



CONFUCIUS
INSTITUTE



Confucius Institute in Auckland Advisory Board Meeting Minutes Pembroke House 12 November 2019, 13:30

- Present:** Prof. Jenny Dixon (Chair), Prof. Helen Nicholson, Mr. Danny Chan, Prof. Paul Clark, Prof. Zhimin Chen (Fudan), Prof. Zhongwei Wu (Fudan), Prof Lian Lu (Fudan), Mr. Peter Chin
- In attendance:** Nora Yao, Bing Zhou, Janine Chin, Anne du Plessis (minutes), Lin Li (Fudan), Chriss Hamilton (Otago)
- Apologies:** Mr. Pat English, Mr. Wansheng Liu,

1. Welcome

- Chairperson Prof. Jenny Dixon welcomed the Board members to the meeting held at Confucius Institute Office, Pembroke House.
- All attendees introduced themselves and Prof. Dixon welcomed new board member Prof. Lu Lian from Fudan University.

2. Minutes from previous meeting, 17 May 2019

Correction: No Corrections

Approval of minutes: Moved Prof. Dixon, seconded Danny Chan

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Financial Reports – presented Janine Chin

Period: 01/01/2019 – 30/9/19

- 1357 Hanban Funds
 - Revenue variance due to higher level of reimbursement for 2019 operating expenses.
 - Variances in operating expenses due to timing of payments.
- 1358 UoA Funds
 - Increase in occupancy due to payment of rent following completion of Pembroke House upgrade. A better indication of 'actual' occupancy will be known next year.
- Funding Received from Hanban
 - Balance of approved funding for 2019.
 - Reimbursement for MLA national workshop in July.
 - 50% MLA accommodation reimbursements for 2019. Remainder when final

accommodation costs submitted following departure of MLAs at end of year.

- UoA Foundation Funds
 - Includes funding received to date.
 - No statement of activities available as systems being restructured.

Discussion raised:

- Wording of revenue variance will be amended to reflect increase in reimbursement vs additional funding.

Acceptance of financial report: Moved Danny Chan, seconded Prof. Helen Nicholson

4. Confucius Institute Report - presented by Nora Yao

- Review of activities from May 2019 – Oct 2019

Highlighted programmes:

- **MLA National Workshop:** Very successful. More than 140 MLAs attended from Auckland, Wellington and Canterbury CIs. CI received very positive feedback on the event.
- **MLA Interviews in China:** Total of 82 pre-approved (shortlisted) students from Hanban, CI selected a total of 42 MLAs.
- **Confucius Classrooms:** CI has been monitoring Chinese programmes to ensure they meet CC status requirements. Hanban has agreed and given permission to 'withdraw' CCs that do not meet the criteria and replace them with schools that do. CI will continue to monitor/assess programmes, provide guidance on improvements and consider new applications. e.g., Waikato (Hillcrest High School and Fairfield College)
- **Chinese in Schools:** Variety of activities especially during Chinese Language Week.
- **Language courses:** CI managed and provided number various language courses without CCE registration assistance. Prof. Paul Clark asked that student numbers be included in future reports.
- **CI Website:** Prof. Dixon said that she and Nora are working to upgrade the website.
- **NZ Police Language and Culture course:** Prof. Dixon was pleased to see that another police course was scheduled for January 2020. She would like to see reference on the CI website. Mr. Danny Chan recommended that we engage with Customs for future courses.

5. Otago Office Report - presented by Chriss Hamilton

- Review of activities 2019

Highlighted Activities:

- **Workshops:** Partnered with local community, the Dunedin Cultural and Art Association to trial the delivery of a series of workshops including:
 - **Tai Chi:** Through Juejun Lin (MLA), an expert was invited to demonstrate and give staff/students the opportunity to experience Tai Chi.
 - **Calligraphy:** Also through Juejun, two sessions were offered within the Department of Languages and Cultures.
- It is anticipated that additional workshops can be organized for 2020 due to success of trial.

- Chriss reported they had a successful year and budget to be within \$10,000.
- Chriss to submit proposed budget for 2020 including additional funding, if required, so it can be taken into consideration.
- The Board is keen to support increased levels of activity.

6. MLA Visa Allocation

Prof. Dixon shared the good news that, following approaches to Government, the MLA visa allocation had been raised from 150 to 300 through the renegotiation of the NZ-CHINA FTA upgrade. This reflected a vote of confidence from the New Zealand Government in the Confucius Institutes. Prof. Dixon particularly acknowledged the work of Tony Browne (VUW) who led the approach.

Prof. Dixon informed the Board that the 3 CIs will be meeting to discuss a way forward with regards to the increased allocations. She mentioned that Hanban had indicated that they would cover the costs of travel and allowance but not the accommodation for the MLAs over the 150 allocation.

The Board expressed their 'delight' in the outcome of the NZ-China FTA upgrade.

Moved Prof. Paul Clark, seconded Mr. Danny Chan

7. Any other business


- The VC signed a new 5-year agreement between Hanban and the University of Auckland with the continuation of CI. She mentioned that a confidentiality clause was removed so the Agreement can be placed on CI's website. The only new point added: agreed to evaluate the work we do and share the findings with Hanban.
- Prof. Chen informed the meeting that they are preparing for the CI global conference. .
- Prof. Chen informed the meeting of a possible visit from the Chancellor to New Zealand in early Feb 2020. Prof. Dixon noted that she would be out of country at that time but the VC would possibly be available.
- Mr. Danny Chan raised the issue that CI should seriously start looking for funding sponsors for 2020.

8. Next MEETING

- Proposed Board meeting 16 or 17 April in Otago - date to be confirmed and documents will be circulated by email.

The meeting concluded at 14:25pm.

Minutes submitted by: Anne du Plessis



Approved by:

Chair: Professor Jenny Dixon