



COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FORUM

Date: Wednesday, 27 May 2020

Time: 2pm – 4pm

Venue: No in-person attendance - live streamed @
https://video.flinders.edu.au/events20/20/VC_Forum_May.cfm?id=8

Participation via Slido: join at www.slido.com, code #VCHASS

Chair: Professor Vanessa Lemm

Secretariat: Natalie Heighway

AGENDA

Item	Action	Attachment	Time Allotted
A: Vice-Chancellor's Forum			60 minutes
1.	College-specific update and Q&A	No	
B: Procedural Matters			5 minutes
2.	Apologies	Noting	No
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	Noting	Yes
4.	Matters arising and business carried forward	Noting	No

Item	Action	Attachment	Time Allotted	
C: Reports			55 minutes	
5.	Vice-President and Executive Dean	Noting	No	5 minutes
6.	Dean (Education)	Noting	Yes	15 minutes
7.	Dean (Research)	Noting	Yes	10 minutes
8.	Dean (People & Resources)	Noting	Yes	10 minutes
9.	Director of College Services	Noting	Yes	10 minutes
10.	Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Coordinator	Noting	Yes	5 minutes

Next Meeting: Thursday 3 September 2020, 2-4pm

**Professor Vanessa Lemm
Vice-President and Executive Dean**

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES FORUM

Date: Thursday 26 March
Time: 2pm – 4pm
Venue: Humanities North Theatre 1 plus livestreamed

Chair: Professor Vanessa Lemm
Secretariat: Sonja Yates

MINUTES

A: Procedural Matters

1. Attendance and Apologies

In Person Attendance: Vanessa Lemm, Sonja Yates, Julianne Rice, Peter Monteath, Romain Fathi, Eric Bouvet, Michelle Gander, Elizabeth Weeks, Chris Wilson, Tom Young, Narmon Tulsi, Penny Edmonds, Catherine Kevin, Chantal Wight, Jason Bevan and Tracey Sharples

Attendance via Collaborate: Melanie Oppenheimer, Daryl Wesley, Bev Clarke, Luciana d’Arcangeli, Nicholas Godfrey, Sky Marsen, Jason Bevan, Laura Roberts, Denise Rowe, Dan Thorsland, Todd Pursche, Kylie Cardell, Sharyn Roach Anleu, Annie Taverner, Sophie Fiegert, Sarah Peters, Gerti Szili, Ann Luzeckyj, Marco Susino, Knox Peden, Barbara Baird, James Kane, Claire Smith, Peter Tagney, Susanne Schech, Will Peterson, Jonathan Benjamin, Diana Newport-Peace, Tully Barnett, Catherine Kevin, John Nauman, Marion Weck, Stephen Muecke, Matt Fitzpatrick, Wendy van Duivenvoorde, Julia Erhart, Katherine Sutcliffe, Amanda Kearney, Alice Orchard, Richard Back, Giselle Bastin, Daniela Cosmini, Alex Vickery-Howe, Narmon Tulsi, Hiro Yoshida, Grette Wilkinson, Katie Cavanagh, Greg Ackland

Apologies: Not recorded.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Endorsed.

3. Matters arising and business carried forward

N/A

B: REPORTS

4. Report by the Vice-President and Executive Dean. COVID-19 Update and Outline of College Response

Vanessa advised students and staff safety is the Universities priority and the campus is open for work and study for both students and staff.

Vanessa thanked the College for their quick, enthusiastic and passionate response to the teaching online challenge.

Vanessa encouraged staff to think of the student experience and to support and help in keeping students engaged.

Vanessa thanked staff for nominating a teaching delegate and stressed this was not to add additional workload but to have a point of contact in case someone is unwell allowing another member of staff to stand in at short notice and limiting the impact on our students.

Vanessa advised Research will continue as usual. OSP Applications have been extended to 30 April to allow people more time.

Vanessa asked all staff to prepare to work from home, recommending anyone who can work safely and effectively from home should do so. All staff need to complete the COVID19 Working From Home Agreement and Working From Home Checklist, both available on our website. These forms require supervisor approval and your supervisor will discuss with you how you can effectively deliver your essential activities.

