

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2020/5 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 5 August 2020, in Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South Campus and by Zoom.

Present: Board of Trustees present in Boardroom, Parramatta South Campus
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)
Dr Ben Etherington
Dr David Harland
Ms Naomi Hastings

Board of Trustees present by Zoom
Ms Carmel Hourigan (Deputy Chancellor)
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO
Mr Joseph Carrozzi (*arrived at 8.35am*)
Ms Holly Kramer
Ms Georgia Lee
Ms Rose Lewis
Dr Linda O'Brien AM
Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate)
Mr Bob Sahota
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO

Apologies: Mr Peeyush Gupta AM

In Attendance: Western Sydney University in attendance by Zoom
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
Mr Angelo Kourtis (Vice-President, People and Advancement)
Professor Simon Barrie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)
Ms Helen Fleming (University Secretary and General Counsel)

Western Sydney University present in Boardroom, Parramatta South Campus
Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources)
Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and International)
Professor Yi-Chen Lan (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Global Development and Provost, Vietnam Campus) (Observer)
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)
Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)
Ms Desiree Mulley (Senior Governance Officer) (Meeting Support)

(For Item 4.1 only)
Professor Peter Hutchings, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and observers and acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which the Board met and paid respects to their Elders past and present. He declared the meeting open and confirmed that there was a quorum present.

1.2 Apologies

The Board noted one apology from Mr Peeyush Gupta.

1.3 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.

The Chancellor advised the Board that the Commonwealth Expert Panel into whether Ordinary Seaman Edward “Teddy” Sheehan should be awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross has finalised its report, with recommendations to the Prime Minister. This can now be removed from the Board of Trustees – Register of Interests.

Dr Ben Etherington advised the Board (under item 3.2.1) that he has been invited to join the Western Sydney Leadership Dialogue’s Housing Reference Group.

Deputy Chancellor Carmel Hourigan advised the Board (under item 3.2) that she will join Charter Hall at the end of the year and is currently speaking to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor about whether conflicts of interest will prevent her continued involvement with the Board of Trustees.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 10 June 2020 meeting.

[5/8/2020:1]

1.4.1 Confirmation of Board of Trustees Strategy Day Minutes

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 11 June 2020 meeting.

[5/8/2020:2]

The Chair spoke to the proposed recommendations attached as an addendum to the Board Strategy Day minutes. These recommendations reflect the general discussions that occurred during the Strategy Day and have been refined by the Chair and the Vice-Chancellor. The Chair asked the Chair of Academic Senate and the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor to provide an update on strategic planning.

Professor Possamai-Inesedy advised the Board that further consultation on the strategic plan has occurred which included student representatives from Academic Senate, Board of

Trustees, and 21 C Curriculum partners with the focus on the language and mission statement.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the strategic plan is developing well, thanks to the contribution of Board members on the Strategy Day. The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the positioning statement contextualises the strategic plan and the University's response to current, and ongoing, challenges.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Possamai-Inesedy and Professor Stout for their work on the strategic plan.

Resolution

That the Board of Trustees resolved that:

- 1. the Vice-Chancellor, after appropriate consultation with the University community, finalise the University's strategic plan - *Sustaining Success 2021-2026* - and present drafts to the Board progressively, with the final draft to be considered by the Board at the December 2020 meeting;**
- 2. *Sustaining Success* is drafted cognisant of the following which the University has identified from its response to the current health and economic crisis of COVID-19, in particular to:
 - a) strengthen relationships with governments;**
 - b) build on the success of Western Growth to address financial vulnerability;**
 - c) develop new models of international engagement and student recruitment to manage volatility and geopolitics;**
 - d) develop medium- and long-term strategies to rebuild and reshape the University over the period to 2026 consistent with the University's existing strategic direction and decadal plans;**
 - e) drive efficiencies and review business models for a more competitive future operating environment; and**
 - f) continue to maintain high levels of visibility internally and externally.****
- 3. *Sustaining Success* embrace the following strategic objectives, namely that:
 - a) students are placed at the centre of the strategic plan;**
 - b) the University's distinctive role and mission is to be highlighted;**
 - c) sustainability, broadly defined, defines our educational and social purpose;****and note that the strategic plan will:**
 - d) outline the University's focus for the next three years;**
 - e) re-establish a sound financial base;**
 - f) reshape the University's teaching, research and community engagement;**
 - g) be written and presented so that it speaks to staff, students and alumni in language that resonates with them.****

[5/8/2020:3]

1.5 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on items listed.

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.

[5/8/2020:4]

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 3.1, 3.2, 3.2.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5.

