



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2021/3 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 1.00pm on Wednesday 9 June 2021, in Room 15, Building J, Marcus Blackmore Building, 158 Hawkesbury Road, Westmead Campus.

Present: Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor)
Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)
Professor Alphaia Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate)
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO
Ms Natalia Vukolova
Mr Lee Pinder
Mr Bob Sahota
Mr Peeyush Gupta AM (*arrived at 1.10pm*)
Ms Holly Kramer (Pro-Chancellor)
Dr Ben Etherington
Dr David Harland
Ms Naomi Hastings
Ms Rose Lewis

Apologies: Ms Georgia Lee
Dr Linda O'Brien AM (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr Joseph Carrozzi

In Attendance: Ms Helen Fleming (University Secretary and General Counsel)
Professor Michelle Trudgett (Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources)
Professor Simon Barrie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)
Mr Angelo Kourtis (Vice-President, People and Advancement)
Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and International)
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)
Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)
Mrs Kylie Cooke (Senior Governance Officer) (Meeting Support)
Mrs Belinda Salvatori (Executive Assistant) (Meeting Support)

(For Item 4.1 only)

Professor Heather Horst, Institute Director, Institute for Culture and Society

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and observers, including Ms Jill Baker of Baker and Baptist, who was an observer as part of her external review of the Board. The Chancellor 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 apologies from Ms Georgia Lee, Pro-Chancellor Dr Linda O'Brien 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 a minor amendment to the wording in the confidential minutes on item 4.1 (Audit and Risk Committee), requesting the inclusion of the words "The University is seeking to move to a new level" under Cyber Security and "The Management team is closely monitoring and considers the project is on track to meet the new October 2021 timeline" under Student Management System.

Resolution

That, subject to the minor amendment to item 4.1 of the confidential minutes, the Board of Trustees resolved to approve the minutes and confidential minutes of its 14 April 2021 meeting.

[9/6/2021:1]

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.

[9/6/2021:2]

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 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's report was taken as read.

Strategy Day

The Chancellor noted the financial performance of Western Sydney University against other universities in the annual reports tabled in Parliament. The University's strong financial performance will be of advantage for the purposes of the Strategy Day discussions.

Meeting with Minister for Education and Youth

The Chancellor reported on the productive meeting held with the Hon. Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth, at the Universities Australia (UA) conference, where a number of policy issues relevant to the University were discussed.

UA Review

On 13 May 2021, a number of Chancellors of NSW universities met with Vice-Chancellors of NSW and ACT universities to discuss the UA Health Check Review. A summary document of the discussions is being finalised and will be circulated amongst participants.

[Mr Peeyush Gupta arrived at 1.10pm]

Workshop on Effective Chairing in Governance

The Chancellor reported on the recent workshop he and Deputy Chancellor Kerry Stubbs gave to senior staff of the University on how to chair an effective meeting, which was well received.

Australian Institute of Company Directors

The Chancellor encouraged Board members to attend one of the upcoming governance courses being given by the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

New Chancellor appointments

The Chancellor advised the Board of the following new appointments:

- Ms Sandra McPhee AM, as Chancellor for Southern Cross University; and
- The Hon. Mark Vaile AO, as Chancellor for the University of Newcastle.

Note that subsequent to the meeting Mr Vaile withdrew his nomination as Chancellor at the University of Newcastle.

Western Growth Campus Tours

The Chancellor advised that there are three proposed dates for the Western Growth Campus Tour and encouraged members to indicate preferred dates.

Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor Advisory Council

The Chancellor advised that the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor Advisory Council – Health Roundtable will be held on 30 June 2021.

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

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

Ministerial meetings

The Hon Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth, and Melissa McIntosh MP, Member for Lindsay, visited the Launch Pad startup/SME incubator at the Werrington campus on 19 May 2021. The Vice-Chancellor also reported on the meeting in Canberra at the request of Minister Tudge, which focussed on returning international students, the Commonwealth Government's international strategy, return to campus and the University's response to the Independent Review on Adoption of the Model Code on Freedom of Speech.

Safe Corridors Plan

The Vice-Chancellor gave an updated briefing on the progression of the Safe Corridors Plan with the NSW and Commonwealth Governments. An application has also been made to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to resolve any competition issues with the Plan.

AARNet

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that he been elected to the position of Director of Australia's Academic and Research Network (AARNet) Board, commencing 2 June 2021.

International Outreach

The University is continuing its international outreach program with Zoom meetings arranged with institutions in India and China.

Fair Work Act Changes

Changes to the *Fair Work Act 2009* relating to workplace rights and obligations for casual employees came into effect on 27 March 2021. The changes introduce a casual employment information statement, a definition of casual employment, and a pathway for casual employees to move to full-time or part-time (permanent) employment. The University is conducting an analysis of the impact of these changes, and the findings will be reported to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Sustaining Success 2021-2026 Mid-Year Report

The Committee noted the *Sustaining Success 2021-2026* Mid-Year Report. The University is still working on populating the data for some of the performance measures, which will be available at the Board's December meeting.

