

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of the meeting 2014/3 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney, held at 12.30pm on **Tuesday 3 June 2014 in the Drawing Room, The Langham, Sydney.**

Present: Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chancellor)
Professor Barney Glover (Vice-Chancellor)
Mr Michael Pratt (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Gillian Shadwick (Deputy Chancellor)
Mr Christopher Brown
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs
Mr Tim Ferraro
Ms Genevieve Gregor
Mr Elie Hammam
Ms Vivienne James
Ms Taylor Macdonald
Dr George Morgan
Mr Paul Newman
Ms Jenny Purcell
Mr Ian Stone
Ms Gabrielle Trainor
Associate Professor Paul Wormell

Apologies: Mr John Banks

In Attendance: Ms Rhonda Hawkins (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Ms Terri Anderson
Mr James Fitzgibbon
Ms Helen Fleming
Professor Scott Holmes
Mr Angelo Kourtis (from item 2.3)
Professor Kerri-Lee Krause
Mr Rob Lang (item 2.3)
Mr Peter Pickering
Ms Sharon Rigney, minutes
Mr Paul Rowland (from item 6.1)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1. Welcome

The Chancellor welcomed the Board members and noted that many of the agenda items will be discussed in more detail at the strategy meeting the following day.

1.2. Apologies

The Board accepted an apology from John Banks.

1.3. Declarations of Interest

The Chancellor made a declaration that he has been appointed Chair of the TEQSA Advisory Board. The Vice-Chancellor made a declaration that he is a member of the Legislation and Financing Working Group advising the Federal Government on certain aspects of the reform package. Gabrielle Trainor declared that she is no longer associated with the Leighton Holdings Advisory Board. Christopher Brown declared a conflict in regard to item 3.4, as he is a member of a board chaired by Kerry Schott.

1.4. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved to confirm the minutes and confidential minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on 9 April 2014, and the rotary resolution minutes from 5 May 2014.

1.5. Action Sheet from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions from previous meetings without discussion.

1.6. Starring of Items

In addition to procedural items (items 1.1 to 1.7), the following items were starred: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 6.5 and all items under 3.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved that all unstarred items be taken as considered and all recommendations in the attachments for them as adopted.

1.7. Arrangement of Business

The Board agreed with the Chancellor's suggestion that the meeting would consider items 2.3 and 3.4 under closed session. The remainder of the items would be discussed in open session.

2. MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION

2.1. Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor reported on the recent decision of the University to freeze fees for students enrolling and commencing in 2014, in order to provide some immediate certainty for students considering enrolling in the mid-year intake this year. The Foundation Council is working hard to develop a robust and innovative scholarship program across UWS and the Chancellor noted the Council members' valuable contributions. The Chancellor is chairing a biennial governance conference in October entitled "Governing the University of the Future" and encouraged interested Board members to attend.

2.2. Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the extensive coverage that UWS is achieving across all forms of media in response to the Federal Government's higher education reform package. The University has been ranked in the top 100 universities across the world that are less than 50 years old and this result is driven in part by our strong research output. Linda Taylor will be joining the University in August to take up the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor

(International) and will play a key role in further developing the University's international profile.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board considered the following items under closed session:

2.3 Parramatta CBD

3.4 Board Standing and Remuneration & Nominations Committees

2.3. Parramatta CBD

This item was discussed under closed session and resolutions were made in regard to the recommendations of the Evaluations Panel.

2.4. Research

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Development), Professor Scott Holmes, addressed the meeting to outline successes and challenges in the research portfolio at the University. Four key research themes have been identified for consultation and these include Education, Health and Well Being, Environmental Sustainability, and Urban Living and Society. Public funding for research is shrinking across the sector and the generation of research funds through innovation and engagement with the private sector will become more important.

2.5. Revised CGS/HELP Advance Payments for 2014 and the Impact on the UWS Budget

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Rhonda Hawkins, briefed the Board on the combined budget impacts of the Federal Government's proposed efficiency dividend and the failure to meet student load targets in UWS College diploma courses. Government funding for 2014 will be down on budget, and expenditure will need to be carefully managed for the remainder of the year in order to minimise the impact of these changes.

3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

3.1 Finance and Investment Committee (FIC)

The chair of the FIC outlined discussions at the meeting in regard to the challenges of the deregulated market. The committee also discussed the Parramatta CBD proposal and the manner in which the project may be delivered in a fiscally sound manner.

3.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee (ARMC)

Elizabeth Dibbs spoke to the ARMC report on behalf of the committee. The committee discussed the high fixed costs of operating a multi-campus university and the associated risks. Inconsistency of marking has been identified as a risk and the committee is satisfied that the matter is in hand. Disaster recovery is a major project and work continues to identify where data is stored across the University.

3.3 Academic Senate

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to his report and highlighted the following points:

- AQF and TEQSA compliance continue to be high priorities for Senate.
- Master of Research program is being developed and this will provide the pathway to the PhD.
- Senate will play a key role in curriculum approvals for the "The Open University UK" offerings.
- Red Tape taskforce recommended a review of academic governance of course and unit approvals and this is under discussion.

3.4 Board Standing and Remuneration & Nominations Committees

The Board discussed this item in closed session and passed resolutions on honorary awards.

3.5 University Infrastructure Committee (UIC)

The chair of UIC noted the report of the UIC held on 9 May. Janet Sayer has finished on the UIC after many years of association with the University on various boards and committees. The committee has welcomed three new members who bring a wealth of experience in IT and telecommunications. The committee was provided presentations on the student e-learning platform vUWS and the CUBE student app.

The Board noted that the 10 Year Strategic Plan for Commercial and Estate Development will be discussed at the strategy meeting the following and would consider the recommendation contained in the UIC report in the context of those discussions.

4 ADVISORY BODIES

4.1 Foundation Council

The Board noted a summary of the items discussed at the Foundation Council meeting held on 27 May. Minutes will be provided to the next meeting.

5 USES OF THE UNIVERSITY SEAL

The Board made the following resolution without discussion:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the uses of the University Seal since the last report, as detailed in the report provided to this meeting.

6 OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Our Future Action Program

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.2 Staffing Matters

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.3 Equity and Diversity Report

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.4 Red Tape Taskforce

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.5 The Academy Report

The Academy has exceeded its 2014 target and now has more than 500 students in the program. More than 40% of the Academy students are first in their family to attend university and the students are from diverse backgrounds and ages.

6.6 Unfunded Superannuation Liabilities Update

The Vice-Chancellor provided the Board with a verbal update on the most recent discussions regarding the unfunded superannuation liability. The NSW and Commonwealth governments are close to an agreement to share the cost of the unfunded liabilities, and it is proposed that the funding will be provided annually to the trustees of the superannuation scheme in

advance.

7. MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no matters raised by Board members.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held at 8.30am on Wednesday 10 September 2014, in the Board of Trustees Room, EZ, Parramatta Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4pm.

Confirmed by:

Chair

Date