

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2020/1 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 19 February 2020, Building EB, Boardroom, Parramatta South campus.

- Present:** Board of Trustees
Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor)
Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Carmel Hourigan (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO
Mr Joseph Carrozzi (*arrived 8.38am*)
Dr Ben Etherington
Mr Peeyush Gupta AM
Dr David Harland
Ms Naomi Hastings
Ms Holly Kramer
Ms Georgia Lee
Ms Rose Lewis
Dr Linda O'Brien AM (*arrived at 8.55am*)
Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate)
Mr Bob Sahota
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO (*via Zoom*)
- Apologies:** Nil
- In Attendance:** Western Sydney University
Ms Helen Fleming (University Secretary and General Counsel)
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources)
Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and International)
Mr Angelo Kourtis (Vice-President, People and Advancement)
Professor Simon Barrie (Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)
Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)
Ms Narelle Vance (Administration Officer) (Meeting Support)
- (For Item 1.2 only)*
Professor Michelle Trudgett (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation)
- (For Item 4.1 only)*
Professor Janette Perz (Director, Translational Health Research Institute)
- (for Lunch Session only)*
Professor Kerry London, Dean, School of Built Environment

(Strategy Session only)

Mr Michael Burgess, Chief Student Experience Officer

Mr Chris Youness, Director, Office of Employability and Graduate Success

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

[Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation, Professor Michelle Trudgett joined the meeting at 8.30am].

The Chair welcomed members and observers, declared the meeting open and confirmed that there was a quorum present.

The Chair welcomed Ms Rose Lewis as the newly elected undergraduate student representative.

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

Professor Michelle Trudgett, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation, presented an Acknowledgement of Country to the Traditional Owners of the land, the Burrumattagal people, and paid respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging. She acknowledged the pioneering work of Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in higher education.

Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO acknowledged Professor Trudgett for her policy work and achievements since joining the University, and thanked the University for its ongoing commitment to closing the gap.

[Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education, Strategy and Consultation, Professor Michelle Trudgett left the meeting at 8.40am].

1.2 Apologies

There were no apologies.

1.4 Declarations of Material Interests

The Chair invited Board members to declare any new material interests in relation to any matters on the agenda or their role on the Board more generally.

The Chancellor noted that he has resigned as Chair of the Forum on Western Sydney Airport.

In relation to Item 3.1, Ms Gabrielle Trainor reminded the Board that she is a non-executive director of the Western City and Aerotropolis Authority.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board requested a minor amendment to item 2.2 (Vice-Chancellor's Report) with the insertion of words "the University will continue to monitor casualisation in line with TEQSA's Key Risk Findings Report (2019), which directly linked high casualisation with student attrition and lower progress rates".

Resolution

That, subject to the minor amendment of item 2.2, the Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 4 December 2019 meeting.

[19/2/2020:1]

1.6 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on items listed.

1.7 Starring of Items

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved all unstarred items as having been considered and noted, and their respective recommendations as adopted.

[19/2/2020:2]

1.8 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4.

2. CHANCELLOR'S AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORTS

2.1 Vice-Chancellor's Performance Plan [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor's Report was taken as read.

The Chancellor advised the Board that the draft policy on Freedom of Speech on University campuses will be provided to the Board at the April 2020 meeting.

The Chancellor invited members of the Board to nominate for the role of Pro-Chancellor. If nominated, the new Pro-Chancellor will preside at the graduation ceremonies in April and May 2020. He noted that the Board positions of Peeyush Gupta, Gabrielle Trainor and Kerry Stubbs all concluded this year and that he would bring proposals to the April 2020 Board meeting. He also signalled his intention to bring the process of appointing the graduate position on the Board by the April 2020 meeting. This position is currently held by Deputy Chancellor Hourigan.

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

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

Bushfire response

The Vice-Chancellor summarised the University's response to the bushfire crisis, thanked the Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor for her efforts during this period whilst Acting Vice-Chancellor, and outlined the support provided by the University, including:

- Making University student residences available for emergency accommodation for anyone affected by the bushfires;

- Offering four weeks' paid leave for staff who are Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers to undertake their duties;
- Providing special consideration for affected students and those applying to study at the University in 2020;
- Providing accommodation grants for up to 12 months to students directly affected by the fires, particularly those from rural, regional and remote areas;
- Establishing a dedicated information line to assist students impacted by the crisis;
- Providing emergency accommodation for the NSW RFS, at campuses close to bushfire affected areas; and
- Making animal facilities available at the Hawkesbury campus for the care of injured wildlife.

The Vice-Chancellor also advised the Board that the University intends to formally recognise the contribution of staff and students who served as volunteers during the bushfire crisis. The University is currently in the process of identifying these staff and students and an event will be held to recognise their contribution.

In addition, the Vice-Chancellor also brought to the Board's attention the high number of academic staff who have written articles and provided expert commentary on aspects of the bushfire emergency, some of which have been internationally recognised.

Coronavirus update

The Vice-Chancellor briefed the Board on the University's response to the Coronavirus. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the Australian Government has recently announced a further seven-day extension to the travel ban into Australia.

