

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2022/1 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 23 February 2022 in Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South campus and via Zoom.

Present:

Board of Trustees members on Parramatta South campus

Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor)
Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)
Professor Robert Mailhammer (Chair of Academic Senate)
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Dr Linda O'Brien AM (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr Simon Hickey
Mr James Christian PSM
Mr Joseph Carrozzi AM
Ms Georgia Lee
Mr Lee Pinder
Mr Bob Sahota
Dr Geir Henning Presterudstuen
Ms Coralie Properjohn
Miss Rayaca Tayabally

Board of Trustees member via Zoom

Ms Natalia Vukolova

Apologies:

Ms Holly Kramer (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr Christopher Youness

In Attendance:

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)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

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

The Chair welcomed the newly appointed members of the Board.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership, gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Apologies

The Board noted apologies from Ms Holly Kramer and Mr Christopher Youness.

1.4 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. No new declarations were made.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 8 December 2021 meeting.

[23/2/2022:1]

1.6 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on items listed.

1.7 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.

[23/2/2022:2]

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 2.1.1, 3-3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 5.2.

2. REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor spoke to his report, noting the following.

- *Review of Universities Australia:* The Chancellor provided an update on the review of Universities Australia (UA), highlighting the importance of Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors working together closely to represent the sector and the ongoing discussions on the UA organisational structure. The Chancellor will attend a roundtable with the Chair of UA in the coming weeks.

- *National Conference on University Governance*: The National Conference on University Governance has been postponed to 12-14 October 2022, and will be a face to face event in Brisbane. The Chancellor encouraged members to attend that Conference and the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.
- *Vietnam trip*: A small delegation, including the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, will travel to Vietnam in March to visit the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City (UEH). A number of activities are planned, including a campus tour and opening ceremony for the new teaching facility, roundtable with industry partners, dinner with alumni, and conducting a graduation ceremony for the University's Vietnam-campus graduands. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor will host a live broadcast with Board members on 24 March 2022, to introduce the Vietnam campus.
- *Western Growth Campus Tour*: The Chancellor encouraged members to attend the Western Growth Campus Tour on 25 March 2022.

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

This item was considered in closed session.

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

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following items in his report:

- *Vaccination Strategy and Return to Campus Strategy*: The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost provided an update on the University's strategies noting that face to face teaching will return for Autumn session. The University is continuing to implement its Return to Campus Strategy with staff. The University will not mandate vaccination, except where public health orders require it. After 28 February, unvaccinated staff and students may attend campus, but must have a negative PCR test or RAT within 72 hours prior. The University will mandate masks for student facing environments, and will strongly recommend masks for all indoor settings.
- *Student Load Update*: The Vice-President (People and Advancement) provided an update, noting that commencing load numbers are strong, with most Schools expected to meet or exceed targets. The University is above target for international students however, there will be a slower than anticipated return to the 2019 target. The University has introduced a Bridging the Digital Divide campaign, which, on enrolment, provides low-SES students with a \$1,000 digital voucher, to use on technology (hardware, software and Wi-Fi) to support their studies. Board members noted the positive conversion rates for this cohort, and queried the post-census care strategy for this group of students. The Board were advised that the Western Success initiative will provide advisors to ensure students have every chance of succeeding.
- *2022 Times Higher Education Young Universities Ranking*: The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University has improved its position, moving from 34th to 31st.
- *Alternative Credentials*: The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) spoke to the paper on alternate credentials, noting that there is a large amount of work underway. The University is well-positioned to influence the national and state agenda on alternative credentials through active participation in many initiatives through 21C. The Board discussed the challenges of required changes to the Australian Qualifications Framework to accommodate the growth of alternate credentials.
- *Student Experience Survey*: The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) provided an update on the Student Experience Survey outcomes.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

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

- *Review of the NSW Vocational Education and Training sector*: The Chancellor presented to members of Senate on the review undertaken by himself and David Gonski AC.

- *Science in Australia Gender Equity SAGE*: The SAGE Project Officer, and Director of Academic Planning, Sport and Exercise Science presented on Science in Australia Gender Equity.
- *Academic Policy Review*: At its 10 December meeting, Academic Senate approved the *Revised Progression Policy* and *Curriculum Publication Procedures*.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 Election of Deputy Chancellor [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor advised the Board that at the close of nominations, there was only one valid nomination in the Deputy Chancellor election, which was received for Ms Elizabeth Dibbs. In accordance with section 14(1) of the *Western Sydney University Act 1997*, Ms Dibbs is recommended to be elected as Deputy Chancellor for a third term.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees:

- 1. noted the report of the Returning Officer for the election of the Deputy Chancellor;**
- 2. approved that Ms Elizabeth Dibbs, being the only valid nominee, is duly elected as Deputy Chancellor of Western Sydney University, and resolves:**
 - a. to exempt Ms Dibbs from s.38(2) of the *Western Sydney University Act 1997* to enable her to be re-appointed for a third consecutive term; and**
 - b. that the term of office is to commence on 24 February 2022 and conclude on 31 December 2025, pursuant to clause 5(2) of the *Western Sydney University Bylaw 2017*;**
- 3. appointed Ms Elizabeth Dibbs as the “relevant Deputy Chancellor”, pursuant to clause 7(3) of Schedule 1 of the *Western Sydney University Act 1997*, for the duration of her term as Deputy Chancellor.**

[23/2/2022:3]

3.2 Review of Board Committees’ Structure and Charters [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor introduced the paper on the Board Committees’ structure and Charters, noting three key changes: the establishment of the new People and Culture Committee (PCC), which would have oversight of culture and wellbeing of the University; a realignment and clarification of areas of responsibility in the current Board Committee Charters; and the review and refresh of all Charters to ensure consistency.

Any Board members interested in joining the PCC or other Board Committees, are directed to contact the Chancellor. Members were supportive of the recommendations.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved:

- 1. The establishment of the People and Culture Committee, as a committee of the Board of Trustees, which is to be constituted and operated in accordance with the People and Culture Committee Charter dated February 2022;**
- 2. The appointment of the Chair of the People and Culture Committee as a member of the Board Executive Committee for a term from 24 February 2022 to 31 December 2025;**
- 3. The revised Charters of the Board Executive Committee, Audit and Risk Committee, Finance and Investment Committee, and the University**

- Infrastructure Committee, all dated February 2022, to replace the existing Charters; and
4. The new Board Executive Committee Procedures dated February 2022. [23/2/2022:4]
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3.3 Western Growth Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.4 Transformation Program Update [Open Session Item]

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost introduced the paper on the update on the Transformation Program, and advised the Board that The College will be included in the suite of programs to deliver alternate credentials.

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.

[Miss Rayaca Tayabally joined the meeting at 11.36am]

4.3 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.4 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*.

[23/2/2022:12]

5.2 Chancellor Nomination and Election Process [Closed Session Item]

[Deputy Chancellor Dibbs left the meeting at 11.47am]

This item was considered in closed session.

6. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 13 April 2022 at 8.30am in Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.55am.

Confirmed by:

Pell...
(Chair)

13/4/22
(Date)