

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Minutes** of meeting 2017/3 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Friday 16 June 2017 in the Boardroom, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

**Present:** Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chancellor)  
Professor Scott Holmes, Acting Vice-Chancellor  
Ms Liz Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)  
Ms Genevieve Gregor (Deputy Chancellor)  
Mr Michael Pratt AM (Deputy Chancellor)  
Associate Professor Paul Wormell (Chair, Academic Senate)  
Mr John Banks  
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO  
Dr Ben Etherington  
Mr Tim Ferraro  
Mr Peeyush Gupta  
Ms Winnie Jobanputra  
Ms Sophie Kobuch  
Ms Jenny Purcell  
Mr Ian Stone

**Apologies:** Professor Barney Glover (Vice-Chancellor and President)  
Mr Christopher Brown AM  
Ms Vivienne James  
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO

**In Attendance:** Professor Sharon Bell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategy and Planning)  
Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Governance Services  
Ms Helen Fleming, University Secretary and General Counsel  
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic)  
Mr Angelo Kourtis, Vice-President (People and Advancement)  
Mr Peter Pickering, Vice-President (Finance and Resources)  
Professor Simeon Simoff, Dean, School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics (for item 4.1)  
  
Ms Saada Georges, Meeting Support  
Ms Jo Maguire, Executive Officer (Minutes)

## 1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### 1.1 Welcome

The Chancellor welcomed attendees to the meeting and advised that he would convey to Gabrielle Trainor the Board's warm congratulations on her being recognised as an Officer of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

The Chancellor thanked Tim Ferraro, outgoing Alumni member, and Sophie Kobuch, outgoing Postgraduate member, for their service to the Board.

## **1.2 Apologies**

The Board noted the apologies and that, in the Vice-Chancellor's absence, Professor Scott Holmes was attending the meeting as Acting Vice-Chancellor.

## **1.3 Declarations of Material Interest**

The Chair invited Board members to declare any material interests they may have in relation to any matters on this agenda or their role on the Board more generally. No declarations were made.

## **1.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

In reviewing the minutes of the 5 April 2017 meeting, the Board noted that the changes to portfolio responsibilities reflected Resolutions 5/4/2017:8 and 5/4/2017:9 were no longer required. The Board agreed that these two resolutions should be rescinded.

### *Resolutions*

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#### **(1) The Board rescinded the following resolutions:**

- (a) resolution 5/4/2017:8 regarding the change in title for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic to Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic with effect from 1 July 2017 and**
- (b) resolution 5/4/2017:9 regarding the transfer of the reporting lines of the Deans of Schools from the Vice-Chancellor to the Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic with effect from 1 July 2017. [16/6/2017:1]**

#### **(2) With the changes reflected in resolution 16/6/2017:1 above, the Board approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 5 April 2017 meeting and the minutes of the rotary resolutions of 27 April 2017 and 18 May 2017. [16/6/2017:2]**

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## **1.5 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings**

The Board noted the action taken on items listed.

## **1.6 Starring of Items**

In addition to procedural items (1.1 to 1.7), the following items were starred: 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.

### *Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees approved all unstarred items being taken as considered and all recommendations and attachments for them as adopted. [16/6/2017:3]**

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## **1.7 Arrangement of Business**

The following items were identified as being considered in closed session: 2.2 (due to commercial in confidence items contained in the report), 3.1, 3.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4 and 5.5.



## 2. CHANCELLOR'S AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORTS

### 2.1 Chancellor's Report

#### Reflection on Board Strategy Day

The Chancellor commended the prior day's annual strategy session which was attended by Board and Committee members. Committee members' participation displayed the skills available across the University's governance bodies and the presentation by Committee Chairs was well received. The Chancellor also commended the strategy day dinner which included a panel discussion of researchers and a 10 year reflection by the Dean of the School of Medicine.