Trial for Academic staff working from home will be by teaching program and was proposed Academic Staff from History, Archaeology and Geography would try working from home Friday. Languages, Literature and Culture to trial Monday and Creative and Performing Arts on Tuesday. Professional Staff – Operations Team to trial one staff member working from home as of Friday. Those who cannot work from home, are advised they can do so from campus and it is a safe place to be.

Vanessa acknowledged staff on livestream who are currently overseas, or interstate and they are asked to stay where they are, but to also complete the forms and submit to their supervisor.

Vanessa encouraged anyone wanting to take Annual Leave or Leave Without Pay that applications would be looked on favourably, especially those with high Long Service Leave balances.

Vanessa acknowledged the Universities financial position after the Vice Chancellor announced a \$75 million shortfall. The University is looking at ways to cut costs and any non-critical approaches will be scaled back. Vanessa reiterated what the VC had said in his Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday that he did 'not want to offset reduction in income'. All activities that are revenue producing we do not want to cut back on. Vanessa is scrutinising the Operating budget to see where savings can be made.

Looking ahead positively to Semester Two, Vanessa asked staff to be prepared to deliver these topics online with the view that we may begin Semester Two online and then revert back to face to face. Staff are asked to think about what courses should be offered in Semester Two, in particular, if low enrolment in a topic whether we offer that topic or not. Vanessa invited staff to think about the impacts this pandemic might have in terms of courses we should be thinking about. People may be reskilling after lost jobs etc and may be looking for different work. Staff were encouraged to think how this will transform the University and the College of HASS. What programs could we be designing? How can we attract more domestic students?

Vanessa asked staff to think of new ways of engaging with each other, and how important it is that we communicate and stay connected to get through this.

Questions:

Romain asked: if Vanessa, through the VC, was aware of any additions to the Commonwealth supported places for students.

Vanessa advised: This is a good question and is certainly on the mind of leaders in the HE sector. To date, the government has not made any announcements that point in this direction.

Barbara asked: if Vanessa thought these adjustments and opportunities would mean the end of face to face contact with students?

Vanessa responded: No, she did not see this as the end of face to face teaching.

Narmon asked: if there had been any changes on campus to services such as additional cleaning regimes?

Vanessa responded: She confirmed the Vice President of Corporate Services had advised additional cleaning was already in operation. More soap dispensers and hand sanitisers have been added throughout the University and cleaning in general is much more intense than before.

5. Report by the Dean (Education)

Eric spoke to his report highlighting three important items.

1. Student support, change to assessment, training.

Eric acknowledged the College is extremely grateful to all staff for exceptional results in going online in difficult circumstances. Eric was pleased to see colleagues support each other and encouraged staff to continue to do so and build their expertise. Eric advised that the move to online environments will, this especially at first year level develop the College's capacity and expertise in this domain and will create excellent opportunities for online delivery of topic and courses in the future.

2. Student support

Eric asked staff to continue supporting students and advised retention and their wellbeing is crucial and to engage the students as much as possible. The more students we can retain the better the University will recover. Eric reminded staff of Census date (3 April) and these next few days are critically important. Eric encouraged staff to be mindful and take care of our first year students who had no university experience and no points of reference. Staff are encouraged to continue to deliver their classes according to the timetable stating that continuity is very important. Staff are asked to have flexibility in attendance and not to apply the usual penalties as asking students to provide medical certificates will put an added burden on the healthcare system. Staff are asked to be mindful of some of the technological challenge's students may face such as internet capacity. In relation to Census encourage students to stay enrolled as jobs will be limited and by studying, they may be entitled to Austudy, newstart or youth allowance. Austudy and youth allowance payments eligible for the coronavirus supplement. Access will begin 27 April 2020. Eric advised that the main point is to be present and engage with the students online. Eric advised by moving online staff need to change assessment. Some assessment items will stay the same such as written essays etc, but oral work needs to be adapted and put back to when students can be back at university. Keep changes minimal keep simple. This isn't an opportunity to change assessment, rather it is an opportunity to adapt it. Class tests exam practicals need to be changed but not participation from physical to online. Change mode of assessment not how you assess. Eric prompted colleagues to complete the transition to online survey distributed earlier.