It was agreed that a "deep dive" on one of the *Sustaining Success 2021-2026* measures will be presented to the Board at each meeting commencing from February 2022.

Academic Rankings of World Universities Subject Rankings 2021

The University has continued to improve its rankings. In the 2021 Academic Rankings of World Universities (AWRU) Subject Rankings, the University ranked in 18 subjects and either improved or maintained worldwide ranking in 16 subjects. The University ranked 1st in Australia and 13th worldwide for Ecology.

Foreign Arrangements Update

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the University's Foreign Arrangements Working Group has focused on key areas, including establishing robust governance and risk frameworks, ensuring due diligence processes are proportionate to risk, developing a range of communication strategies, and an education program to raise awareness of foreign interference and relevant regulatory requirements.

General Staffing matters

Professor James Arvanitakis, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and Advancement) has resigned from the University to become Executive Director of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission. He will remain connected to the University as an adjunct.

Contract Cheating

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) provided the Board with a report on contract cheating matters advised by TEQSA.

Badanami Centre for Indigenous Education Update

The Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor advised that, although the *Sustaining Success* dashboard highlights the Indigenous student numbers as an area of concern, this is due to the aspirational target of 3% parity with the total student population. Indigenous student enrolments have increased significantly in the last year, by 10% from 2020 to 2021. There are 759 Indigenous students enrolled at the University, representing 1.94% of the total student population.

21C Project

Board members requested an update on the 21C project. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) advised the Board that the project pivoted in response to the COVID-19

pandemic and was re-launched in March 2021. It was agreed that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) will present a “deep dive” report on the 21C Project at a future Board meeting.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

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

Senate Executive Committee

The Senate Executive Committee recently approved updates to the schedules that outline the authorities and delegation for curriculum review. All matters approved by the Senate Executive Committee are tabled and ratified at the following Senate meeting.

Third Party Provider Committee

The Chair of Academic Senate advised the Board that at the 26 February meeting, Academic Senate approved the formation of the Third-Party Provider Committee (TPPC). The TPPC’s purpose will be to provide institutional oversight and act as an advisory group for Western Sydney University’s Third-Party Provider relationships.

The Chancellor acknowledged the work of Academic Senate on the Independent Review of Adoption of the Model Code on Freedom of Speech. The Board were advised that it is highly likely that an annual attestation statement of compliance with the Model Code will be required at the end of each year, as part of the annual report.

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 Parramatta North Redevelopment [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.1.2 Liverpool Health Education and Research Hub [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Modern Slavery Statement [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3 Biodiversity Stewardship Site [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4. PRESENTATION

[Professor Heather Horst, Director, Institute for Culture and Society, joined the meeting at 3.30pm for this item]

4.1 Institute for Culture and Society [Open Session Item]

The Director, Institute for Culture and Society, Professor Heather Horst, gave a presentation on the Institute for Culture and Society, outlining the new Research Programs 2021-2026, new areas of research and new engagement platforms.

New Research Program 2021-2026

Professor Horst spoke to five new research programs, including Automated World, Borders and Diversity, Cultural Infrastructures, Environment and Technology and Urban Futures. The Research Programs have been designed for mentorship and Institute sustainability, such as through senior researchers being coupled with Early Career Researchers and Mid-Career Researchers as program convenors. PhD students have also been integrated into the Research Programs.

New Areas of Research

Professor Horst spoke of a number of large projects within the Institute, including:

- Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Synthetic Biology, ARC Centre for Excellence for Automated Decision- Making and Society;
- ARC Future Fellowship on Australia a Space-Faring Nation: Imaginaries and Practices of Space Futures; and
- Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) - local and national collaborations building the evidence base on the impacts of mobile financial services for women and men in farming households in Laos and Cambodia.

New Engagement Platforms

Professor Horst spoke to new engagement platforms with partners such as Community Economies Institute, Instituto para la Inclusión Social y el Desarrollo Humano, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, the National Institute of Urban Affairs, World Vision and the Blue Mountains City Council. These partnerships connect research with community, industry and government, collaborate and develop Early Career Researchers and Mid-Career Researchers, engage with Sustainable Development Goals and integrate engagement with Research & Teaching.

Young & Resilient Research Centre

Professor Horst spoke to the Young & Resilient Research Centre, noting that the Young & Resilient team have collaborated with UNICEF and a range of other partners to investigate difference aspects of childhood in the digital age.

The Vice-Chancellor thanked Professor Horst for her presentation, noting that the Institute for Culture and Society are well regarded nationally and internationally. The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the number of views of The Conversation articles in the media in 2020.

[Professor Heather Horst, Director, Institute for Culture and Society, joined the meeting at 4.05pm for 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 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

The Board of Trustees resolved to approve the affixing of the University Seal to those documents listed in the attached report, pursuant to the University Seal Policy.

[9/6/2021:12]

7. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 4 August 2021 at 8.30am in Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5pm.

Confirmed by:

(Chair) 

(Date) 4.08.2021
