

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 05/5 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney, held at 9.00 am on **Wednesday 12 October 2005**, in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington North.

Present:

- Mr John Phillips AO (Chancellor)
- Professor Janice Reid AM (Vice-Chancellor)
- Dr Anne Benjamin
- Hon Jan Burnswoods
- Professor Anne Cusick
- Ms Mary Foley
- Ms Gabrielle Kibble AO
- Mr Angelo Kourtis
- Associate Professor Valentina McInerney
- Mr Roy Medich OAM
- Mr Geoffrey Roberson
- Mr Glen Sanford
- Ms Elfriede Sangkuhl
- Hon Kim Yeadon

In Attendance:

- Professor Robert Coombes
- Mr Mark Croucher
- Mr Andrew Evans
- Mr John McGuire
- Ms Edith Taylor
- Professor Mick Wilson
- Professor Chung-Tong Wu
- Professor Neville Yeomans
- Ms Marian Alleyn
- Ms Jo Maguire (Minutes secretary)
- Mr Paul Woloch (A/g Secretary to the Board)

1 OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Chancellor congratulated Ms Linda Burney on her recent appointment as Parliamentary Secretary assisting the NSW Minister for Education and Training.

Mr Paul Woloch attended the meeting as A/g Secretary to the Board, in Ms Hawkins' absence.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ms Linda Burney, Mr John Heath and Ms Meg Oates.

1.3 Starring of Items

The following items were starred: 2.1, 2.2, 2.6, 2.7, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7, 4, 6.2.3.

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 listed for discussion in the Closed Session were 2.7, 3.3 and 3.7.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes

It was resolved:

that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on 10 August 2005, be confirmed.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

2.1 Update on the Realignment of the Colleges and Schools

The Board noted this report and the associated presentation, and the following discussion occurred:

- The move of the Sydney Graduate School of Management into the College of Business will require a transitional year, after which it is expected that it will be fully integrated into the University's structure and systems.
- The relationships between the Colleges and Schools are changing as a result of the realignment.
- Positions are not simply being retitled, but rather the changes are significant. For example, the Head of School position descriptions have been completely rewritten and it is anticipated that the realignment process will create significant cultural, not merely structural, change within the University.

The Board noted the external review service offered by the Minister. It was agreed that utilising this service would be counterproductive at present, although there could be merit in an external risk management assessment of the structural change.

2.2 Student Accommodation Development

The Board noted that detailed proposals have been invited and the Board will be kept informed on developments.

2.3 Postgraduate Coursework Offerings

The Board noted that a final and reduced set of postgraduate coursework units on offer for 2006 will be provided to the November meeting.

2.4 National Governance Protocols

This report was **noted**.

2.5 Fee Paying Places for Australian and Australian Permanent Resident Medical Students

It was resolved:

That the Board's resolution, made at the August meeting, be amended to include permanent residents, thus:

That the Board of Trustees approves the offering of up to 8 fee-paying places for Australian citizens and permanent residents, in addition to the 80 approved HECS-funded places, for the Medical Schools' first student intake in 2007.

2.6 Academic Program Review

The Board noted the final report on the Academic Program Review and commended the University for the extensive work undertaken under the APR and the achievement of the objectives. It was agreed that the diverse, and not only financial, benefits of this review should continue to be tracked.

A postgraduate review has commenced and the Board will be further advised in due course.

2.7 DIMIA Matter – Bankstown Campus

This matter was discussed in the closed session.

2.8 Parramatta Campus Safety Project

This report was **noted**.

3 NEW GENERAL BUSINESS & MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3.1 Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to her report, and also the agenda items on the Academic Program Review, Learning and Teaching Performance Fund and Research Quality Framework, addressed elsewhere in these minutes.

The Vice-Chancellor provided a progress report on TVS, advising that the University has provided a great deal of support for the station, including a \$2m loan guarantee. A service level agreement has been finalised between TVS and the University.

Postgraduate certificates and diplomas will be developed in concert with the television station, which will possibly be launched in November. It is expected that these courses will become successful fee-paying offerings, capitalising on the availability of newly renovated premises and convenience between these facilities and the courses' location. The Vice-Chancellor quoted the favourable findings of an external review which was conducted by KPMG.

3.2 Teaching of Science at the University of Western Sydney

This report was **noted**.

3.3 Voluntary Student Union Fee Legislation

This report was discussed in the closed session.

3.4 DEST Policy Initiatives

3.4.1 Learning and Teaching Performance Fund

The Board noted this report, the associated presentation provided by the Vice-Chancellor and in particular that:

- The University is concerned about the statistical analysis of data collected from students completing in 2003 and the allocation of funding on the basis of a league table. These concerns have been detailed to DEST.
- UWS is unlikely to receive funding from the Fund in the initial year.
- The Minister has established a qualitative review group and the existing process of data collection and analysis is likely to be reviewed in 2006.
- The 2005 Graduate Destination Survey/Course Experience Questionnaire, conducted between October 2004 and July 2005 showed an Explicit Overall Satisfaction for 2005 of 62%, a significant increase of 6.6% percentage points from 2004. Therefore, the University's performance has improved markedly since the 2003 benchmark on which the current assessment is based.

