

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 07/3 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney, held at 9.00 am on **Wednesday 25 July 2007**, in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington North.

Present:

- Mr John Phillips AO (Chancellor)
- Professor Janice Reid AM (Vice-Chancellor)
- Ms Jennifer Brown
- Ms Jan Burnswoods
- Professor Anne Cusick
- Ms Mary Foley
- Ms Vivienne James
- Ms Genevieve Kelly AM
- Ms Gabrielle Kibble AO
- Ms Tanya Rubin
- Mr Glen Sanford
- The Hon Kim Yeadon
- Mr Gang Zheng

In Attendance:

- Profesor Nigel Bond
- Mr Mark Croucher
- Mr Luke Fomiatti (from 11am onwards)
- Mr Greg Holland
- Professor John Ingleson
- Profesor John Loxton
- Mr Phil Rigg, President UWSSA
- Ms Sharon Rigney
- Mr Paul Woloch
- Ms Marian Alleyn
- Ms Jo Maguire (minutes secretary)
- A number of UWSSA staff and SRC representatives
- A number of Arts students

1 OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Board welcomed Mr Gang Zheng, newly elected Postgraduate Student member of the Board of Trustees.

The two year term of elected Undergraduate Student member, Mr Luke Fomiatti, was due to end on 31 December 2007. However, he has completed his final exams at UWS and his term on the Board was curtailed. The Chancellor advised that, while no longer technically a member, Mr Fomiatti had been invited to attend and take part in the meeting.

The Board recorded its thanks to Ms Linda Burney, whose term on the Board ended in June 2007.

The Chancellor read to the Board a letter of appreciation for a special graduation ceremony held on 11 July.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Roy Medich and Mr Ian Stone.

1.3 Starring of Items

The following items were starred: 1.5, 3.1, 3.2.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.4.1, 3.5, 3.7, 4, 7.

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 3.4, 3.7 and 4.2.1 were listed for discussion in the Closed Session.

As indicated at the April meeting, UWSSA had requested that they be given the opportunity to address the Board. The Chancellor advised that Mr Phil Rigg, UWSSA President, and other student and staff representatives would attend the meeting to speak in open session. Board members should feel free to question the President on matters raised in his presentation. There would be an opportunity later, in closed session, to discuss some broader issues on the University's relationships with the Association.

The Chancellor said that Professor Nigel Bond would be attending the meeting to give the Board an opportunity to convey its thanks for his work as PVC Academic.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board agreed that minutes should be amended to include Ms Brown's apology.

It was resolved:

that the Confidential Minutes and amended Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on 4 April 2007 be confirmed.

2 BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising from the April meeting.

3 NEW GENERAL BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3.1 Vice-Chancellor's Report

In addition to the information contained in her report, the Vice-Chancellor advised that:

- the recent annual visit from DEST was very positive, reflecting the regular liaison between University and DEST representatives;
- it is proposed to conclude the work of the Business and Industry Advisory Panel and to review the role, purpose and membership of the Regional Council.

The Board commended Alexis Wright on receiving the prestigious Miles Franklin Literary Award for her novel *Carpentaria* and the 2007 Australian Literature Society Gold Medal and strongly endorsed Professor McKenna's conferring on Alexis Wright the title of Distinguished Fellow. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University's Writing and Society Research Group is arguably the best of its kind in Australia.

In another positive meeting, the Hon. John Della Bosca, NSW Minister for Education and Training, was briefed recently by University representatives about the University's campus development activities.

3.2 Uses of the University Seal

It was resolved:

That the uses of the University Seal since 20 March 2007 be approved.

3.2.1 Proposal to Change Procedures Related to the Use of the UWS Seal

The Board noted that there are guidelines for the use of the University seal.

It was resolved:

That the Board of Trustees approves the following amendments to clauses 2 and 4 of the Guidelines for the Use of the University Seal to read:

2. The Seal of the University will be affixed by resolution of the Board of Trustees or, in circumstances detailed below, may be affixed by direction of the Chancellor, a Deputy Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Academic Registrar, or an Executive Dean.

2.1 The Seal may be affixed by direction of the Chancellor, a Deputy Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Academic Registrar, or an Executive Dean if, in the opinion of one of those officers, the sealing of the document should not be delayed until the next scheduled meeting of the Board, and such action will be reported to the Board at its next meeting.

