

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Minutes** of meeting 2019/3 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 1.00pm on Wednesday 12 June 2019, Conference Room 2, Level 9, Peter Shergold Building, 169 Macquarie Street, Parramatta.

**Present:** Board of Trustees  
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) (*arrived 2.07pm*)  
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO  
Mr Christopher Brown AM (Pro-Chancellor)  
Dr Linda O'Brien AM  
Dr Ben Etherington  
Ms Alexandra Coleman  
Ms Nicole Gismondo  
Dr David Harland  
Ms Georgia Lee  
Associate Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate)

**Apologies:** Mr Peeyush Gupta AM  
Ms Holly Kramer  
Mr Joseph Carrozzi  
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO  
Ms Carmel Hourigan (Deputy Chancellor)

**In Attendance:** Western Sydney University  
Ms Theresa Kelly (Acting University Secretary and General Counsel)  
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)  
Professor Scott Holmes (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 Naomi Hastings (Incoming Postgraduate Elected Member) (*arrived 1.21pm*)  
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)  
Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)  
Ms Emily Preval (Governance Officer) (Meeting Support)

(*For Item 2.2 only*)

Mr Kerry Holling, Chief Information & Digital Officer

(*For Item 4.1 only*)

Professor Ian Anderson, Institute Director, Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment

## **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 Acknowledgement of Country**

The Chancellor gave an acknowledgement of country.

### **1.3 Apologies**

The Board noted apologies from Mr Peeyush Gupta, Mr Joseph Carrozzi, Ms Holly Kramer, Ms Carmel Hourigan and Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO.

### **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.

In relation to Item 3.1.1, Mr Ben Etherington declared that his partner has worked for Evolve.

### **1.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Board requested a minor amendment to the wording in the confidential minutes on item 4.1 (Audit and Risk Committee), requesting the inclusion of the words “as set out in the minutes” after the word “developed” in the first paragraph.

*Resolution*

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**That, subject to the minor amendment to item 4.1 of the confidential minutes, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 10 April 2019 meeting.**

**[12/6/2019:1]**

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

The Board noted the actions taken on items listed. It was noted that the review of the Investment Policy in 2020 was omitted from the list of action item from the 10 April 2019 meeting, and the action list will be updated accordingly to reflect this.

### **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.**

**[12/6/2019:2]**

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## **1.7 Arrangement of Business**

The following items were identified as being considered in closed session: 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.4, 3.2, 3.3, 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:

#### UCC Meeting and joint UA/UCC lunch

The Chancellor noted that he has stepped down as Chair of the University Chancellors Council (UCC). At the recent Universities Australia (UA)/UCC joint meeting in May the Chancellors discussed developing benchmarks for the remuneration for Vice-Chancellors.

#### Academic Freedom/Freedom of Speech

The other major item discussed at the UCC meeting was the model code developed by the Hon Robert French AC as part of the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Higher Education Providers commissioned by the Minister.

The Chancellor noted that the model code, although rather prescriptive, is well balanced and careful in what is being proposed, and suggested it should be considered positively

It was agreed that the final draft of a model code being revised by UCC would be brought back to the next Board meeting for discussion.

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

*[The Chief Information and Digital Officer, Mr Kerry Holling joined the meeting at 1.09pm]*

The Vice-Chancellor invited the Chief Information and Digital Officer to speak to the Board to provide an update on the University's Cyber-Security strategy, particularly in the light of the recent data security breach reported at the Australian National University.

#### Cyber-Security

The Chief Information and Digital Officer, Mr Kerry Holling attended the meeting to provide the Board with an update on the University's Cyber-Security noting that the Audit and Risk Committee and the University Infrastructure Committee have engaged with ITDS regarding cyber-security protocols and vulnerabilities.

Western Sydney University has a very different IT model in operation to the ANU. However, the Chief Information and Digital Officer advised the Board that the University engaged external consultants to review our cyber security framework and a risk and issues register has been created alongside other work by ITDS.

*[The Chief Information and Digital Officer, Mr Kerry Holling left the meeting at 1.40pm]*

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

#### Federal Election

The re-election of the Coalition Government will not provide significant funding relief for the higher education sector.

### Academic Restructure update

The implementation phase for the revised academic structure continues. Interim Dean, Planning roles and appointments will be finalised shortly. The names for the Schools to be established have now also been finalised as follows:

- School of Built Environment;
- School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences;
- School of Engineering;
- School of Health Sciences;
- School of Psychology;
- School of Science; and
- School of Social Sciences.