3. Training:

Eric acknowledged the responses from the survey were encouraging with most staff having no problems in transitioning to online. Staff strongly encouraged to attend the training Elearning are providing, they are very happy to help. Eric thanked Lowell, Andrea and Angela for all their support.

Questions:

Narmon asked if the attrition rate was likely to be higher and was there a collective movement by higher education to lobby for some relief of HECS debt to keep students engaged in Higher Education?

Eric responded: Some students may say they are no longer interested in remaining at university, but what is their alternative? It is in their best interest to remain at university as opportunities for casual work are declining.

Narmon asked: Future debt for students, any activity at Higher Education level to ask Federal Govt.

Vanessa responded: Expecting the Higher Education sector to lobby for HECS relief.

Romain stated: He has a 7-year-old MAC if he can stay at university as long as possible as to work from home or in case of a shutdown he doesn't have the necessary equipment.

Eric responded: The College is currently conducting an audit on spare equipment but did not have further details at this time.

Vanessa responded: Expect work of the university to continue as this would fall under essential work and even in lockdown people would hopefully still be allowed to come to campus to do work.

Romain suggested: Asking students if online is what they want going forward, as some feel they didn't sign up for online?

Vanessa responded: The university is teaching online for student and staff safety, not delivering online as a random. Vanessa suggested there was a lot of data showing that the online market is a growing market with Professionals wanting to study in evening/weekends and people reskilling etc.

6. Report by the Dean (Research)

The report was circulated. There were no questions.

7. Report by the Dean (People and Resources)

The Report was circulated and there were no questions.

8. Report by Director of College Services

The Report was circulated prior to the Forum and there were no questions.

9. Report by Higher Degree by Research (HDR) Coordinator

Vanessa welcomed Catherine's first report. There were no questions.

C. Online Delivery of Topics

Tom Young delivered an interactive demonstration on the benefits of Collaborate, a web based tool that allows staff and students to interact with each other.

Vanessa thanked Tom for his expertise and engaging presentation. This presentation will be circulated.

Video shown by Katie Cavanagh: experience with moving topics online and setting up your home office and useful information. This presentation will be circulated.

Vanessa thanked Katie for a great presentation.

Meeting closed at 4.03pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, 17 May at 2pm – 4pm



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Report by Dean (Education)

COVID Response

The College has continued its efforts to deliver topics and programs online. I reiterate my thanks to all Colleagues for their efforts in supporting Education business continuity in Semester 1. All requests for assessment modifications have been considered and approved. SAMs have now been updated to reflect changes. In terms of Semester 1 assessment, it is important to keep in mind that:

- All topics will retain their current grading system.
- Any student who fails a topic will be given the opportunity to demonstrate they have achieved the Topic Learning Outcomes through a further piece of assessment (resubmission or supplementary).
- The Examinations Board will consider the distribution of grades at topic level to identify any abnormal patterns
- After release of the grades, any student may make an application to have any passing grade from a topic conducted this semester changed to a Non-Graded Pass. Students will have 10 working days to apply. Application will be made online. SAS will manage the process.

As the COVID-19 situation in Australia is improving, both federal state governments have recently announced their staged plans to easing restrictions. Step 1 allows for teaching activities to resume face-to-face with social distancing measures in place and the University has announced a phased return to campus and has taken the position that teaching and learning activities moved online in March would remain online until the end of Semester 1 to provide continuity in learning. In the College, there are exceptions to this as some practice-based activities which were delayed by the shift to online delivery in Semester 1, have been allowed to resume with social distancing requirements in place. Please note that no activity involving students (academic or social) should take place in Semester 1 without prior approval from the College. If you are considering organising any such activities or have any question, please contact me.

