes taken by Neven Bondokji