

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Minutes** of meeting 2019/5 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 16 October 2019, Building EB, Boardroom, Parramatta South campus.

	<u>Board of Trustees</u>
<b>Present:</b>	Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor) Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President) Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor) Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor) Ms Carmel Hourigan (Deputy Chancellor) Mr Joseph Carrozzi Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO ( <i>via Zoom at 10.00am</i> ) Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO Mr Peeyush Gupta AM Mr Bob Sahota Ms Georgia Lee Dr Linda O'Brien AM Ms Holly Kramer Dr Ben Etherington ( <i>via Zoom at 8.33am</i> ) Ms Naomi Hastings Ms Nicole Gismondo Dr David Harland Associate Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Nil
<b>In Attendance:</b>	<u>Western Sydney University</u> Ms Helen Fleming (University Secretary and General Counsel) Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor) Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources) Professor Sharon Bell AM (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 Narelle Vance (Administration Officer) (Meeting Support)  ( <i>For Item 4.1 only</i> ) Professor Michelle Trudgett (Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Strategy and Consultation)  ( <i>For Item 5.5 only</i> ) Mr Bill Parasiris (Executive Director, Estate and Commercial)

## **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 Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **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. No new declarations were made.

### **1.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Board resolved as follows:

*Resolution*

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**That the Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 7 August 2019 meeting.**

**[16/10/2019:1]**

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

The Board noted the actions taken on items listed.

### **1.6 Starring of Items**

*Resolution*

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

**[16/10/2019:2]**

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### **1.7 Arrangement of Business**

The following items were identified as being considered in closed session: 3.2, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

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

### **2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]**

The Chancellor highlighted aspects of his written report, including:

NICM Health Research Institute

The Chancellor presented the address at the NICM Health Research Institute plaque unveiling in honour of Dr Lam Gai Yuen. The Chancellor advised the Board that the newly refurbished historical building at Westmead is very impressive and is receiving much positive feedback from visitors.

### Giving Day

This University held a very successful Giving Day on 4 September 2019. Donations of almost \$800,000 were received. There were 650 donors of which 80% were new donors. Donors were able to choose where they wanted their donations directed.

### Bequest Society Lunch

A lunch was held on 2 October 2019 and about 35 people have indicated a commitment to making a bequest. The University provides flexible options for people who wish to leave a bequest to support students or research.

### University Chancellors Council (UCC)

#### *Model Code for Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech in Higher Education:*

At the October meeting of the University Chancellors' Committee (UCC), the Chancellors supported the adoption of the revised draft Model Code on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech in Australian Universities. The Chancellor advised the Board that it is intended that the University will subscribe to the principles set out in the draft Model Code, whilst referring back to current documents such as the Code of Conduct Policy, the Board of Trustees Ethical Framework and the Charter on Academic Freedom to be adopted by Academic Senate, all of which are considered to be in alignment with the principles set out in the draft Model Code.

#### *Vice-Chancellors' Remuneration:*

The UCC agreed that remuneration was a matter in which university autonomy should prevail. However, the UCC discussed the merits of adopting a Code of Principles for the remuneration for Vice-Chancellors, although no agreement was reached. UCC agreed to commission an annual report from Mercers on Vice-Chancellors' total remuneration, compared across Australian universities in a standardised format.

#### *Cyber Security:*

There was significant discussion at UCC on cyber security and reporting, in the light of the recent attack that occurred at ANU.

### Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Course

The AICD course on University Governance continues to go from strength to strength since it was first piloted by the UCC in 2018. The final two courses for 2019 are fully booked with 4 courses scheduled in 2020.

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

The Vice-Chancellor provided a briefing to the Board on the University's engagement with China. Recent media attention is focussed on risks associated with Australian University research partnerships with China, and Minister Tehan has announced the establishment of a University Foreign Interference Taskforce. Other factors such as the NSW Department of Education's withdrawal from the Confucius Institute, the US/China trade war and the democracy protests in Hong Kong, as well as the ongoing continuing reliance of the University sector on the international student market, have all placed pressure on the University's engagement with its Chinese partners.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised that the University takes a cautious and sensible approach to its relationships with individual partners in China. The University's reliance on the Chinese student market is modest in comparison to other universities, and research collaborations are not in high risk areas such as new technology development. The University will continue to focus on well-established and mutually beneficial sets of relationships in areas such as Traditional Chinese Medicine; The Research-Oriented School-Engaged Teacher Education (ROSETE) program with Ningbo University and the NSW

Department of Education, health promotion and agriculture focussing on food security and technology.