In Semester 2, the College will adopt a blended approach teaching delivery. Online learning will continue to be available to students, with some face-to-face tutorials, seminars and workshops to take place where it is safe to do so. All lectures will continue to be delivered online. The College is currently working with Timetabling and with the eLearning team to develop our delivery approach which will be communicated soon.

Curriculum Development

Both course proposals for the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Creative Industries are being finalised. The BCI concept proposal was supported at the April Educational Quality Committee (EQC), allowing the new degree to be publicised in the SATA guide. The BA and the BCI full proposals will be presented at the July EQC for final approval. I wish to thank all staff involved in these significant curriculum development projects.

Recently, the College issued an Expression of Interest for Grand Challenges topic proposals. A range of proposals were received out of which 5 were retained. These are:

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- The Ethics of Climate Changes (led by Philosophy)
 - Humanity in a Global Age (led by Philosophy)
 - Crisis and Catastrophe: Past Experiences, Future Prospects (led by History)
 - Sustainable Development in a Global World: Challenges and Prospects (led by Geography)
 - Precarity and Possibility: Creating Social Change for the 21st Century (led by Sociology)

These Grand Challenges topics will be scaffolded into the curriculum, starting with the BA in 2021. They will allow students to gain factual and critical understanding of the world's most significant questions, and to collaborate in teams to propose solutions based on evidence, analysis, reflection, and cooperation.

College Education Committee

A meeting of the College Education Committee was held on Friday 8 May 2020, at which Melissa Veal (Acting Manager, Student Experience) presented an update on Project Compass Update. Project Compass seeks to improve the student experience at Flinders, both on-campus and online by enhancing access to support services, improving students' sense of belonging as well as streamlining communication and information sharing. More information is available on the project: <https://staff.flinders.edu.au/colleges-and-services/ids/dsts/compass>

Course Reaccreditations and CQAG

All CQAGs will have met by 30 June 2020 as per Education Quality requirements. This Educational quality assurance process is essential to the periodical monitoring KAMS and OPMs. CQAG Co-Chairs will report to the Education Committee in the second half of 2020.

Student Consultative Committee

A meeting of the Student Consultative Committee took place on 12 May 2020. The meeting was co-chaired by a student and the Dean (Education). This was the first meeting that included the extended Student representative membership which now stands at 21. This is a dynamic group of student representatives, keen to be involved in a range of projects. The objectives of the Committee were discussed, as was the possibility of starting a HASS Student Academic Association which would connect with the SCC and focus on organising social events. It was also proposed that the Committee change its name to 'Student Advisory Committee'.

Student Success

Helen Hodges from Orientation and Student Transition Support, and the Alumni team, are preparing a blog for the Flinders website that will profile student stories from around the colleges about how students have been dealing with/adapting to life and study in lockdown. CHASS has put forward one story already: Nicholas Godfrey let me know about a Flinders BCA student dancer who has been working with her peers online and staging a performance that looks at the theme of 'lockdown' and isolation. It's a compelling story about how a small group of students has adapted and responded to these strange and challenging times. It would be great to have more CHASS stories! Send these to Giselle Bastin at Giselle.Bastin@Flinders.edu.au, who will collate them and send them along.

Academic Integrity

So far in 2020 there have been two cases of misunderstanding reported to the confidential register. A further 1 misunderstanding and 1 misconduct cases are currently being investigated.

CHASS Excellence in Teaching Awards

This is a reminder that applications for the CHASS Teaching Awards which recognise and reward teaching excellence. Applications will close on Friday 5 June 2020. Interested staff are invited to send their application to chass.operations@flinders.edu.au.

Associate Professor Eric Bouvet

Dean (Education)



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Report by Dean (Research)

Assemblage Centre for the Creative Arts

We are pleased to announce that the new Creative Arts Centre will now be named 'Assemblage Centre for the Creative Arts'. 'Assemblage' suggests the dynamic, transdisciplinary, collaborative and practiced-based work that the Centre and Creative Arts in general engages in. The name has been approved by VPED Vanessa Lemm and DVCR Rob Saint. Suggested by Director Garry Stewart, the name has been workshopped extensively, including with a marketing brand consultant.

