

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2022/6 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 1.00pm on Wednesday 7 December 2022 in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Building EB, Parramatta South campus and via Zoom.

Present: Members present in Boardroom 1, Parramatta South campus
Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor)
Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)
Professor Sarah Zhang (Acting Chair of Academic Senate)
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Dr Linda O'Brien AM (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr Lee Pinder (Pro-Chancellor)
Dr Amanda Larkin
Mr Simon Hickey
Ms Georgia Lee
Dr Fiona Pacey
Ms Coralie Properjohn
Miss Rayaca Tayabally

Members present via Zoom
Ms Natalia Centellas (née Vukolova)
Mr James Christian PSM
Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch

Apologies: Ms Holly Kramer (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr Joseph Carrozzi AM

In Attendance: Ms Jennifer Westacott AO (Chancellor-elect)
Ms Jane Hutchison (University Secretary)
Professor Clare Pollock (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost)
Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources)
Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and International)
Professor Simon Barrie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)
Professor Michelle Trudgett (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership)
Dr Vineta Lopaticka (Chief of Staff) (Observer)
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)
Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)
Mrs Belinda Salvatori (Executive Assistant) (Meeting Support)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Chair gave an acknowledgement of country, declared the meeting open and confirmed a quorum was present.

The Chair welcomed members and observers, particularly the Chancellor-elect, Ms Jennifer Westacott AO.

The Chair acknowledged that this was the last meeting for Professor Sarah Zhang and Miss Rayaca Tayabally, and on behalf of the Board, thanked them for their contributions to the Board.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Ms Holly Kramer and Mr Joseph Carrozzi.

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. No new declarations were made.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board requested an amendment to the wording in the closed minutes on item 4.1 (Audit and Risk Committee), being the inclusion of the words “The Committee had been advised by management that Work Health Safety and Wellbeing resources had been reprioritised to assist the University with its COVID-19 response. Resources will now be directed to the WHS issues highlighted in the audit and to addressing outstanding WHS matters by July 2023, including the finalisation of a real time work health safety reporting system”, to replace the final sentence of the Internal Audit Reports section.

Resolution

That, subject to the amendment of item 4.1 of the closed minutes, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 5 October 2022 meeting.

[7/12/2022:1]

1.4.1 Confirmation of Rotary Resolution Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the Rotary Resolution held between 17 October 2022 and 21 October 2022.

[7/12/2022:2]

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 resolved to approve all unstarred items as having been considered and noted, and their respective recommendations as adopted.

[7/12/2022:3]

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 2.1.1, 3.1, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6.

2. REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor thanked the Board for the honours bestowed upon him, in particular the title of Emeritus Chancellor and the naming of an endowment fund in his honour, during recent farewell events.

The Chancellor spoke to his report, noting the following:

National Conference on University Governance

The Chancellor and several Board members attended the first post-COVID National Conference on University Governance in Brisbane on 11-13 October 2022. The Chancellor was a speaker at a session titled 'Policy Development for the Tertiary Sector'.

UA/UCC

The Chancellor noted that the inclusion of two Chancellors as observers on the Board of Universities Australia (UA) has been beneficial to the relationship of the University Chancellors' Council and UA.

Australian Universities Accord

The Chancellor noted the Vice-Chancellor's appointment to the panel on the Australian Universities Accord and that a working group comprised of NSW and ACT Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors has been established to assist with the NSW and ACT universities' response to the Australian Universities Accord.

HSC Early Offer Schemes

The Chancellor noted the concern of the Secondary Education sector and the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) on HSC Early Offer Schemes, in particular, the marketing and impact of these programs on high school students. NESA is working closely with NSW Vice-Chancellors on a set of principles to guide early offer programs.

2.1.1 Vice-Chancellor's Performance Plan and University Achievements and Challenges in 2022 and Priorities for 2023 [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.1.2 Board of Trustees 2023 Forward Program [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the Board of Trustees Forward Item Schedule for 2023.

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

The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chancellor for his support during 2022, and highlighted the following items in his report:

Australian Universities Accord

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board of the process that the panel will follow to review the priority areas Minister Clare has highlighted. A detailed consultation paper will be

distributed in early February 2023, and the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost will lead the University's response and provide regular updates to the Board.

