



Meeting chair: Professor Keir Reeves, Federation University Australia

1. Journal rankings / research performance measurements (Robert Cribb)

Brief on AHA Executive Committee initiatives.

2. Data collection

A working group is need to finalise a questionnaire and implement the survey.

Action item: Call for volunteers to establish a working party.

3. Major curriculum survey

If a curriculum survey equivalent to the 2004 and 2006 surveys by Carly Millar and Mark Peel is to be undertaken in the future it will need funding and people to drive the project.

Action item: Call for volunteers to establish a working group to identify funding possibilities.

4. Web sharing of data, resources and communications (Karen Downing)

Heads of History now have access to content restricted to the group on the AHA website. This is currently only documentation from previous meetings but an include anything that members of the group wish to share.

5. Benchmarking for undergraduate teaching in Australian history (Joy Damousi for Jane Lydon)

Jane Lydon, Head of History at the University of Western Australia from July 2016, has identified that benchmarking for undergraduate teaching in Australian history has not been undertaken for some years. Given the fluidity of institutional and degree structures at many universities across Australia (and internationally) it is timely to understand and discuss the current range of approaches to this curriculum. It would be useful for Heads of History to share information regarding content, structure, pedagogical approach, online tools and other elements of the Australian history curriculum as the basis for planning and responding to change.

Action item: Use the Heads of History only area on the AHA website for HoHs to upload and share this information.

Action item: Ask for volunteer/s to collate and prepare a benchmark report.

6. Skills and scaffolding in undergraduate degrees (Robert Cribb)

There is an increasing belief that students may benefit from the structured introduction of skills in historical analysis over the course of a degree or major. Some universities have now required courses to focus on particular skills (and connected assessment tasks) at each year level: for



example, primary source analysis, annotated bibliography and research essay. It would be useful to discuss how widely this prescription is found, and whether it is productive.

7. Assistance with data collection for ARC Discovery Project Gendered Excellence in the Social Sciences (Karen Downing)

This [project](#) being undertaken by Dr Fiona Jenkins, Dr Helen Keane and Professor Marian Sawer (ANU) and Dr Claire Donovan (Brunel University) needs assistance with statistical information on the numbers of women in history, eg, graduating with undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, at all levels in full-time employment and in casual employment, etc. Dr Karen Downing will be working on this data collection. The project is running a conference at the ANU in November – [Gendered Innovations in the Social Sciences](#) – and the convenors are specifically want historians to be involved.

Action item: Are HoHs willing to give Karen their institutions' contact details for this data?

Action item: Could this statistical information be included in regular HoH data collection?

Action item: Are Heads of History willing to publicise conference call for papers to relevant colleagues?

8. HoH representative on the AHA Executive Committee

To more effectively link the HoH group to the AHA Executive Committee it was proposed at the 2015 HoH meeting that a nominated member of the group be co-opted onto the Committee. The proposal was accepted by the AHA Executive Committee. For some part of the last 12 months there was an elected member of the Committee who was also a Head of History, Robert Cribb, who was able to easily and effectively undertake this role. The AHA Executive Committee, therefore, proposes that should an elected member in the future also be a HoH, that they act as representative for the group. In the absence of a HoH on the Committee, the committee member responsible for teaching and learning matters can act as representative.

Action item: Accept the AHA Executive Committee proposal for HoH representation on the committee.

9. Proposed change of Head of History convener

It has been the practice that the Head of History at the institution hosting the AHA conference be the chair of the HoH meeting and convene the group for the following year. To further enhance links between the group and the AHA Executive Committee, the AHA Executive is proposing that the HoH convener and the group's representative on the Committee be the same person.

Action item: Accept the AHA Executive Committee proposal that the HoH convener be the same person as the group's representative on the Committee.

10. Any other business