

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting **2019/2** of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 10 April 2019, Boardroom, Building EB.2.23, Parramatta campus.

Present

Board of Trustees Members

Professor Peter Shergold AC, Chair and Chancellor
Professor Barney Glover AO, Vice-Chancellor and President
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs, Deputy Chancellor
Ms Carmel Hourigan, Deputy Chancellor
Ms Kerry Stubbs, Deputy Chancellor
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO
Mr Christopher Brown AM
Mr Joseph Carrozzi
Ms Alexandra Colman
Dr Ben Etherington (*until 10.30 am by Zoom*)
Mr Peeyush Gupta AM (*arrived at 8.34 am*)
Dr David Harland
Ms Holly Kramer
Ms Georgia Lee
Dr Linda O'Brien AM (*arrived at 8.37 am*)
Associate Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy, Chair Academic Senate
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO

Apologies

Ms Nicole Gismondo

In attendance

Professor Scott Holmes, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Professor Deborah Sweeney, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation
Professor Sharon Bell AM, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategy and Planning
Mr Peter Pickering, Vice-President, Finance and Resources
Mr Angelo Kourtis, Vice-President, People and Advancement
Ms Helen Fleming, University Secretary and General Counsel
Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Governance Services
Ms Hannah McLean, Associate Director, Secretariat (Minutes)
Ms Narelle Vance, Administrative Assistant (Meeting Support)

(For Item 3.1 only)

Mr Darren Greentree, Executive Director, Financial Operations
Mr Ian Goodwin, Deputy Auditor-General, NSW Audit Office

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

The Board noted apologies from Ms Nicole Gismondo.

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.

The Chancellor made a declaration of interest in relation to Item 4.6.1 (Unsolicited Proposal) and advised he would recuse himself from discussion of that item.

Ms Gabrielle Trainor advised that she has joined the Board of the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Authority.

1.4. Confirmation of Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 20 February 2019 meeting subject to one change identified during discussions.

[10/4/2019:1]

1.5. Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Chair noted that the updated action sheet will be circulated out of session, and that all existing action items were either in progress or to be addressed during this meeting.

1.6. Starring of Items

Resolution

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

[10/4/2019:2]

1.7. Arrangement of Business

The Chair noted that the main order of business was approval of the annual audited accounts and that representatives from the NSW Audit Office would be present for items 3.1 and 3.2. It was agreed that the order of business be rearranged to give these items preference as necessary.

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:

Times Higher Education Innovation and Impact Rankings

The Chancellor noted the outstanding result for the University in these inaugural rankings of sustainability, measured against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The University ranked highest in Australia and 11th globally, demonstrating the University's commitment to its mission.

Key External Meetings

The Chancellor noted his recent travel to China with the Vice-Chancellor and Deans, with highlights including meetings with senior executives at Chinese universities, alumni functions and meeting with the Australian Ambassador in Beijing.

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

The Vice-Chancellor presented his report and highlighted a number of issues.

Board Strategy Day 2019

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the matters to be discussed at the Board of Trustees Strategy Day in June, with a focus on the University's new strategic planning cycle over the next 6 years. Topics will include post-secondary education in Australia, the sustainability ratings and their impact on strategic planning, the University's indigenous strategy and an Arts and Culture Strategy update.

Federal Budget

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the relevant issues coming out of the 2019 Federal Budget, including an \$18 million allocation for the joint program in medicine between the University and Charles Sturt University, which will establish the program and the regional medical research institute being set up at CSU.

French Review – second submission

The Vice-Chancellor noted the final report produced by Hon Robert French under the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Australian Higher Education Providers. That report proposes that the model code be adopted, with no changes proposed to the *Higher Education Standards Act*.

Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)

Professor Sweeney highlighted the 2018 ERA results, which are the strongest results for the University to date.

Load Update

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on student load and noted that there was a higher attrition rate than for previous years, with overall numbers under target for domestic students.

Proposed use of corpus funds

The Vice-Chancellor and Professor Kirkpatrick spoke to the proposed use of corpus funds for the 21C Curriculum project and to increase activity to focus on research and improving teaching and learning quality. The work of the 21C project focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals to best position the students for the future. Further investment is planned to sustain the University's rising reputation over the next 5 years.