Further updates will be provided to the Board on these issues. The University's feedback to the Foreign Interference Guidelines will be forwarded to the Board via Audit and Risk and Board Executive Committees.

The Vice-Chancellor then presented his report and highlighted a number of aspects, including:

#### Performance Based Funding

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on Performance Based Funding and noted that the model will have a modest impact on the budget for 2020, but will become more materially significant over time. The model will comprise four performance measures, including graduate outcomes, student success, student experience and equity participation. Graduate employability has the greatest weighting at 40%.

#### Arts and Culture Decadal Plan

The University officially launched the Arts and Culture Decadal Strategy 2019-2029 at the Peter Shergold Building on 26 September 2019.

#### Rankings Update

In the 2019-2020, THE World University Rankings, the University has ranked in the 251-300 band, a significant improvement of two ranking bands on the 2018-2019 rankings of 351-400. The University's reputation scores have improved.

#### Research and Innovation

Professor Belinda Medlyn, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, has been awarded an Australian Laureate Fellowship through the Australian Research Council.

Three Western Sydney University researchers have been awarded a collective \$2.8 million in Future Fellowship funding by the Australian Research Council:

- Associate Professor Juan Salazar, School of Humanities and Communication Arts
- Dr James East, School of Computing Engineering and Mathematics
- Associate Professor Jeff Powell, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

The University has also been awarded \$1.4 million in grant funding for diabetes research through the National Health and Medical Research Council's Partnership Programme led by Professor David Simmons of the School of Medicine and the Translational Health Research Institute.

#### SAGE Athena SWAN Institutional Bronze Award

The University has successfully achieved the Athena Bronze Award from Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE).

#### Registration on the Commonwealth Register for Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)

TEQSA has confirmed an extension of the University's CRICOS registration until 21 November 2025, which allows the University to continue to offer courses to international student visa holders.

#### Caddens Corner – Sod-Turning Ceremony

The Vice-Chancellor drew the Board's attention to the 'sod-turning' ceremony for the Caddens Corner neighbourhood shopping centre held on 12 September 2019.

### Load Update

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on student load and noted that University is where it expected to be consistent with previous reports to the Board.

### Open Day 2019

The University held two successful Open Days at the Parramatta South and Parramatta City campuses on 18 August 2019 and Liverpool City campus on 21 September 2019.

### Good Universities Guide 2020

The 2020 edition of the Good Universities Guide was released on 1 October 2019. The University's scores are consistent with the previous year, or have improved.

### Staffing Matters

Distinguished Professor Annemarie Hennessy AM has been appointed as the Executive Dean of the Joint Medical Program between the University and Charles Sturt University for a period of five years.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Scott Holmes for his contribution to the University over the past six years as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Interim Dean, School of Business and most recently as Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

## **2.3 Academic Senate Report t [Open Session Item]**

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

### Senate Review Working Group

The Senate Review Working Group has reviewed membership of the standing committees of Senate, and proposed to implement the appointment of deputy chairs for each standing committee. The deputy chair will be chosen from the elected members of Academic Senate.

The Working Group has also proposed to increase the numbers of student representatives on Academic Senate to include International, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students and students with disabilities.

### Charter of Academic Freedom

A revised Charter of Academic Freedom will be tabled at the October meeting of Academic Senate for discussion and approval.

### Proposed Changes to the Student Misconduct Rule

The Chair of Academic Senate and the University Secretary and General Counsel provided an overview of proposed changes to the Student Misconduct Rule, including an increase in Category 1 sanctions that can be imposed by Deans, introduction of minimum sanctions for particular types of very serious misconduct, new definitions and direct reporting of research misconduct to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation). In accord with TEQSA's recommendation, the revised text will be set out in plain English. In addition, sanctions of permanent exclusion and expulsion will be noted on a student's official record consistent with the practice of other universities.

*[Ms Gabrielle Trainor joined the meeting via Zoom at 10.00am]*

The Chancellor noted that the proposed changes to the Revocation of Awards Rule, at Item 5.2, is a result of the changes to the Student Misconduct Rule as well as streamlining the process for investigation.

