

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2021/6 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 8 December 2021 in Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South campus and via Zoom.

Present:

Board of Trustees members present in Boardroom

Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor)
Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Mr Peeyush Gupta AM
Dr Ben Etherington *arrived at 8.34am*
Dr David Harland
Ms Naomi Hastings
Dr Linda O'Brien AM (Pro-Chancellor)
Ms Holly Kramer (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr Lee Pinder
Ms Natalia Vukolova *arrived at 8.34am*

Board of Trustees members present by Zoom

Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate)
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO
Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Mr Joseph Carrozzi AM
Ms Georgia Lee
Ms Rose Lewis
Mr Bob Sahota

Apologies:

Nil

In Attendance:

Present in Boardroom

Ms Jane Hutchison (University Secretary)
Professor Clare Pollock (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost)
Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources)
Professor Simon Barrie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)
Mr Angelo Kourtis (Vice-President, People and Advancement)
Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and International)
Professor Michelle Trudgett (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership)
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)
Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)
Ms Teneille Rousianos (Administrative Officer) (Meeting Support)

Observers present in Boardroom

Mr Christopher Youness (Incoming Professional Staff Board member)
arrived at 8.34am

Observers present via Zoom

Mr James Christian (Incoming Board appointed member)
Ms Rayaca Tayabally (Incoming Undergraduate Board member)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and observers. The Chancellor acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the Board met and paid respects to their Elders past and present. He declared the meeting open and confirmed that there was a quorum present.

1.2 Apologies

No apologies were noted.

1.3 Declarations of Material Interests

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

Deputy Chancellor Dibbs advised the Board that she has been appointed to the Board of the National Portrait Gallery.

Deputy Chancellor Stubbs advised the Board that she has been appointed as General Member on the NSW Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Dr Linda O'Brien advised the Board that she will be retiring as Principal, School Leadership with the NSW Department of Education, on 17 December 2021 and will undertake consultancy work in 2022.

Ms Georgia Lee advised the Board that she has resigned from Australia Post.

Mr Joseph Carrozzi advised the Board that he is stepping down from the Board of the NSW Institute of Sport.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 6 October 2021 meeting.

[8/12/2021:1]

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 resolved to approve all unstarred items as having been considered and noted, and their respective recommendations as adopted.

[8/12/2021:2]

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

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

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor's report was taken as read.

Giving Day

The Chancellor spoke to the success of Giving Day and thanked Board members Ms Lee, Ms Kramer and Mr Pinder for their attendance and support. The Chancellor thanked the Executive Director, Advancement and the team for organising a great event. Members of the Board who attended agreed that it was an exceptional fundraiser, and acknowledged the team for delivering a well-run event.

Board membership

The Chancellor provided an update on the Ministerial appointments to the Board. As part of the process, Minister Lee's office requested that the University provide three names of potential candidates to the Minister, for consideration. With the support of the Board Executive Committee, Mr Simon Hickey, CEO of the Western Sydney Airport, was put forward, in addition to Ms Holly Kramer and Mr Joseph Carrozzi.

The Chancellor advised the Board that the Minister approved Ms Kramer to be re-appointed and Mr Simon Hickey appointed, to the Board of Trustees as Ministerial appointed members.

The Chancellor also advised the Board that Mr Peeyush Gupta will stand down from the Board of Trustees and that Mr Joseph Carrozzi will take up Mr Gupta's term on the Board until 13 June 2024.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees:

- 1. noted the re-appointment of Ms Holly Kramer and appointment of Mr Simon Hickey to the Board of Trustees as a Ministerial appointed members, for a term of four years each, commencing 1 January 2022;**
- 2. noted Mr Peeyush Gupta's resignation from the Board of Trustees, effective 31 December 2021; and**
- 3. approved the appointment of Mr Joseph Carrozzi AM as a Board appointed member, from 1 January 2022 until 13 June 2024.**

[8/12/2021:3]

The Chancellor noted that Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik's term on the Board ends on 31 December 2021, with Mr James Christian joining the Board from 1 January 2022.

The Chancellor advised that as Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, Miss Rose Lewis, Dr David Harland and Dr Ben Etherington did not seek to be re-elected to their positions and Miss Naomi Hastings will be resigning from the Board, the following five individuals have subsequently been confirmed as newly elected:

- Ms Coralie Properjohn – Postgraduate Student
- Ms Rayaca Tayabally – Undergraduate Student
- Mr Christopher Youness – Professional Staff Member
- Dr Geir Presterudstuen – Academic Staff Member

- Professor Robert Mailhammer – Chair of Academic Senate

Graduations

The Chancellor advised the Board that graduation ceremonies will be held between 13-17 December 2021, following strict COVID health protocols.