The Board was supportive of the first allocation of corpus funds, noting that the corpus operating protocols will be reconsidered at a future Board meeting, and agreed to continue

discussions around the contestability and capacity to support strategic initiatives.

Professor Holmes left the meeting at 9.52 am and returned at 9.55 am.

Ms Kramer left the meeting at 10.17 am.

Casualisation of workforce

Professor Bell highlighted the further work that is required to better understand the University's casual workforce. The University will engage with the various stakeholder groups within the casual academic staff cohort to develop strategies to manage their individual needs around work opportunities.

MyVoice Survey results

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the MyVoice survey will be repeated in 2020, and that he is currently undertaking campus visits and engaging with staff and students.

2.3. Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

The Chair, Academic Senate highlighted aspects of her written report, including:

- External Review of Academic Senate – the Review Panel attended the February Senate and interviewed a number of members. An interim report will be tabled at the next Academic Senate meeting with a number of recommendations.
- Student voice – a new standing item at Senate invites students to report on student representation and engagement. The Chair is working with the Student Representative Council to obtain feedback on matters to be discussed at Senate.
- Academic freedom – Senate has agreed to pursue a charter and a Vice-Chancellor-sponsored symposium on academic freedom and freedom of speech will be arranged on a date (to be advised) in late May/early June.

The Chair, Academic Senate requested feedback from the Board regarding a new form of Senate reporting that will present information in alignment with the *Higher Education Standards Framework*, identifying the areas of its delegated authority. The Board requested that this information should be received once per year prior to the finalisation of the University's annual report.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1. Assurance of Internal Controls [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2. Audited Financial Statements 2018 [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

In Camera Session

Members of the Board of Trustees and NSW Audit Office representatives met for an in camera session without executive and staff members present.

Ms Kramer re-entered the meeting at 10.57 am.

NSW Audit Office representatives and WSU Executive Director, Financial Operations left the meeting at the conclusion of this item at 10.58 am.

Ms Hourigan entered the meeting following the break at 11.14am.

3.3. Annual Report and Board Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor presented the Annual Report, and highlighted a number of matters in the Annual Report, including the summary of the key Board deliberations in 2018, the University's compliance with the Voluntary Code of University Governance, the Western Growth program and the University's re-registration with TEQSA.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees:

- 1. Noted the relevant sections of the Annual Report that pertain to the Board of Trustees;**
- 2. Approved the Western Sydney University Annual Report 2018, including the Board of Trustees report, and authorised the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to sign the letter of submission to the Minister in accordance with section 9A (e) of *The Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*.**

[10/4/2019:5]

3.4. Ethical Framework – Update Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor provided an update on the Ethical Framework and noted that concerns raised in previous meetings had now been addressed. The Framework was approved subject to one minor change raised during discussions and will now become a public document and be included with all future Board papers. It was noted that the University Investment Policy would be reviewed in 2020.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the Western Sydney University Ethical Framework for University Governance, and noted that the Framework will be included in the papers for each Board meeting, and promulgated with the wider University community.

[10/4/2019:6]

3.5. Western Growth Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.5.1. Nirimba Freehold Settlement [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. External Relations Working Party [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

Ms Kramer left the room at 12.17 pm.

4.5. Foundation Council [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.6. University Infrastructure Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING

The Chancellor returned to the meeting at 12.25 pm.

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 University Seal Policy.
[10/4/2019:12]

5.2. Board of Trustees Strategy Day

The Vice-Chancellor noted that the Board of Trustees Strategy Day will be held on 13 June 2019 at the Peter Shergold Building. Board members were provided with advance copies of a publication, *Voices in Leadership*, which will be launched on that day.

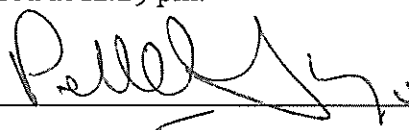
6. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 12 June 2019 at 1.00 pm at the Parramatta South Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.29 pm.

Confirmed by

Chair



Date

12/6/19

STRATEGIC INFORMATION SESSION

The Board held a lunch time strategic information session immediately following the Board meeting.

State of Play and Looking Ahead

Professor Amir Mahmood, Dean of the School of Business, gave a presentation to the Board that included discussion on declining trends in student load within the School, research priority research initiatives, external engagement initiatives, internationalisation and the new and revised programs and units to be delivered both on campus and online within the School.