

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 04/1 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney, held at 9.00 am on **Wednesday, 25 February 2004**, in the Boardroom, Frogmore House, Werrington North.

Present: Mr John Phillips, AM (Chancellor)
Professor Janice Reid, AM (Vice-Chancellor)
Mr Barry Baillie
Dr Anne Benjamin
Ms Mary Foley
Mr Angelo Kourtis
Ms Meg Oates
Mr Geoffrey Roberson
Mr Glen Sanford
Professor Lesley Wilkes
Mr Malcolm Wood
Hon Kim Yeadon

Apologies: Ms Linda Burney
Hon Jan Burnswoods
Ms Gabrielle Kibble, AO
Mr Colin La Flamme
Associate Professor Valentina McInerney

In Attendance: Professor Robert Coombes
Ms Rhonda Hawkins (Secretary to the Board)
Professor Chung-Tong Wu
Sir Adrian Webb, Vice-Chancellor, University of Glamorgan
Ms Erica MacPhail (Minute secretary)
Ms Marian Alleyn

Observers present in the Open Session included Professor Wayne McKenna, Ms Sharon Rigney, Mr Royson Valore, Mr Ravi Sikand, Mr Chadi Boustani, Ms Belinda Giblin, Mr Leonard D'Ugo, Mr Steve Warren, Mr Willie Herold, Mr Michael Baker, Mr John McGuire, Mr Jason Markwick, Mr Aaron Dibdin, Mr Mikael Kjaerbye, Dr Mary Mooney, and Mr Andrew Evans.

1 OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

Members were welcomed to the first meeting of 2004, particularly the new general staff member, Mr Angelo Kourtis, and the new undergraduate student member, Mr Malcolm Wood.

1.2 Apologies

The apologies as listed were **noted**.

1.3 Starring of Items

Items which were starred were: 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.0 and 6.1.

It was resolved:

that all unstarred items be taken as considered and all recommendations in the attachments for them as adopted.

1.4 Arrangement of Business

Items considered in the Closed session were: 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1, 4.4. The remaining items were considered in Open session from 10.45am.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes

A copy of the draft Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on 10 December 2003, is **attached**. The draft Minutes have been previously circulated to the Board.

It was resolved:

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on 10 December 2003, be confirmed.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

2.1 Structure of the Student Associations

Mr Roberson, Chair of the Student Taskforce advised that discussions were progressing, and a further meeting would be held on 27 February. A Student Steering Committee augmented in December had some different views, and much similarity to those of the Taskforce. A meeting with students from the sporting associations had been held on 25 February prior to the Board meeting, and they had raised some issues about the ownership of the commercial services company. Mr Roberson advised that he was hopeful of reaching a satisfactory conclusion soon.

On the invitation of the Chancellor, Belinda Giblin and Len D'Ugo made a presentation to the Board on the views of the Student Steering Committee. It proposed a unified student association with a central system of governance, and equity of service provision, accountability and transparency across six campuses, with the flexibility to provide different services for different campuses. The commercial entity proposed under this model would be an independent shell company, leasing rather than owning assets, with professional management and 50/50 ownership between the University and the Student Association, with a proactive Board. It was expected that discussions would be finalised by June 2004, with the Association and Entity in place for semester 2.

Mr Roberson advised that he hoped the differences between the Taskforce and Steering Committee would be resolved by May 2004.

2.2 Capital Development and Campus Issues

This item, which included the following:

- a) Transit way (Westmead Campus)
- b) Campbelltown campus and Landcom developments
- c) Building AD (Werrington North Campus)
- d) New teaching building (Parramatta campus)

was considered in **closed** session.

2.3 Higher Education Review

This item was considered with item 4.1.5 in **closed** session.

2.4 Ministerial appointment

This item was considered in **closed** session.

3 NEW GENERAL BUSINESS – MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3.1 Academic Program Project

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the progress report: *The UWS Undergraduate Academic Program: Proposed actions and future directions* had been released to the University community for discussion. The report outlines the objective to ensure the UWS Academic program was contemporary, competitive and efficient and the proposed changes to the academic program including the reduction of the second most diverse range of courses of any university in Australia, while ensuring a range of courses on each of the six UWS campuses.

Professor Bond gave a presentation which explained a full analysis of courses had been undertaken with the intention of having a diverse and broad academic program which was professionally oriented, flexible and enhanced the quality of the student experience, with less reliance on government funding. The "old" courses would be taught out by the end of 2004, with remaining students given advice on options to continue with the new courses. In the new academic program the number of units taught could be reduced from 3000 to 1500, and duplication of other areas would be further examined. A

number of courses had been recommended to be deleted, and other courses were proposed to be taught on fewer campuses. The names of the Colleges and Schools had also been simplified. The paper was essentially a “green” paper for discussion and feedback, before finalisation in a “white” paper.