2.2 The Seal may be affixed by direction of the Academic Registrar to a testamur issued in respect of any academic award made by the University.

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4. The affixing of the Seal will be attested by any two of the Chancellor, a Deputy Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Academic Registrar, or an Executive Dean.

[The following items were discussed out of agenda order to allow UWSSA's presentation and for Professor Nigel Bond to meet with the Board.]

4.2.1 UWSSA Presentation

On behalf of UWSSA staff and the SRC Mr Phil Rigg, UWSSA President, spoke to a tabled document which covered the following:

- Background – the services UWSSA provides to students; its governance structure and the impact of VSU.
- Financial Outlook – the difficulties and costs of providing services across seven offices, the steps UWSSA has taken to review its expenditure and its potential insolvency.
- UWS Support for UWSSA Welfare Services
- Funding Request – for Administration Officers, Research Officer, Communications/Marketing Officer and some secondary funding.
- Community Support for UWSSA.

Board members put a range of questions to Mr Rigg, all of which he dealt with comprehensively. The Chancellor thanked him for his presentation and said the Board would consider its position and would convey its decisions to UWSSA as soon as possible, hopefully before the end of the day.

Vote of Appreciation to Professor Nigel Bond

Professor Nigel Bond, formerly the Pro Vice-Chancellor Academic, has recently returned to teaching and research. The Board invited Professor Nigel Bond to attend the meeting so it could express to him its appreciation for his invaluable contribution as PVC Academic. In particular, the Board commended Nigel's substantial achievement with respect to the course restructuring and reconfiguration.

3.3 Cases Under Management

This matter was discussed in the closed session.

3.4 Report of Strategy Day 13 June 2007

The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the University's environmental management plan is under development by the Chief Financial Officer's staff and would be provided to the Board's October meeting for comment. The plan will have an associated policy and will focus on sustainability, greening UWS campuses and compliance with the Talloires Declaration.

The Board agreed that the report should be amended slightly, by deleting the first discussion point on page 6 of 12, to more accurately reflect the intention of Board's discussions.

3.4.1 Blacktown Campus Report

The Board noted the developments since the decision to withdraw teaching from Blacktown campus was announced. Discussion with some interested parties is ongoing.

Ms Tanya Rubin raised the matter of the impact on staff who, if relocated from Blacktown, will be required to travel to alternative campuses. The Board was assured that all the implications of staff relocation will be worked through in compliance with the collective agreements.

3.4.2 Clinical Schools Negotiations

This report was noted without discussion.

3.5 National Governance Protocols

3.5.1 Review of the National Governance Protocols

The Chancellor informed the Board of discussions between Vice-Chancellors and Chancellors of Australian universities on the Issues paper circulated by MCEETYA. He had received some comments on the paper from Board members and reiterated the invitation to members to provide him with any additional comments by 31 July 2007. By that date comments were due to be submitted to the Committee on Higher Education.

It was resolved:

That the Board authorises the Chancellor to finalise any UWS response to the Issues Paper, having regard to the input from Board members.

3.5.2 2007 Compliance Statement National Governance Protocols

It was resolved:

That the Board:

- (a) Notes the University's ongoing compliance with the requirements of the National Governance protocols; and**
- (b) Reviews the range of years of service by Board members noting the Board's support for the current terms of office of the two members with total service beyond 12 years.**

3.6 Report on Callista

This report was noted without discussion.

3.7 TVS

This matter was discussed in the closed session.

3.8 Critical Incident – Werrington South Incident

This report was noted without discussion.

4 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARD STANDING COMMITTEES

4.1 Strategy and Resources Committee

The Board noted the reports of the Strategy and Resources Committee meetings held on 31 May and 19 July 2007.

4.1.1 Financial Reports – Year to Date 30 June 2007

Ms Mary Foley, SRC Chair, advised that the University is travelling well financially, the improvement being due primarily to two factors:

- an underlying improvement in income;
- under-expenditure due to delayed commitments which will nevertheless be expended eventually.