The Chair of Academic Senate also advised that Board that there is a Student Misconduct Rule webpage which provides a plain English, user-friendly guide to the Rule for staff and

students, as well as information for students about academic integrity and general misconduct.

The Board suggested some minor grammatical and editorial changes to the document that did not change the meaning or intent of the Rule. These will be reviewed by the University Secretary and General Counsel for incorporation into the final version of the Rule.

#### *Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees approved the revised Student Misconduct Rule, to take effect from 1 January 2020.**

[16/10/2019:3]

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

#### **3.1 Proposed Budget Parameters [Open Session Item]**

The Vice-President (Finance and Resources) provided the Board with a summary of the 2020-2022 proposed Budget parameters. Given the current policy and funding constraints being experienced in the Higher Education sector, a conservative approach has been taken in developing the proposed budget. Revenue projections are based on estimates of student load and are subject to risk, should student load numbers not be met. Commonwealth Government Support funding has been reflected at the 2017 funding cap levels, with a modest uplift in line with the Performance Based Funding Principles. The University will absorb the Enterprise Agreement salary increase of 2%. Implementation of a new Academic Structure will see an associated forecasted cost increase per annum. There will also be an increased investment in International Student Scholarships and Incentives.

The total investment in Research has increased by 4.7% to keep in line with the University's strategic objective to become a vibrant, research-led University with regional, national and global impact. The Budget also reflects a net return from the Western Growth and Commercial Development. The Finance and Investment Committee has reviewed the budget parameters in detail at its October meeting.

The Board requested benchmarking information across the sector to help assist it with understanding the University's financial position in comparison to other Universities. In NSW this information is captured in the Auditor-General's Report received each year. It was agreed to circulate the Auditor-General's 2018 Report to Board members.

The Vice-Chancellor drew the Board's attention to the fact that the University is restructuring the way the final Budget will be presented to the Board at the December meeting. The Budget will be presented within an Operational Planning Framework including the year in review, key performance data and associated trends and the triennial budget forecast 2020-22.

The Board discussed the international student market in Africa. The University is developing a strategy, and has held some workshops to consult and facilitate the process of attracting more overseas students from African countries. There has been an overwhelming response from staff who were all enthusiastic to strengthen relationships in Africa.

#### **3.2 Western Growth Update [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

*[Ms Linda O'Brien left the meeting at 10.26am]*

## **4. PRESENTATION**

### **4.1 Indigenous Strategy at Western Sydney University [Open Session Item]**

*[Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Strategy and Consultation, Professor Michelle Trudgett, joined the meeting at 10.45am for this Item]*

The Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Education, Strategy and Consultation, Professor Michelle Trudgett attended the meeting to provide Board members with an overview of the Indigenous Strategy at Western Sydney University.

Professor Trudgett presented an acknowledgment of country.

Professor Trudgett highlighted the goals of the Strategy, and provided an overview of the seven Strategic Objectives of the Indigenous Strategy and the top ten popular ideas that have emerged as part of the consultation process. The Board was provided with the proposed timeline and advised of a number of Roadshow Presentations in October 2019.

The Board discussed the concept of social procurement and it was agreed that the University should explore the merits of developing a policy in this area.

The Board also discussed the merits of implementing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), as many organisations have taken this approach. Professor Trudgett advised that this topic had divided the sector and many felt that too many RAP's became tokenistic once finalised, and that a strategy document was more useful. Professor Trudgett advised that, in consultation with Professor Sharon Bell, an Indigenous Futures Decadal Strategy will be developed.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Trudgett for her presentation.

*[Pro Vice-Chancellor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Strategy and Consultation, Professor Michelle Trudgett and Mr Bob Sahota left the meeting at 11.00am]*

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

### **5.1 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

### **5.2 Board Executive Committee [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

### **5.3 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

### **5.5 University Infrastructure Committee [Closed Session Item]**

*[Executive Director, Estate and Commercial, Mr Bill Parasiris joined the meeting at 11.25am]*

This item was considered in closed session.

*[Ms Carmel Hourigan and Mr Bill Parasiris left the meeting at 11.55am]*

**6. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING**

**6.1 Uses of the University Seal [Open Session Item]**

*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.**

**[16/10/2019:11]**

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**7. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE**

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 at 8.30am at the Parramatta South Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.10pm.

Confirmed by:

(Chair)



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(Date)

4/12/19

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