The Assemblage team has been building the Centre, and is busy establishing a profile and a range of key governance structures. This is an exciting period for us, which includes the development of a webpage, External Advisory Panel, Artist in Residence policy and guidelines, and a NITROs working group. I wish to thank to Garry Stewart, Maryrose Casey, Julia Erhardt, Will Peterson and Dan Thorsland, Sophie Fiegert, and Research support Officer Mimi Eldeeb as we work together to build our new centre.

CHASS Competitive Grants Update

Thank you to hardworking CHASS staff who contributed to the submission of 18 applications to the Special Research Initiative in Australian and Indigenous studies. Internally, CHASS staff were also recently awarded a total of five special Covid response research grants. In addition, five staff were successful for the first 2020 CHASS internal grant round. Congratulations to all and a special thanks to Narmon Tulsi for his work in leading the SRIs.

The CHASS Research Team is now working on a schedule of development activity for forthcoming Linkages, Future Fellowships, DECRA's, Discovery, LIEF, Indigenous Discovery (as well as various non-Cat 1 opportunities). Analysis of the ARC Grants database for Flinders shows the performance of CHASS:

- Of the current 100 Active ARC projects (not including LEIF) where Flinders University is the Administering Organisation (lead org), 21 are CHASS led. **21%**.
- Accordingly \$7.7m is associated with these 21 CHASS led projects, representing **19%** of the total \$40.8m awarded to all 100 Flinders University led ARC projects.

ARC Linkage

As a reminder, the next ARC Linkage round this year closes on 5th August, and the third 1st December. Please contact Narmon Tulsı if you wish to discuss your project for rounds 2 and 3.

ARC Grant Processes Update:

ARC CEO Professor Sue Thomas has provided an update on the ARC grants processes. It includes information on the National Competitive Grants Program - current rounds; new post award guidance; support for early and mid-career researchers - including extension to DECRA 2022 closing date; and the 2020-21 grant calendar.

<https://research.flinders.edu.au/rp/Blog/15135-A/flinders-research-news-an-update-from-the-arc-ceo-professor-sue-thomas-1-may-2020>

Grants Lifecycle Management (GLM) Project

You will be pleased to know that this major project is now underway, and is co-sponsored by Professor Robert Saint, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Richard Porter, Chief Financial Officer. GLM is designed to improve data quality by reusing and streamlining existing data, systems, and integrations wherever possible. The project will:

- Unify financial and non-financial grant information into one consolidated dashboard
- Reduce researcher time spent managing grants
- Ease financial reporting
- Facilitate compliance with new revenue reporting requirements, eg for HERDC and financial accounting (AASB15).

Currently, researchers use a myriad of manual processes, spreadsheets, and systems to manage grants. The GLM project is designed to streamline processes and provide a 'one stop shop' for grants and finance information about research projects.

ResearchNow will be leveraged to reduce the need for researchers to learn a new system and to take advantage of integrations with the new HR system, and, in future, the TechnologyOne financial system and the business intelligence 'data lake' for reporting.

If you have any questions, please contact the project team:

- Lumai Tingey (GLM project manager), Lumai.Tingey@flinders.edu.au
- Bec Linehan (senior business analyst), Bec.Linehan@flinders.edu.au

The latest information about the [project](#) is available on the Digital Research Services website.

Professor Penny Edmonds

Dean (Research)



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Report by Dean (People & Resources)

Promotions

As reported in VPED updates, the University is holding a round of Promotion applications this year at all levels. The call was released on 15 April. The internal date for the submission of applications to the staff member's supervisor (if not the Dean P & R) is Friday 10 July; applications must reach the Dean P & R by Friday 17 July. Staff thinking of submitting an application are required to discuss their intentions with their supervisor and with the Dean P & R by the end of May – in effect by the end of this week. Those dates apply at all levels. Decisions will be made and promotion letters issued between 7 September 2020 and 11 September 2020 (Level B-C), and in the week 26 October - 30 October 2020 (Level D-E). Promotion entitlements will take effect 1 January 2021.

