



WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY CLUSTERS TERMS OF REFERENCE

PREAMBLE

Clusters are forward looking, strategically focussed and externally engaged groupings of cognate Schools and Research Institutes. The clustering of cognate Schools aims to:

1. Develop strategic frameworks consistent with University Plans to further the research, education and broad engagement objectives of the cluster
2. Enhance the development of strategic partnerships and university engagement
3. Build effective, innovative and efficient forms of collaboration and co-operation within and, importantly, across clusters.

As this is not a familiar model of university governance it is important to emphasise that clusters are not an additional layer of operational management

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The initial responsibilities of Clusters include:

Strategic Frameworks

1. to provide a forum for the dissemination, discussion and analysis of relevant developments in public policy and tertiary education policy
2. to share, analyse and formulate responses to available evidence relative to regional, national and international developments and emerging opportunities
3. to formulate cross-disciplinary strategic initiatives that reflect identified opportunities
4. to contribute to the quality and breadth of communication relating to the University's current and emerging strategies and the effective translation of these to cognate disciplines
5. to formulate strategic responses to high level issues that may be generated from time to time by the University's administrative Divisions or Academic Senate, in particular where there is the potential to improve co-ordination of outcomes.

Partnerships and Engagement

6. to develop collective engagement strategies/frameworks that will maximise and co-ordinate the University's presence in, and contribution to, our communities
7. to share 'best-practice' from the University, the IRU and the sector and relevant professional fields, in relation to shared opportunities and challenges, particularly those that relate to the University's scale and multi-campus configuration and to the significant challenges impacting on our communities.

Collaboration

8. to identify resources to seed new cross-disciplinary initiatives
9. to identify and develop strategies to enhance enabling and address inhibiting factors to cross-School/Research Institute and cross-Cluster collaboration
10. to monitor and regularly report on such collaboration.

GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCING

The Clusters will be governed by Boards chaired by a role designated at the level of PVC. The PVCs will report on a regular basis to the Vice-Chancellor and University Executive Committee.

Boards will be constituted by relevant School Deans, partner Institute Directors and the PVC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation (or delegate).

The Boards will invite relevant academic and administrative colleagues to contribute to specific discussions and initiatives.

Each Board will invite the participation of Student Observers.

The Clusters will also be eligible to apply for strategic funding.

13 January 2020