The issues that strategy day participants saw as requiring priority consideration were students' perceptions of the University, student retention, curriculum reform and investment of the corpus. All of the elements are closely connected to the Western Growth project. The challenge between achieving quick wins in curriculum reform and ensuring that the reform is a result of comprehensive and rigorous analysis was recognised in discussion. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) will report further at the next meeting.

#### Ethical Framework

Further to the Board's ongoing discussions about ethical investment, the Chancellor tabled an Ethical Framework Design prepared for the University by the Ethics Centre. The Board noted that this framework, and the phases of its development, would support the University's ethical decisions more broadly than investment. In the first instance the Chancellor will convene a small working group of Board and Executive members to consider an ethical framework for the Board's consideration, and it is expected that the process will be completed within 9 months.

#### Resolution

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**The Board approved the University's engaging the Ethics Centre, at a cost of \$28,000 +GST, to assist the University in developing an ethical framework.**

**[16/6/2017:4]**

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#### Western Sydney Airport

The Chancellor referred to his role as Chair of the Forum of Western Sydney Airport and advised that, at a future meeting, he will speak further about the concept of an *aerotropolis*.

#### Alumni Board Member and Chancellor's Circle

The Chancellor spoke to the process of selecting the Alumni representative on the Board. The revisions to the By-Law, approved by the Board at its October 2016 meeting enabled the Alumni member to be appointed, rather than elected. A recent call for expressions of interest to all alumni had generated nearly 120 responses and identified numerous professionals with the potential to make valuable contributions to the University. A Chancellor's Circle, which the Board has discussed in the past, would be one avenue to engage with identified alumni and the Board Executive Committee will consider this further. The recommendation to the Board on the new Alumni representative is minuted at item 5.4.

## **2.2 Vice-Chancellor's Report**

This item was discussed in closed session.

## **3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL**

### **3.1 Western Growth – Commercial in Confidence [Closed Session Item]**

This item was discussed in closed session.

### **3.2 Overview of the 2017 Q1 Forecast**

This item was discussed in closed session.

## **4. PRESENTATIONS**

### **4.1 Performance Report – School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics**

The Dean of the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics, joined the meeting and spoke about the School's mission; staff profile; disciplines and their performance; financial sustainability; research philosophy and success; and the School's successful regional leadership and engagement activities.

The Board noted that the School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics is an exemplar in those areas identified at the Strategy Day as having the potential to improve the University's competitiveness and student retention. The School has a range of successful regional leadership and engagement programs and has consistently increased its student load in areas which are highly competitive and academically demanding.

The Board commended the Dean on the School's ongoing achievements.

## **5. BOARD COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BODIES**

### **5.1 Finance and Investment Committee**

This item was discussed in closed session.

### **5.2 Audit and Risk Committee**

This item was discussed in closed session.

### **5.3 Report from the Chair of Academic Senate**

The Chair of Senate spoke to his report and acknowledged the work of the Committees of Senate. A number of these committees have been identified by the national and state groups of academic boards and senates as examples of good practice. Academic Senate will participate in the review of the strategic plan and academic structure, noting that any structural changes will have implications for Senate, its standing committees, academic policies and delegations. The Red Tape Task Force, which remains active, is identifying opportunities to improve processes, whilst ensuring it does not cut across the various Shared Services projects which also aim to make efficiency improvements.

### **5.4 Board Executive Committee**

This item was discussed in closed session.

### **5.5 University Infrastructure Committee**

This item was discussed in closed session.



## 5.6 External Relations Working Party

The Board noted the unconfirmed minutes of the 19 April 2017 meeting without discussion.

## 6. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING

### 6.1 Uses of the University Seal

*Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees approved the affixing of the University Seal to those documents listed in the attached report, pursuant to the University Seal Usage Policy**

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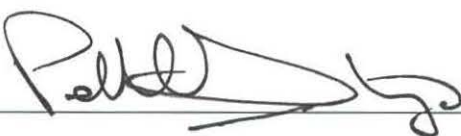
## 7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 9 August 2017, at 8.30am, in the Boardroom, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.00noon.

Confirmed by:

(Chair)



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(Date)

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