

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2022/5 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 5 October 2022 in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

Present:

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)
Ms Holly Kramer (Pro-Chancellor)
Dr Linda O'Brien AM (Pro-Chancellor)
Dr Amanda Larkin
Mr Simon Hickey
Mr Joseph Carrozzi AM
Mr James Christian PSM
Ms Natalia Vukolova
Ms Georgia Lee
Mr Lee Pinder
Dr Fiona Pacey
Ms Coralie Properjohn
Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch

Apologies:

Miss Rayaca Tayabally

In Attendance:

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)
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 Dr Amanda Larkin, newly appointed member to the Board of Trustees.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Miss Rayaca Tayabally.

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 open minutes on item 2.3 (Academic Senate Report), being the inclusion of the words “The Academic Senate meeting covered the sector wide issues”.

Resolution

That, subject to the minor amendment to item 2.3 of the open minutes, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 3 August 2022 meeting.

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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.

[5/10/2022:2]

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5. Item 6.1 was discussed In Camera.

2. REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor’s Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor spoke to his report, noting the following:

- *Inaugural James Martin Institute Oration* – The University hosted the inaugural James Martin Institute Oration on 28 September 2022. The Hon. Dominic Perrottet MP delivered a Headland Speech on Education. The event was attended by The Hon. Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Education.
- *International Travel* – the recent trip to the UK with the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost was a great success, focussing on university partnerships and post-Brexit opportunities. WSU’s #1 ranking in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings ensured much interest from European universities in forming collaborations with WSU.

- *HSC Early Entry Schemes* – in response to concerns raised by the NSW Education Standards Authority, the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee is working on a set of principles to guide the setting of early offer schemes.
- *Farewell events* – key dates for upcoming events include Town and Gown on 29 October, the Chancellor's Formal Farewell on 16 November and a breakfast event on 23 November, and the Board of Trustees meeting and Board and Board Committee Annual Dinner on 7 December 2022.

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

The Vice-Chancellor drew the Board's attention to the late paper relating to the University's promotion of its #1 ranking in the THE Impact Rankings, which will be showcased with the University's Autumn 2023 recruitment campaign and through the University's marketing channels.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following items in his report:

Federal Policy Matters

- Job-ready Graduates (JRG) package Review - is currently underway, noting the transition arrangements conclude in 2024 which, combined with a softening market, will have a significant impact on the sector.
- Australian Universities Accord - Review of the Australian Higher Education System - the Accord process has commenced with the Commonwealth seeking feedback on the draft terms of reference. The aim of the Accord is to build a partnership between universities and staff, unions and business, students and parents, and to build consensus on key policy positions and national priorities. A small expert panel will undertake the review, with a report expected at the end of 2023.
- Review of the Australian Research Council (ARC) - has commenced, with an interim report expected in December 2022.
- Teacher Education Review – the Hon. Jason Clare MP announced the review. The Dean, School of Education has been asked to join the Teacher Education Expert Panel. A report is expected to be delivered by 30 June 2023.
- Mission-based Compact - WSU's triannual meeting with the Commonwealth to discuss matters relating to the University's mission, vision, student load and CSPs, and the impact of government policies.

Foreign Interference

- The Vice-Chancellor attended the first University Foreign Interference Taskforce (UFIT) meeting since the Federal election. The current Government has confirmed its commitment to maintaining the legislation and will seek to reduce administrative burden for universities.

International Travel

- The Vice-Chancellor noted a successful trip to Surabaya, Indonesia, together with the Pro Vice-Chancellor International, for the purpose of exploring options for a University campus in Surabaya. The campus proposal was positively received at city and provincial government levels. The Board discussed the importance of managing the risks of regulatory/corruption issues relating to the transnational strategy.
- The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board of a number of upcoming international trips, including Taiwan and India.

Additional Commonwealth Support Places

- The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the University has applied for approximately 1,600 additional Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) in undergraduate courses, as part of the recently announced 20,000 CSPs.