3.2 Governance Issue

The Chancellor noted that the Board had agreed to discuss governance issues at the first meeting each year. A set of National Governance Protocols, developed by the Chancellors and AVCC, had been accepted, in principle, by the Federal Government, and were now being discussed at State level.

There had been discussion about the frequency of assessing Board performance and the Board would be surveyed in a more comprehensive manner later this year (giving a frequency of every two years). The Board Committees would also be reviewed and may change in late 2004 or early 2005.

The Board noted the paper and resolved to return to the issues raised in later meetings.

3.3 Alumni Development at UWS

The Board was advised that an Alumni Development Advisory Committee had been established with the graduate member as Chair. This body replaced the UWS Alumni Association which had been formally disbanded. The Advisory Committee provided a consultative mechanism to engage graduates in the life of the University as well as a means to provide advice to the University and would provide reports to the Board on alumni development as appropriate. The report was **noted**.

3.4 BCRI site

The report was **noted**.

3.5 Sydney West International College (SWIC)

The report was **noted**.

3.6 Uses of the University Seal

It was **resolved**:

that the uses of the University Seal since 10 December 2003, as detailed in the attached paper, be approved.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS

4.1 Strategy and Resources Committee

1) Incorporation of Phytonova

- 2) **Commercial Activities Guidelines**
- 3) **Financial Key Performance Indicators for December 2003**
- 4) **Draft 2003 Annual Financial Statements and Notes**
- 5) **Policy Options for HECS and Fees**

These items were discussed in **closed** session.

4.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee

The report from the Audit and Risk Management Committee meeting of 6 February 2004 was **noted**.

4.3 Capital Planning and Development Committee

The Capital Planning and Development Committee has not met since the previous Board of Trustees meeting.

4.4 Honorary Awards Committee

This item was discussed in **closed** session.

4.5 Academic Senate

The Chair advised that many Appeals had been processed in the past month. The report of the Executive Committee of Academic Senate was **noted**.

4.6 UWS Regional Council

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the Business and Industry Panel of the UWS Regional Council had proposed a two day workshop to examine research in the University.

The UWS Regional Council met on 19 February 2004. A report will be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

4.7 UWS Indigenous Advisory Council

The Vice-Chancellor commented that it was pleasing to have the establishment of the Council with Ms Burney as Chair. The report from the UWS Indigenous Advisory Council meeting of 10 February 2004 was **noted**.

5 BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

5.1 Report from the Postgraduate Student Member

There was no report.

5.2 Report from the Undergraduate Student Member

There was no report.

5.3 Report from the General Staff Member

There was no report.

5.4 Report from the Academic Staff Member

There was no report.

5.5 Report from Graduate Member

There was no report.

6 OTHER REPORTS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

***6.1 Vice-Chancellor's Report**

Reports on the following matters were **noted**.

6.1.1 Occupational Health and Safety

The report was **noted**.

6.1.2 Staffing and Update on Enterprise Bargaining

The Board was informed that the Unions sought a salary increase of 24% over the 2004-2006 period, and the University was offering 16% to the end of 2006. The Unions were keen to have an expiry date of June 2006. This was part of a national agenda. The University had provided some concessions regarding the collapsing of some academic levels and offered maternity / paternity leave for 18 weeks, but the Unions had not accepted this. The Unions had planned stoppages on 1 and 9 March (in addition to 8-10am on 25 February). Discussions were ongoing.

6.1.3 UWS Strategic Planning Process Next Steps 2004

Members were provided with the UWS Strategic Plans: The Vision; Learning and Teaching Plan; Research Plan; and Regional and Community Engagement Plan. The report was **noted**.

6.1.4 Report on 2004 undergraduate admissions

The report was **noted**.

6.1.5 Vice-Chancellor's activities and other matters

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted several items which were **noted**.

6.1.6 Items for information

- a) **Letter from Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja**
- b) **Articles on HECS Fees (The Times HES Oct 2003 & Campus Review January 14-20 2004)**
- c) **Editorial in the Campus Review 21-27 January 2004 edition (Higher Education publication) about the Australian Universities Community Engagement Alliance (AUCEA) and the National Conference 2004**

- d) **Simon Marginson Article (Campus Review 11-17 February 2004) – tabled**
- e) **Jackie Kelly on Higher Education (Extract from Hansard 19 February 2004) – tabled**

6.2 Commonwealth Research Performance Schemes – 2004 UWS Allocation

The report was **noted**.

7 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8 NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled to be held from 9.00 am on **Wednesday, 14 April 2004**, in the Boardroom, Frogmore House, Werrington North Campus.

The meeting concluded at 12noon.

Confirmed by:

Chair

Date