

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of the meeting 2015/3 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney, held at 2.00pm on **Tuesday 2 June 2015 in the Ballroom, The Langham, Sydney.**

Present: Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chancellor)
Professor Barney Glover (Vice-Chancellor)
Ms Gillian Shadwick (Acting Chair, Deputy Chancellor)
Mr Michael Pratt (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Pro Chancellor)
Mr Christopher Brown AM
Mr Tim Ferraro (arrived at 2.40pm)
Ms Genevieve Gregor
Mr Elie Hammam
Ms Vivienne James
Ms Taylor Macdonald
Dr George Morgan
Mr Paul Newman
Ms Jenny Purcell
Mr Ian Stone
Ms Gabrielle Trainor
Associate Professor Paul Wormell

Apologies: Mr John Banks

In Attendance: Ms Helen Fleming (University Secretary and General Counsel)
Mr James Fitzgibbon
Mr Peter Forster (item 5.4.1)
Professor Rhonda Griffiths (item 4.1)
Professor Scott Holmes
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick
Ms Sophie Kobuch
Mr Angelo Kourtis
Mr Peter Pickering
Ms Sharon Rigney (minutes)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1. Welcome

The Deputy Chancellor, Gillian Shadwick, welcomed the members of the Board and senior staff. Ms Shadwick chaired the meeting on behalf of the Chancellor and welcomed the Chancellor back after a brief absence. The Deputy Chancellor extended a warm welcome to Sophie Kobuch who attended the meeting as an observer following her recent election as the Postgraduate Student member on the Board, commencing on 1 July 2015.

1.2. Apologies

The Board accepted an apology from John Banks.

1.3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations made.

1.4. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved to approve the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of its 8 April 2015 meeting and the minutes of the rotary meetings of 7 April, 23 April and 4 May 2015. [2/6/2015:1]

The Board of Trustees resolved to approve the amendment of the Minutes of its meeting of 25 Feb 2015, Item 3.1 as follows:

1. Delete the words "*In relation to the University's unrestricted cash, approximately \$20m has been moved into higher yield investments to increase the University's buffer in this volatile higher education policy environment*", and
 2. Replace those words with the words "*Options for moving approximately \$20m of unrestricted cash are being considered*". [2/6/2015:2]
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1.5. Action Sheet from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions from previous meetings without discussion.

1.6. Starring of Items

In addition to procedural items (items 1.1 to 1.7), the following items were starred: 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.2.1, 5.3, 5.4, 5.4.1, 5.5, 5.5.1, and 6.3.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved that all unstarred items be taken as considered and all recommendations in the attachments for them as adopted. [2/6/2015:3]

1.7. Arrangement of Business

The Board agreed with the Chair's suggestion that items 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.5.1 and an additional item under 2.2 would be conducted under closed session. The remainder of the items would be discussed in open session.

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

2.1. Chancellor's Report

The Deputy Chancellor, Gillian Shadwick, spoke briefly to the Chancellor's report, noting her attendance at the University Chancellors' dinner and University Chancellors' Council meeting while A/Chancellor. During her time as A/Chancellor Ms Shadwick attended a range of meetings with the Vice-Chancellor and discussed emerging issues in higher education including the Vice-Chancellor writing an Opinion Piece for the newspaper. The Pro Chancellor, Elizabeth Dibbs, recently attended on behalf of the Deputy Chancellor, the Ethnic Communities' Council NSW 40th anniversary gala dinner. The University hosted a table at the dinner and received very positive acknowledgment for its continuing engagement with a range of Western Sydney communities.

2.2. Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor briefed the Board on the status of the proposed higher education reforms. The reforms are likely to be defeated in the Senate and it is anticipated that funding arrangements for 2016 will be similar to 2015.

The Vice-Chancellor noted recent media reports regarding a Muslim Students' Association event at the Bankstown campus, and advised the Board that a number of initiatives are in place to continue to engage with Muslim students across the University to enhance social cohesion.

Streamlined Visa Processing arrangements continue to be monitored and managed closely, and the September risk rating is expected to show an improvement.

The Board made a resolution under closed session in regard to a proposal to enter into a lease of University land.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 Potential collaboration in Fujian Province, China

The Board noted the report.

4. PRESENTATION

4.1 School Performance Report

As part of the regular scheduling of School presentations, the Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery attended the Board meeting to outline the School's academic profile, successes and challenges. The securing of clinical placements is an ongoing challenge and a range of management strategies have been put in place to ensure students have access to the placements required to complete their courses.

5. BOARD COMMITTEES & ADVISORY BODIES

5.1. Finance and Investment Committee (FIC)

This item was discussed under closed session and resolutions were made in regard to a property sale and purchase.

The Board of Trustees also noted the Student Load Report.