3.4.2 Research Quality Framework

The Board noted this report and the University's preparation for the expected 2007 assessment and the new research policy environment. The Vice-Chancellor reported that the University's high profile centres should do well in the assessment exercise and cited the recent appointment of Professor Megan Morris to the CCR as an example of the high standing of key UWS research centres.

3.5 Board Strategy Day Report on Progress

The Board noted this report and the attached position description of the Chief Financial Officer, noting that high level reporting would be to the Strategy & Resources and the Investment Strategy Committees.

3.5.1 Research: Beginning to Invest

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to this report and advised that the proposals outlined are the first stage of an initial 3-5 year period of investment in research, with further investment planned over the next decade. This funding is in addition to that provided by the Government.

In discussion the Board noted that all fully operational research centres should have external members on their advisory boards. The establishment of a UWS Urban Research Centre was particularly commended by the Board.

It was resolved:

That the Board endorses the proposed research investment in existing research centres, a new Urban Research Centre, and research in molecular biology/biochemistry, molecular pharmacology, and public health.

That the Board notes the processes proposed for planning future research investment.

3.5.2 International Strategy Development

The Board noted this report and that onshore and offshore programs are being assessed, not only in terms of financial viability and quality, but also whether the relationships have potential to contribute to UWS more broadly.

[Mr Medich left the meeting at 12.00 noon, due to another commitment.]

3.6 Uses of the University Seal

It was resolved:

That the uses of the University Seal since 21 July 2005 be approved.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

4.1 Strategy and Resources Committee

The Board noted this report, and the associated presentation provided by Professor Coombes on 2006 Draft Budget Issues.

In particular, it was noted that the draft 2006 budget aims to achieve an outcome close to break-even. However, cash flow projections in 2006 will be low due to capital works expenditure and the draft budget does not include provisions for the VSU legislation. The Board's direction was therefore sought on establishing an external loan facility, to be drawn on if required, to cover cash flow concerns. The Board noted the reasons for this proposal but made no formal decision at this time. It will be reviewed when the final budget is considered.

The Board noted the SRC's recommendation in relation to the VSU and will consider the final budget at the November Board meeting.

4.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee – Membership Update

The Board noted the experience summary provided by Ms Margaret Smylie, who had recently accepted appointment to the ARMC.

4.3 Campus Development Committee

The Committee Chair gave a progress report on the various campus development matters.

4.4 Academic Senate
This report was **noted**.

**4.4.1 UWS Academic Governance 2006+
The Realignment of Colleges and Schools**
The Chair of Academic Senate sought Board members' initial comments on proposals for changes in academic governance structures at UWS. No particular concerns or issues were identified. The Board noted that this discussion paper would be released to the University community for comment, following which a revised paper will be brought back to the Board with recommendations.

4.5 Remuneration and Nominations Committee
This report was **noted**.

5 REPORTS FROM OTHER UNIVERSITY BODIES

5.1 UWS Indigenous Advisory Council
This report was **noted**.

It was resolved:
That the designation of the two staff positions on the Indigenous Advisory Council be amended, from "Two Indigenous staff of UWS to assist the Council" to "Two Indigenous staff representatives".

5.2 UWS Regional Council
This report was **noted**.

It was resolved:
That Sister Mary-Louise Petro be invited to join the Regional Council.

5.2.1 Business and Industry Advisory Panel
This report was **noted**.

5.3 UWS Foundation
This report was **noted**.

5.3.1 UWS Foundation Board and Fundraising Strategies
This report was **noted**.

6 OTHER REPORTS

6.1 Open Day 2005
This report was **noted**.

6.2 University Reports

6.2.1 Occupational Health and Safety Overview
This report was **noted**.

6.2.2 Staffing Matters

This report was **noted**.

6.2.3 UWS Medical School

This report was **noted**.

6.2.3.1 Process for the Selection of an Architectural Firm to Design the School of Medicine Building on Campbelltown Campus

The Board noted this report and a design model of the building. Further, that the development application for the classroom and office segments of the building have been lodged with Campbelltown Council to ensure that they are available in time to accommodate the arrival of students at the beginning of 2007.

6.2.4 Recent Developments on Callista

This report was **noted**.

6.2.5 Board of Trustees Elections

This report was **noted**.

7 MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY BOARD MEMBERS

7.1 Report from the Postgraduate Student Member

The Postgraduate Student Member's tabled report on the Fifth Annual Conference on University Governance was **noted**.

7.2 Report from the Undergraduate Student Member

There was no report from the undergraduate student member.

7.3 Report from the General Staff Member

There was no report from the General Staff Member.

7.4 Report from the Academic Staff Member

There was no report from the Academic Staff Member.

7.5 Report from the Graduate Member

There was no report from the Graduate Member.

8 OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Call for Honorary Award Nominations

The Chancellor reminded Board members of the call for nominations for honorary awards.

9 NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled to be held at 9.00am on Wednesday 30 November 2005, in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington North Campus.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.35pm.

Confirmed by:

Chair

Date