General Staffing Matters

- Dr Scott Snyder has been appointed to the position of Chief Information and Digital Officer (CIDO).

Summary of 2021 Census Data

- The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the 2021 Census Data has been analysed to inform the work underway on the regional masterplan, and that there will be a focus on Bradfield, Blacktown, and Bankstown. This will be further discussed at the Strategy Day in 2023.

The Board discussed the 2021 Student Experience Survey results, noting that the University experienced a smaller decrease in undergraduate student satisfaction during COVID, compared to others in the sector. It was agreed to bring a paper back to the Board, through the People and Culture Committee, on what drives student experience and the strategies to address it.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

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

Graduate Research School Review

Professor Clive Baldock, Dean of Graduate Students and Research Development, presented an overview of the Graduate Research School Review, highlighting issues such as a lack of resourcing and a lack of a centralised HDR management system, which is soon to be implemented. Academic Senate invited Professor Baldock to provide regular updates at future meetings.

Student Management System (SMS) Update

The Chief Information Officer and Senior Manager, Student Systems presented to Academic Senate on the progress of the 'year of firsts' since the Go Live of the new SMS. Academic Senate was provided with an update on the Autumn/1H results processing.

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that he will meet with Ellucian to discuss the implementation of the SMS at WSU.

Committee of Chairs of Academic Boards (Co-CABs)

The Chair of Academic Senate highlighted the key points discussed at the recent Co-CABs meeting, including:

- Benchmarking issues and accreditation programs; and
- Principles of Higher Education post COVID-19.

The Board were advised that Western Sydney University will host the Co-CABs meeting in April 2023.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 2023-2025 Proposed Budget [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Sustaining Success 2021-2026: In-Depth Analysis and Report - Connectedness [Open Session Item]

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) spoke to Measure 8 of *Sustaining Success 2021-2026* – Improve student satisfaction, engagement, support, and belongingness, highlighting:

- Net Promoter Score (NPS) is the key metric for this strategic priority and is measured on completion of study. The latest score is good (27), which was collected from the April 2022 graduating cohort.
- Engagement is measured in the University's annual reflections survey and is sent to all students at the end of each year. For 2021, the engagement score was 3.8 on a 5-point scale.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) advised the Board that student satisfaction, engagement, support and belongingness has been challenging to measure in 2022, as students have adjusted to post-lockdown life. However, the University is tracking above average for Student Support in the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Student Experience Survey, 2021.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) spoke to key activities, including:

- Western Success – the program has scaled up this year to support 10,000 students. Western Success uses surveys and engagement data to gain a better understanding of student needs and to provide them with personalised advice and access to relevant support services.
- Orientation – The University is investing more heavily in orientation sessions as they are one of the earliest opportunities the University can engage with new students.
- Enrolment Support Webinars – In 2022, the Student Services Hub initiated a series of Enrolment Support Webinars for both domestic and international students to provide them with guidance and support for enrolment and subject registration.

The Board discussed the NPS score. It was agreed to provide the People and Culture Committee with a paper to better understand what is driving the Net Promoter Score.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost spoke to Measure 9 of *Sustaining Success 2021-2026* – Deliver positive impact for, and with, our communities and partners through social, economic, cultural and place-based transformations. The Board were advised that a survey has been developed which will be issued before the end of the year, with results to be provided in 2023.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost advised the Board that since the commencement of the new Pro Vice-Chancellor (Engagement and Advancement), there have been several activities that have further strengthened and enabled work of Engagement and Partnerships within the University.

3.3 Western Growth Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.4 Succession Planning and Divisional Restructure – Division of Finance and Resources [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 People and Culture Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.5 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*.

[5/10/2022:8]

6. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

6.1 Confidential Matter [In Camera Session]


This item was considered in closed session.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 7 December 2022 at 1.00pm Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.25pm.

Confirmed by:



(Chair)



(Date)