5.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee

Elizabeth Dibbs spoke to the minutes of the ARMC meeting held on 13 May 2015. The ARMC considered changes to the delegations in relation to Delegation Schedule G – Campus Development and endorsed the changes subject to advice from the University Secretary and General Counsel about the proposed delegations for commercial leases. It was noted that changes are needed to ensure that the intent of delegation is unambiguous. Following discussion the recommendation to the Board was withdrawn and referred to management for further review.

The Strategic Risk Register was discussed. The Board referred this item back to ARMC to include an additional item for assessing and managing reputational risk.

5.2.1 ICAC Report, *Learning the Hard Way* Productivity Commission Research Paper: *International Education Services and Streamlined Visa Processing*

The Board noted the report regarding international student recruitment and the University's response to the management of streamlined visa processing risks.

5.3 Academic Senate

The chair of Academic Senate spoke to his report, including:

- Senate warmly endorsed proposals to revise the UWS Agriculture degree and further developments in Animal Science and Zoology.
- The current reporting format will be adjusted to reflect the University's strategic priorities. Future reports will be guided by Securing Success, the Higher Education Standards Framework, and the management of academic risk.
- Senate Education Committee, chaired by Denise Kirkpatrick, recently took an overview of the Academic Course Reports from the Schools. Some key themes included:
 - work on improving student feedback on units of studies;
 - strategies and initiatives for improving student retention;
 - literacy initiatives;
 - professional accreditation and feedback from industry and students; and
 - enrolments of Aboriginal students.
- Senate discussed a range of matters arising from the ICAC report on international education and the recent Four Corners program. The PVC (International) gave a presentation on the Securing Success international strategies, which were received with enthusiasm. Other discussion focused on students' English Literacy Proficiency and academic literacies, and the work that is being led on literacy support from the Office of the DVC (Academic).

The Board supported the addition of the PVC (Education) to the membership of Senate and made the following resolution:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the revised Academic Governance Policy, providing for changes to the membership of Academic Senate. [2/6/2015:7]

5.4 Board Standing and Remuneration and Nominations Committees (BCS/RNC)

The Board noted the 23 April 2015 BSC minutes, and the BSC and RNC unconfirmed minutes of the 25 May 2015 and made resolutions under closed session regarding an honorary award and entity appointments.

5.4.1 Board Performance Review

The Board accepted the recommendations contained in the review and requested the Vice-Chancellor to implement these in accordance with the draft implementation plan. The Board specifically discussed and agreed the following actions:

- a proposal will be developed for the introduction of an expense allowance;
- the BSC will consider the establishment of a standing committee with an external focus;
- the BSC will review the roles of the standing committees to identify opportunities for the Board to delegate work to its committees, to enable the Board to focus on more strategic matters; and
- a report on the academic governance structure will be provided to a future meeting.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved to:

1. Approve the external performance review report and accept all recommendations contained in it;

2. **Request that the Vice-Chancellor implements those recommendations in accordance with the draft implementation plan. [2/6/2015:12]**
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University Infrastructure Committee (UIC)

The chair of the UIC spoke to the unconfirmed minutes of the UIC meeting held on 13 May 2015. This matter was discussed under closed session.

5.5.1 Westmead Campus

The Board noted the core principles for the development of the Westmead site and made a resolution under closed session.

5.6 Foundation Council

The Board noted the unconfirmed minutes of the 28 April 2015 meeting.

6. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING

6.1. Uses of the University Seal

The Board made the following resolution without discussion:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the uses of the University Seal as detailed in the report provided to this meeting. [2/6/2015:14]

6.2 Election of Board of Trustees Postgraduate Student Member

The Deputy Chancellor congratulated Sophie Kobuch on her election as the postgraduate student member on the Board for a two-year term commencing 1 July 2015. Sophie is studying her PhD in the School of Medicine in the area of neurophysiology.

6.3 Code of Conduct

The Board resolved to amend the *Code of Conduct* to prohibit staff from using University funds to make donations to political parties or political associations.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved to approve the changes to the *Code of Conduct* as proposed in the paper. [2/6/2015:15]

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

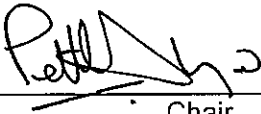
On behalf of the Board, the Deputy Chancellor extended warm appreciation to Elie Hammam for his outstanding contribution during his time on the Board. He was also congratulated for the recent conferral of his PhD which he celebrated with some other members of the Board.

The Deputy Chancellor thanked the Executive and the Vice-Chancellor for their support while she was in the role of A/Chancellor.

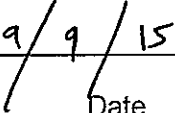
The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held at **8.30am on 9 September 2015**.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.15pm.

Confirmed by:



Chair



Date