

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2019/1 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 20 February 2019, Boardroom, Building EB.2.23, Parramatta campus.

- Present:** Board of Trustees
Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor)
Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Carmel Hourigan (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO
Mr Christopher Brown AM (*arrived at 8.40am*)
Dr Linda O'Brien AM
Ms Georgia Lee
Dr Ben Etherington
Ms Nicole Gismondo
Dr David Harland
Associate Professor Alphaia Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate) (*arrived at 8.41am*)
Ms Holly Kramer
- Apologies:** Mr Peeyush Gupta
Ms Alexandra Coleman
Mr Joseph Carrozzi
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO
Professor Scott Holmes (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
- In Attendance:** Western Sydney University
Ms Helen Fleming (University Secretary and General Counsel)
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)
Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources)
Professor Sharon Bell (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategy and Planning)
Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation)
Mr Angelo Kourtis (Vice-President, People and Advancement)
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)
Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)
Ms Teneille Rousianos (Administrative Assistant) (Meeting Support)
- (*For Item 4.1 only*)
Professor Kate Stevens (MARCS Director)
- (*For open session items only*)
Mr Parasdeep Sing Virk (Student) (*arrived 9.25am*)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and observers, declared the meeting open and confirmed that there was a quorum present.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chancellor and Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO presented an acknowledgement of country.

1.3 Apologies

The Board noted apologies from Mr Peeyush Gupta, Mr Joseph Carrozzi, Ms Alexandra Coleman and Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO.

1.3 Declarations of Material Interests

The Chair invited Board members to declare any new material interests in relation to any matters on the agenda or their role on the Board more generally.

The Chancellor advised that he is no longer the Chair of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research or a member of the Library Council of NSW.

Dr Linda O'Brien advised that she is the Director of the School of Life Foundation and the Principal, School Leadership at NSW Department of Education.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 5 December 2018 meeting.

[20/2/2019:1]

1.5 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on items listed.

1.6 Starring of Items

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved all unstarred items as having been considered and noted, and their respective recommendations as adopted.

[20/2/2019:2]

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified as being considered in closed session: 2.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5.

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

2.1 Vice-Chancellor's Performance Plan [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor highlighted aspects of his written report, including the completion of the Population Review for the NSW Government.

The Chancellor advised that the University provided a submission to the French Review on Freedom of Speech in Australian Universities, acknowledging the importance of freedom of expression and expressing in-principle support for the development of a model code for the higher education sector.

The Chancellor advised the Board that the proposed changes to the Western Sydney University Act 1997 as a result of adopting the NSW *Standard Governing Provisions* were approved by the Minister on 8 February 2019.

2.3 Vice-Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Vice-Chancellor presented his report and highlighted a number of issues.

Load Update

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on student load and noted that student numbers are currently on target.

Policy

Professor Kirkpatrick advised the Board that the University will make a submission in response to a proposal to introduce laws that render commercial essay writing services illegal.

TEQSA

The Vice-Chancellor advised that universities were advised to inform TEQSA of their approach on sexual assault and sexual harassment. TEQSA provided a report which included a breakdown of responses to key measures by institution. The University performed strongly in comparison to the rest of the sector with responses to 16 of the 18 measures identified.

Decadal Strategies

The Vice-Chancellor advised that work is progressing on the Decadal Strategies with the Airport Flight Path launch on 11 March and the Arts and Culture launch in mid 2019.

Western Sydney University 2018 contribution to *The Conversation*

The Vice-Chancellor advised that throughout 2018, Western Sydney University academics published a total of 126 articles in *The Conversation*. These articles have a strong global reach.

Research and Innovation

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University recently announced a further two Strategic Research Initiatives. The first being 'Transforming Early Education and Child Health (TeEACH)' and the second being 'Young and Resilient'.

University Corpus: Annual Distribution of Funds

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University proposes to use money from the University corpus to ensure its long-term sustainability and the achievement of strategic goals. The proposed distribution will be allocated to the areas of Research and Learning and Teaching.

Social Media Update

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the continued growth across the University's social media channels.

Dr Linda O'Brien left the meeting at 10.10am.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 Western Sydney University Academic Restructure Report [Open Session Item]

The Vice-Chancellor introduced this item and thanked Professor Sharon Bell for her work on the project.

Professor Bell spoke to this item and advised the Board that the proposal is to increase the number of Schools from 9 to 13 (plus the Graduate Research School). There will be 13 Deans who will report to the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and be included on the Executive Committee.

The Board were advised that the suggested School names are indicative only and may be modified slightly prior to finalisation.

Professor Bell advised the Board that there will be the creation of three 'clusters' of Schools with a Board constituted by Deans, relevant Research Institute Directors and Deputy/Associate Deans as required. An important role of the 'clusters' will be to identify and advance significant opportunities strategically aligned to growth in the Western Sydney region and to the University's goals.

Resolution

- 1. The Board of Trustees approved the establishment (as of 1 January 2020) of the following Schools:**
 - a. School of Health Sciences;**
 - b. School of Science;**
 - c. School of Social Sciences;**
 - d. School of Psychology**
 - e. School of the Built Environment**
 - f. School of Computing, Mathematics, Statistics and Data Science; and**
 - g. School of Engineering**

- 2. And the concurrent disestablishment of the following existing Schools (from 1 January 2020):**
 - a. School of Science and Health;**
 - b. School of Social Sciences and Psychology; and**

c. School of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics

- 3. The following Schools will continue without alteration in the new structure:**
- a. School of Business**
 - b. School of Education**
 - c. School of Humanities and Communication Arts**
 - d. School of Law**
 - e. School of Medicine**
 - f. School of Nursing and Midwifery**

[20/2/2019:4]

3.2 Academic Senate [Open Session Item]

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to aspects of the written report, including the Academic Senate Review which is currently under way. The Board were advised that the Senate Review Panel is expected to conduct short interviews with Senate members after the upcoming Senate meeting.

The Senate Review will evaluate Senate's compliance with Standard 6.3 of the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015*. A progress report is anticipated by March 2019.

The Chair of Academic Senate advised the Board that Senate will co-host a forum with the Vice-Chancellor on Academic Freedom in the first half of 2019.

4. PRESENTATION: MARCS Institute [Open Session Item]

[The MARCS Institute Director, Professor Kate Stevens, joined the meeting at 11.00am for this Item]

The MARCS Institute Director, Professor Kate Stevens attended the meeting to provide Board members with an overview of the MARCS Institute. Professor Stevens highlighted the mission, vision and disciplines within the Institute.

Professor Stevens spoke about the Institute's Strategy 2019-2024 and the importance of Research contracts and partnerships and challenges through interdisciplinary consortia. She provided a briefing on the International Centre for Neuromorphic Systems Strategy and Brain Sciences focusing on the BabyLab located on the Bankstown, Kingswood and Westmead campuses. She also advised of the vision, themes and strategy in relation Technologies for Humans (VitalCore).

The Board commended the work of the MARCS Institute and thanked Professor Stevens for the presentation.

[The MARCS Institute Director, Professor Kate Stevens, left the meeting at 11.30am.]

5. BOARD COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BODIES

5.1 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5.2 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5.3 University Infrastructure Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5.4 Western Growth - Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5.5 Board Executive Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING

6.1 Uses of the University Seal [Open Session Item]

Resolution

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.

[20/2/2019:15]

7. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 10 April 2019 at 8.30am at the Parramatta South Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.40 pm

Confirmed by:

(Chair)



(Date)

10 / 4 / 19