The current university policy and procedures relating to promotions can be accessed at:
<https://staff.flinders.edu.au/learning-teaching/academic-promotion>

Mentoring

Staff at all levels of the College are strongly encouraged to consider signing up as mentors or mentees. Information on the College's Mentoring Program is available in the CHASS Document Library. As staff return to work on-campus, there is every reason to take advantage of the program and the benefits it offers mentors and mentees alike.

Peer Reviews of Teaching

While peer reviewing of teaching is strongly encouraged, it is no longer mandatory. However, peer reviews must still be sought by those of you who are applying for promotion, and they must be carried out by qualified peer reviewers. A list of qualified peer reviewers in the College has been added to the CHASS Document Library.

Work Arrangements – Presence on Campus

Most academic staff have now transitioned back to work on campus. From 25 May all staff and student facing facilities have been open, with a range of restrictions in place. From 27 July, all academic staff will be expected to work on campus. This includes staff currently interstate, who are expected to return to Adelaide to work on campus. Staff with medical reasons for wishing to continue to work at home should do so until advised otherwise by their supervisors.

Field Trips

Local research field trips are possible subject to certain conditions. For updated conditions staff should consult: <https://staff.flinders.edu.au/coronavirus-information/research-updates>

As is already the case, fieldwork proposals will need to be approved by the Dean P & R.

CATs and Workloads

Details of CATs to be funded from research accounts should be forwarded to the Dean P & R via the relevant Teaching Program Director. The work of CATs funded in this way is credited to the workload of the relevant staff member.

For all other CAT requirements, the principle of workload equalisation will apply. Workloads are currently being updated to include Honours and coursework supervision data. In the coming week meetings will be held with the TPDs to determine CAT allocations for Semester 2.

Workday

In the coming weeks the University will begin transitioning to Workday, a new platform for managing a range of Human Resources-related tasks. Set to be launched on 9 June, it is the key component of the University's MyWorkLife Program, which aims to streamline and standardise People and Culture practices across the University. Over time Workday will take over the tasks currently being done largely through ESS and FlindersPro. It promises to provide streamlined processes and approvals, better quality information and improved workforce and data management. Some training in Workday for supervisors has already begun and will extend to all staff in due course.

Professor Peter Monteath

Dean (People & Resources)



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Report by Director, College Services

COVID-19 Update

The SA Government has announced that Phase 2 of the easing of restrictions will begin on Friday 5 June. This means that whilst maintaining the 1.5 metre distance and 4sqm space requirements, indoor gatherings of 20 people can occur.

Just to re-iterate that if you have any cold like symptoms, however mild (cough, sore throat, blocked or runny nose, fever or loss of taste and smell), please go straight home, get a COVID-19 test and stay at home until given the test result. Anyone who has symptoms can get the test in SA. You do not need to take sick leave as you can still continue to work at home (unless of course you feel sick). The University is also encouraging staff to download the COVIDSafe app.

PFD have been ensuring that rooms have the maximum occupancy to ensure we are in line with the 4square metre rule, so please abide by these numbers for our health and safety. We are also working directly with HDR students to ensure they can return safely to their offices and desks. If you require any additional space during this time, please contact PFD direct through ServiceOne.

If you need cleaning supplies for your face to face teaching activities (approved by the Dean Education) please contact PFD through ServiceOne who should be able to provide everything you need.

2020 University Budget Position

The end of year projection for student load and therefore income is down against the 2020 budgeted figure. At University level there is a 701 EFTSL reduction from budget to end of year projection, leading to a decrease of \$12M gross income. This is without the effects of COVID-19 included into the numbers. With COVID-19 impacts included, the University has a projected decline in teaching revenue of \$46.3M in 2021.

2020 HASS Budget Position

Budget	End of Year (EOY) Projection	Variance
1572 eftsI	1428 eftsI	-144 eftsI
\$38M (gross)	\$34M (gross)	-\$4M

To offset this loss, the University has provided a 2021 savings target for HASS of \$2.3M.