4.1.2 UWSCOLLEGE

The Board noted the recent developments in the establishment of **UWSCOLLEGE**. The Board also noted that the rate of progress was slower than preferred and there have been debates about intellectual property and allegiances to either the University or the college.

Rather than being a professional development college, **UWSCOLLEGE** will focus on providing students with a pathway to the University. Professor Ingleson, who has resigned from the College board in order to champion the college, advised that:

- these issues raised by the Board of Trustees are being resolved;
- the **UWSCOLLEGE** constitution had been amended;
- **UWSCOLLEGE** is now budgeting on a break-even position.

The Chancellor expressed some frustration with the slow pace of progress in establishing UWS College.

4.1.3 Entity Report – First and Second Quarters 2007

This report was noted without discussion.

4.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Board noted, without discussion, the report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee meetings held on 16 May and 4 July 2007.

4.2.1 UWSSA

This item is reported at the beginning of these minutes and also in the minutes of the closed session.

4.3 Academic Senate

The Board noted the report from the Chair of Academic Senate.

4.4 Board Standing Committee and Remuneration and Nominations Committee

The Chancellor spoke to the report.

It was resolved:

That the Board approves the conferral of an Honorary Fellowship on Mr Sean Wareing in recognition of his service to the University.

4.5 Campus Development Committee

The Board noted the Campus Development Committee's report.

It was resolved:

That the Board of Trustees receives and notes the report of Meeting 07/2 of the Campus Development Committee.

5 REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COUNCILS AND OTHER UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

5.1 Indigenous Advisory Council

Ms Linda Burney recently advised that she is no longer able to continue as Chair of the University's Indigenous Advisory Council due to her Ministerial commitments. The Board expressed regret at this decision and its gratitude for the most valuable role that Ms Burney had played. The Chancellor was asked to convey these views to Ms Burney. The University is in the process of recruiting a new Chair for the IAC.

It was resolved:

That the Board of Trustees approves Michael McDaniel acting as Chair of the Indigenous Advisory Council on an interim basis, pending the appointment of a permanent Chair or Deputy Chair.

5.2 University Engagement

This report was noted without discussion.

6 OTHER REPORTS

6.1 Occupational Health and Safety

This report was noted without discussion.

6.2 Staffing Matters

This report was noted without discussion.

6.3 Infrastructure Development – New School of Medicine Building, Campbelltown Campus

This report was noted without discussion.

6.4 UWS Medical School

This report was noted without discussion.

6.5 Research Developments

This report was noted without discussion.

6.6 International Activities

This report was noted without discussion.

6.7 Development and Fundraising Programs

This report was noted without discussion.

6.8 Postgraduate Board Member Election

The Board noted this report.

6.9 Ramadan Iftar 2007

This report was noted without discussion.

6.10 Meeting Dates – Board of Trustees 2008

The Board noted these dates.

7 MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr Luke Fomiatti raised with the Board the concerns of Bachelor of Performance students and referred to a letter from Jonathan Bollen, President of the Australasian Association for Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies. The letter queried the closing of the courses when some other universities were able to fund similar courses

He also sought further information on the potential closure of some UWS Arts courses. The Board had been advised previously that the Bachelor of Performance and also Contemporary Art were not viable due to the high cost of providing the necessary facilities and the cross-subsidy from other courses. He believed that the reasons for the University' decisions had not been communicated clearly and in timely fashion to

students and staff. Mr Fomiatti said he understood they had only been notified a month ago of the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Performance course, whereas the Board had been advised of this possibility in November last year.

On the former point, Professor Ingleson explained to the Board the different funding arrangements enjoyed by other universities and NIDA compared with UWS.

On the latter, the Vice-Chancellor undertook to provide information on decisions concerning an intake in Performance and Contemporary Art in 2008, noting such decisions mainly reflected demand. A paper on the Arts courses will be provided to the next Board meeting and the Vice-Chancellor will ensure that the information is communicated clearly to relevant staff and students.

8 OTHER BUSINESS

The Board thanked Mr Luke Fomiatti for his contributions as a Board member and wished him well for the future. Elections for the new Undergraduate Student member will be conducted later in the year.

9 NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held at 9.00 am on **Wednesday 10 October 2007**.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.15pm

Confirmed by: _____
Chair

Date