Cyber Security Update

The Vice-President (Finance and Resources) provided the Board with an update on the steps the University has taken to combat cyber security, noting that a review is underway to develop a comprehensive cyber security strategy, which will be progressed through the University Infrastructure Committee and Audit and Risk Committee in 2023. The next steps will be to look at creating an identity management system, reducing data that is not essential for business purposes, and onboarding a new Chief Information Security Officer.

Campus events

There have been several campus events recently, including the opening of the Westmead Innovation Quarter by the Minister for Industry and Science, the Hon Ed Husic, and the opening of the Engineering Innovation Hub in Parramatta, by the NSW Premier the Hon Domonic Perrottet. The Federal Education Minister Jason Clare will open the new Bankstown campus on 12 December 2022. The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost attended the opening of the Whitlam House on 2 December, which had the Prime Minister and key members of the Whitlam family in attendance.

International Travel

- The Vice-Chancellor noted a successful trip to Taiwan, which built on strong institutional links in advanced manufacturing, sustainability, nursing and agriculture.
- The Chancellor-elect met with government officials after the G20 summit in Indonesia to discuss the University's proposed campus in Surabaya.
- The Vice-Chancellor noted a successful trip to India, hosting to a large audience with extensive media coverage on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and the need for greater collaboration between universities. The Vice-Chancellor also met with recruitment agents to discuss trends and emerging issues for international education.

Early Offer Programs

Through the NSW Vice-Chancellors Committee, the Vice-Chancellor is chairing a working group on early offer programs in NSW to assess their impact on students and to develop a set of guiding principles for such programs.

Secure Jobs/Better Pay Legislation

The Board discussed the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Secure Jobs, Better Pay) Bill 2022*, which was passed on 2 December 2022, and its potential impact on the university sector. It was noted that the legislation will apply to universities and that WSU's recent enterprise agreements will provide some industrial stability over the next four years.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

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

Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT)

Academic Senate discussed the QILT survey results and requested further presentations on the results to better inform and advise the Board of Trustees and to monitor teaching quality.

Student Survey and Student Experience

The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Futures), Chair of Senate Education Committee, advised Academic Senate that the Committee is focused on improving the student experience and academic literacy through the Library, and that discussions on improving student engagement through student surveys have occurred.

Student Report and Presentation

The Postgraduate, HDR Student Representative, presented a report on the low stipend for Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students. The Dean, Graduate Research School, will investigate this matter further, and report back to Academic Senate.

Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards (Co-CABs)

The key points discussed at the recent Co-CABs meeting included:

- The rise of contract cheating in higher education
- Early Offers/Entry Schemes for Year 12 students
- Overview of accreditation and the role of academic boards/senate
- Hybrid teaching and learning in the age of COVID.

The Acting Chair of Academic Senate thanked the Board of Trustees for the support she received during her time as Acting Chair.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 2023-2025 Operational Plan and Budget [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

[Ms Natalia Centellas (née Vukolova) left the meeting at 3.45pm]

3.2 Transformation Program Update [Open Session Item]

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost updated the Board on the Transformation Program, noting that it is progressing as it approaches the end of the first year. Most notably, the foundational key milestones and outcomes for each of the five initiatives have achieved good progress, although the Digital Acceleration project has been slightly impacted by the change in leadership in ITDS.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost will provide a deeper mid-way report on the Program in mid-2023.

3.3 Western Growth Update [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 Foundation Council [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.5 People and Culture Committee [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

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*.

[7/12/2022:10]

5.2 Recognition of the Chancellors Service [Open Session Item]

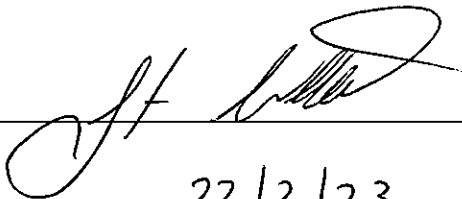
The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the extensive contribution that the Chancellor, Professor Peter Shergold, has given to the University over the last 12 years. The Board of Trustees thanked Professor Shergold for his strong commitment, dedication, and leadership, and wished him all the very best for the future.

6. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 22 February 2023 at 8.30am in Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

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

Confirmed by:
(Chair)



22/2/23