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

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

On behalf of the entire Board the Chancellor thanked and acknowledged Professor Kirkpatrick for her dedication and commitment to Western Sydney University, noting that this would be her last meeting of the Board.

The Chancellor's report was taken as read.

Advocacy

The Chancellor advised the Board that a group of Chancellors were lobbying the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to address the significant challenges faced by universities due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So far they have had only modest success.

Graduations

The Chancellor advised the Board that the University has modelled a number of options to address the increasing backlog of graduation ceremonies, with a hybrid approach being considered.

The Vice-President, People and Advancement advised the Board that several innovative options are being explored to provide a virtual graduation experience using IT/Digital technologies. A detailed proposal will be brought to the Board at its next meeting.

Review of Senior Secondary Pathways

The Chancellor briefed the Board on the findings of the *Review of Senior Secondary Pathways*, noting that the final report is being considered by the COAG Education Council and has been released for public discussion. The Chancellor offered to hold a webinar for Board members and staff of the University to provide further information on the review.

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

The Vice-Chancellor's report was taken as read.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted a number of items, including:

True Reward

The Vice-President, People and Advancement spoke to the True Reward early offer program noting that in early 2020, the University re-positioned the program to take account of the challenges of COVID-19. As a result, the University introduced offers based on Year 11 results. The University integrated the early offer program with the Alpha Employability Program, with 90% of students engaging with the platform. The True Reward program has

several conditions when an offer is made, including the requirement for students to complete the HSC. The program has received positive feedback from the School community.

The Vice-President, People and Advancement advised the Board that the University recently made the first tranche of early offers and was the first university to do so at scale. Early indications are positive with an increased number of inquiries to the University about the program.

WSU-CSU Joint Program in Medicine

The agreement for the Western Sydney University and Charles Sturt University Joint Program in Medicine has been signed by both parties. The program has been recommended by a review committee for accreditation by the Australian Medical Council and will commence in 2021.

General Staffing Matters

Professor Kevin Dunn has been appointed to the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research.

Professor James Arvanitakis has been appointed to the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor, Engagement.

Professor Brian Stout has been appointed to the position of Dean, School of Social Sciences.

Professor Kerry London, Dean of the School of Built Environment has resigned from the University to commence a position at Torrens University as Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

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

Policy Variations or Suspensions in response to COVID-19

A number of policy variations or suspensions in response to COVID-19 have been ratified by Academic Senate, including the GPA Neutral Scheme – School of Medicine, Articulations Pathways Policy and the Articulation Pathways Procedures and Examinations Policy – Deferred Examination Provisions.

Proctored Exams

At the June Senate meeting, a student report was tabled detailing concerns about the University's use of the ProctorU examination program. Discussions at the meeting highlighted that students were seeking clear communication and transparency around the use of ProctorU, further support in access and stronger guidelines for those who have an Academic Integration Plan.

Strategic Plan consultation

At the June Senate meeting, members discussed the University's priorities over the next few years, discussing themes such as transparency, a student-centred University and working with the community.

The Chair of Academic Senate thanked Deputy Chancellor Dibbs for attending the 19 June 2020 meeting.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 Investment Policy [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Western Growth [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2.1 Werrington Redevelopment Delivery Planning [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4. PRESENTATION

4.1 Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Cluster [Open Session Item]

[Professor Peter Hutchings, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) joined the meeting at 12.30pm for this item]

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences), Professor Peter Hutchings, attended the meeting to provide Board members with an overview of the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Cluster.

The Cluster consists of the School of Business, School of Education, School of Humanities and Communication Arts, School of Law and School of Social Sciences. The Cluster has a close link to the Institute for Culture of Society, Whitlam Institute and Australia China Institute for Arts and Culture.

Professor Hutchings highlighted the Cluster's cross-disciplinary research, including Urban Living Futures at Werrington, Transforming Early Education and Child Health, Young and Resilient Research Centre.

Professor Hutchings spoke to: the Cluster's twenty-five Fields of Research; global rankings; 2020-2022 Cluster goals; how the Cluster is engaging with the Flight Path, Western Health, and Western Sydney Creative decadal strategies, and the Indigenous Strategy; and the challenges and opportunities for the Cluster.

[Professor Peter Hutchings, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences) left the meeting at 1.00pm at the conclusion of this item]

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 External Relations Working Party [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5.4 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5.5 University Infrastructure Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING

6.1 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 Usage Policy.

[5/8/2020:11]

7. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 8.30am by Zoom.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Confirmed by:

(Chair)



(Date)

7/10/20