Letter from Minister Tudge regarding anti-Semitism

The Chancellor advised that the University had received a letter from former Minister Tudge, calling for the University to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's working definition of anti-Semitism, amid a rise of violence and threats towards Australian Jews on university campuses. The Chancellor spoke to a number of issues with adopting the definition. He advised the Board of his intent to respond to the Acting Minister advising that the University fully supports the intent, but any response from the University will encompass all faiths.

2.1.1 Vice-Chancellor's Performance Plan and University Achievements and Challenges in 2021 and Priorities for 2022 [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.1.2 Board of Trustees Forward Item Schedule 2022 [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the Board of Trustees Forward Item Schedule for 2022.

Members requested an update to the Forward Item Schedule to include the presentation of the Acknowledgement of Country at each meeting.

Members queried the date for the Western Growth Property Tour, and it was agreed that suggested dates will be provided to Board members at the next meeting.

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

The Vice-Chancellor's report was taken as read.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted a number of items, including:

NSW International Student Arrivals Plan

Three flights have been scheduled under the NSW International Student Arrival Plan for December and early January 2022. The first flight arrived on 6 December, with students from China and South-East Asia. The University had 17 students on this flight who were greeted at the airport by University staff. All students self-isolated for three days using campus facilities. The second flight is due to arrive on 24 December with students from South Asia, and the third flight is due on 9 January with students from China.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise and International) acknowledged the Pro Vice-Chancellor, International for her work in organising the return of international students.

Return to campus and vaccinations

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost advised the Board that only staff and students who are double vaccinated can currently attend campus. All staff can return to campus from 1 February 2022. Food and beverage vouchers will be provided to staff for use at on-campus outlets, and an additional day of leave for booster shots will be provided to staff. Also, the flexible working from home arrangements pilot has also been extended for a further six months.

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the Pulse Survey outcomes, noting that the survey focused on wellbeing and vaccination status. It was agreed to circulate the outcomes of the survey to Board members.

Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers 2021 Rankings

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Enterprise and International) advised the Board that the University has eight Highly Cited Researchers (HiCis). Seven are from the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment and one from the School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences.

2021 NSW Environment, Energy and Science Eureka Prize

Associate Professor Matthias Boer and Dr Rachel Nolan from the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment were awarded the 2021 NSW Environment, Energy and Science Eureka Prize for Applied Environmental Research. The award recognises their collaborative research as part of the NSW Bushfire Risk Management Research Hub.

School of Business

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that, after a lengthy process, the School of Business has received the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business Accreditation (AACSB). Only six percent of business schools world-wide are AACSB accredited, and the Vice-Chancellor acknowledged Professor Amir Mahmood for his work in gaining this international recognition for the School.

21C Curriculum Project Update

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic highlighted a number of achievements, including the international roundtable hosted by students, work on alternative credentials and the United Nations event involving South East Asia universities.

Sustaining Success Year-End Report

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the *Sustaining Success 2021 – 2026* Dashboard – Performance Against Measures and Deep Dive Analysis Reporting Schedule.

Board members sought clarification on the drop in rankings in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the ranking outcomes are often volatile. A deep dive will be undertaken to look at the performance, loss of capability and senior leadership in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, with the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost, in consultation with the Acting Dean, to look at how to re-invest and re-build capabilities in the School.

[Ms Coralie Anne Properjohn left the meeting at 10.25am]

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to aspects of the written report, including:

Academic Integrity and Contract Cheating

The Chair of Academic Senate advised the Board that a considerable amount of work has been undertaken across the University to create a positive culture to address the issues around contract cheating and highlighting academic integrity.

Fitness to Practice Policy and Inherent Requirement Compliance Procedures

The Academic Senate approved the Fitness to Practice Policy and Inherent Requirement Compliance Procedures. These address policy limitations in the way Schools are able to respond to situations where a student is failing, or may fail, to meet inherent requirements of their programs, indicating compromised fitness to practice on placements and posing a risk to public safety.

The Chair of Academic Senate thanked members for their interest in Academic Governance and attendance at Senate meetings during her terms.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 2022-2024 Operational Plan and Budget [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Transformation Program [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3 Western Growth Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4. BOARD COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BODIES

4.1 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.2 Board Executive Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.3 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.4 Foundation Council [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.5 University Infrastructure Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING

5.1 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 *Western Sydney University (University Seal and Authentication) Rule 2021*.

[8/12/2021:16]

5.2 Chancellor Nomination and Election Process [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 23 February 2022 at 8.30am in Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.45pm.

Confirmed by:

(Chair)



(Date)

23/2/2022