### Student Load

Student load has stabilised post 31 March census date and load revenue is manageable for 2019.

### Whitlam Institute Exhibition: *Dedicated to the Dedicated*

The new exhibition is the first public display of a collection of artworks gifted to Gough and Margaret Whitlam in 1979, in recognition of their landmark support of the Arts in Australia.

### Public Policy Hub

The University, in collaboration with the University of Sydney and University of Technology, Sydney, have been awarded \$10 million by the NSW Department of Education to establish and lead an independent NSW Institute of Public Policy.

### Ramadan Iftar Dinner

The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor hosted a Ramadan Iftar Dinner which was attended by members of the Muslim community, a range of community partners, staff and students. The University recently introduced a Western Sydney University branded hijab which was shown at the Iftar and gifted to attendees.

### Shared Services Update

An independent review of the University's shared services has been commissioned, with a final report expected in mid-June.

### Distribution of corpus funds

At the April meeting, the Board noted a paper which detailed the proposed use of the corpus funds. Pursuant to Operating Protocols 1, 3 and 5, it is recommended to proceed with the two proposals for the confirmed funding for 2019, subject to the satisfactory investment performance of the Corpus for 2020-2023.

The Board were advised that a review of progress will be presented to the Board annually, with a particular focus on insuring that allocations support initiatives that go beyond business as usual

### Resolution

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**The Board of Trustees resolved to approve the Vice-Chancellor's recommendation for the allocation of:**

- 1 the 2019 total distribution of corpus funds of \$7 million, being \$2.5 million for teaching and learning and \$4.5 million for research; and**
- 2 the 2020 to 2023 distribution of corpus funds for the continued investment in the 2019 proposals, subject to the satisfactory investment performance of the Corpus.**

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[12/6/2019:3]

## General Staffing Matters

Professor Sev Ozdowski AM, Director of Equity and Diversity will shortly commence phased retirement.

Professor James Arvanitakis has accepted a 12-month Fulbright Fellowship as the Millard Simpson Chair of International Relations at the University of Wyoming, and Professor Kevin Dunn has been appointed as the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) in his absence.

Professor Katherine Gibson from the Institute for Culture and Society was recently announced as the Gough Whitlam and Malcom Fraser Visiting Professor of Australian Studies at Harvard University for the 2020 – 2021 academic year.

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

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to aspects of the written report, including the Academic Senate Review noting that the final report has been received and will be tabled at the Board meeting on 21 June 2019. The Board were advised that the report was positive with three main themes: student voice, critical debate and representation.

The Chair of Academic Senate provided the Board with an update on the Academic Freedom Forum co-hosted by the Vice-Chancellor.

At its April meeting, the draft Terms of Reference for the new cluster structure was provided to members for discussion and feedback.

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

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

This item was considered in closed session.

#### **3.1.1 Western Growth – History and Next Steps [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

#### **3.1.2 Liverpool Stage 2 [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

#### **3.1.3 Campbelltown Justice Precinct and Campbelltown CBD Campus [Closed]**

This item was considered in closed session.

#### **3.1.4 Sydney Olympic Park Centre of Sports Excellence [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

### **3.2 Future Food Systems CRC [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

### **3.3 SmartSat CRC [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

## **4. PRESENTATION**

### **4.1 Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment [Open Session Item]**

*[The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment Director, Professor Ian Anderson, joined the meeting at 3.45pm for this Item]*

The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment Director, Professor Ian Anderson attended the meeting to provide Board members with an overview of the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment.

Professor Anderson highlighted the research profile of the Institute, outlining the facilities, the staff/student profile, and areas of researcher excellence. He demonstrated the growth of the Institute in areas of external income, grant funding, research excellence and quality, as well as the outstanding outcomes in Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), which includes 8 fields of research rated as 'well-above world standard' (the highest ranking). Professor Anderson spoke of the growth in collaboration and internationalisation, international teaching programs, internal collaboration and the Global Centre for Land Based Innovation.

The Board commended the work of the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment and thanked Professor Anderson for the presentation.

*[The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment Director, Professor Ian Anderson, left the meeting at 4.20pm.]*

## **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.

### **5.4 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*

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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.**

**[12/6/2019:13]**

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**7. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE**

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 7 August 2019 at 8.30am at the Parramatta South Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.55pm

Confirmed by:

(Chair)

  
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(Date)

7/8/19  
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