In more detail, the teaching programs have seen a reduction in total course load:

	Budget	Projected EOY	Variance
CPA	755.17	652.49	-102.68
H&A	156.79	153.16	-3.63
LLC	464.89	459.67	-5.22
SocSci	195.20	162.26	-32.94

Credit Cards

The College has implemented a set of College specific guidelines for credit card use. Please review the guidelines available [here](#) and via the [CHASS document library](#).

Please note that credit cards cannot be used to purchase IT equipment over \$200, regardless of the account code. Any credit card holder who wishes to purchase IT equipment over this price will need to discuss their requirements with the Director of College Services.

Any IT equipment that has been purchased on University credit cards will need to be added to our asset register. A survey has been sent to credit card holders asking for the item purchased, the make, and model number. This can then be added to our asset list. If laptops or desktops have been purchased, then we will arrange for them to be brought in for the virtual desktop to be installed for security reasons.

Dr Michelle Gander

Director, College Services



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Report by Higher Degrees by Research Coordinator

1. HASS Summary as at 29 April 2020

Enrolled	112
Leave of Absence	16
Under Examination	17
Total HDR Students	145

Between 1 January and 29 April 2020, eight students in HASS completed their higher degree and 12 students began their candidature. The HASS induction for new HDR students was held online on 3 April.

2. The CHASS Winners of the 2020 Vice Chancellor's Award for Doctoral Thesis Excellence are

Dr Sean Gilbert, College of Humanities and Social Sciences: *'Spiritual Affections and the Pastoral Disposition'*

Dr Matthew Tieu, College of Humanities and Social Sciences: *'The Philosophy of Person-Centred Care'*

Dr David Turnbull, College of Humanities and Social Sciences: *'Clergy and Cultural Intelligence: A Study of the Foundational Capacity of Clergy to Function Effectively as Multicultural Leaders in Multiethnic Communities Within the Baptist and Uniting Church Denominations in South Australia'*

3. COVID-19 Response Update

Candidature and Scholarships

Last month the HDR Coordinators ran a survey across the University's HDR community, the results of which indicated that many students were experiencing significant challenges related to finances, housing and mental health. The results highlighted the extent of our students' responsibility for financially supporting family and caring for the young, elderly and those with compromised immunity. The survey data contributed to the case that Professor Tara Brabazon made with other Deans of Graduate Research across the country for extending government support to HDR students.

On 12 May DVC Research, Professor Rob Saint, announced Minister Tehan's amendments to the Research Training Program (RTP) legislation to temporarily extend the maximum periods of support by six

months where HDR research has been impacted by COVID-19. However, this change of legislation was not accompanied by an increase in funding to universities.

In response, the Flinders Office of Graduate Research has put in place COVID 19-related extensions on RTP candidature and stipends and suspended over-time fees where extra time is required due to research activities being 'materially adversely impacted by coronavirus restrictions'. While this has come as a relief to students and supervisors, it is worth noting that the costs will not be met by additional government funding.

CHASS PA Teams

CHASS PA responded to the concerns about students feeling isolated off campus by setting up a CHASS HDR Teams site.

4. CHASS-Postgraduate Association

- CHASS-PA hosted a second virtual masterclass with Tully Barnett on transitioning from HDR to ECR, which was recorded and is available on the CHASS FLO site. There is a program of about six masterclasses currently in development. These will be advertised through the HDR email list and the FLO site shortly.
- CHASS-PA has extended the Call for Papers for the CHASS Postgraduate Association Conference to be held on 17-18 June 2020. CHASS-PA will host this as a virtual event. The planned sessions include an industry engagement round-table, contributions from Research Theme Leaders and a keynote from Professor Penny Edmonds, Dean Research. Megan Prideaux, the Partner Engagement and Pathways Officer at the OGR is in the process of putting together the industry engagement panel, which will include:
 - Dr Tully Barnett
 - Becc Bates (Department of Innovation and Skills, focus on creative industries)
 - Adam Paterson (SA Maritime Museum)

It would be excellent if as many staff as possible could attend at least some of the conference sessions to support our HDRs and their Postgraduate Association.

Associate Professor Catherine Kevin

Higher Degrees by Research Coordinator