The University has approximately 320 commencing and continuing offshore students who are impacted by the travel ban. The University's communications to these affected cohorts via social media (WeChat and Sina Weibo) and email have focussed on reassuring them that their studies will not be negatively affected. The University will provide online technology-based solutions to allow them to engage in their studies when the teaching session commences, arrange deferred clinical and other placements, provide alternative assessments where necessary and provide any other assistance required to allow them to study at Western Sydney University. Students who leave mainland China and spend the 14-day travel exclusion period in another country before entering Australia have been offered a one-off \$1500 contribution by the University. This is in recognition of additional costs they will incur.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that two academic staff members were in Wuhan during the quarantine period. These staff members were evacuated to Christmas Island.

The University has implemented a staff travel ban to mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Further limitations are being considered. The University will reconnect with partners in these countries when the travel ban is lifted.

At a sector level, senior staff have participated in teleconferences with the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee and Universities Australia. The NSW Vice-Chancellors wrote to the NSW Premier and subsequently met with Dr Geoff Lee, Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, to discuss responses to the Coronavirus.

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the NSW Auditor General has requested all NSW universities to provide a brief report on their response to the Coronavirus issue. The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that the University will submit a response by the end of the week.

Rankings

The University is now ranked 439th in the University Ranking by Academic Performance. This is a rise from 546th in 2019. Within Australia, the University's ranking has also increased from 23 to 20.

2019 Employer Satisfaction Survey

In the 2019 Employer Satisfaction Survey, Western Sydney University graduates now rank sixth nationally for overall employer satisfaction and first within the Sydney metropolitan area and Innovative Research Universities group.

Australian Biotechnology Group donation to NICM

The Australian Biotechnology Group has made a commitment to donate \$2.5 million over a five-year period to support the work of NICM Health Research Institute.

Marcus Blackmore Building naming ceremony

Building J, Westmead campus, was officially named the 'Marcus Blackmore Building' on 19 December 2019. At the naming ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor formally acknowledged the difficult history that occurred at the Building during its time as St Vincent's Boys' Home.

Australian Research Council grant success

The Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, together with the NSW Rural Fire Service, Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, ACT Parks and Conservation, and researchers from Australian National University and the University Lleida, have been awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant for the project 'Forecasting live fuel moisture content, the on/off switch for forest fire'.

Indigenous Strategy

The *Indigenous Strategy 2020-2023* is currently in the final stages of approval and a copy will be provided to the Board at the April 2020 meeting.

Joint Program in Medicine with Charles Sturt University

The Western Sydney University and Charles Sturt University Joint Doctor of Medicine Program will commence in 2021, with a cohort of 37 students at Orange. After a week of intense negotiations, the two Universities have reached an agreed position relating to financial compensation to Western Sydney University for the role it has played in developing the joint program. The Federal Education Minister has also provided an in-principle agreement to reinstate five student places to Western Sydney University.

Navitas – Sydney City campus update

The Vice-Chancellor, Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-President (Finance and Resources) met with the senior management team at Navitas on 31 January 2020 to discuss the future of the partnership arrangement of Sydney City campus. An in principle agreement was reached to continue the partnership arrangement for a further ten years.

Partnership with the Walker Group

In December 2019, the University and the Walker Group announced the partnership which will develop the Macarthur Medical Research Centre. The Lang Walker Family Foundation will contribute \$26 million in philanthropic gifts to the University for the delivery of the Centre. As part of the partnership, the Walker Group will also deliver the University's new Bankstown CBD campus.

Corpus distribution

As approved at the December 2019 Board meeting, \$14 million of corpus funding will be released between 2020-2023. However, the University has delayed finalising the funding on some initiatives due to the budgetary impacts of Coronavirus and the bushfire crises. An update on the development of these projects will be provided at a future Board of Trustees meeting.

Load update

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on student load and noted that load forecast is subject to considerable volatility early in the calendar year. The Vice-Chancellor noted that the \$8 million negative revenue target has improved since writing the report.

General Staffing Matters

Professor Michail Kagioglou has been appointed as Dean, School of Engineering, commencing 9 March 2020.

2.4 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

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

Senate Review

As a result of the External Review, Senate has amended the membership of University level committees, which now includes a Deputy Chair from the elected membership of Academic Senate. It has also expanded the number of elected members of Senate on all committees and expanded the number of student representatives on Academic Senate, from four members to seven.

A Multi-Disciplinary Learning and Teaching Committee (MTALC) will be established at the Cluster level to discuss pedagogical advancement. This work will be distinct from the regulatory work of the Student Academic Committee (SAC).

Research and Partnerships

At the 6 December 2019 meeting of Senate, the Senior Advisor Partnership and Growth, Mr Tim Horan, presented on developing enterprise and partnership. The presentation focussed on the different ways that partnerships with external companies are understood and assessed by the University. The successful partnership with Landcom was showcased, and the presentation was well received by members of Senate.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 NUW Alliance Membership [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Delegations (Administrative) Policy [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3 Western Growth Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3.1 Treatment of Proceeds from Western Growth (Milperra) [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3.2 Werrington Development Options [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3.3 Western Growth Milestones [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

[Professor Janette Perz, Institute Director, Translational Health Research Institute (THRI) joined the meeting at 11.10am for this item]

4. PRESENTATION

4.1 Translational Health Research Institute (THRI) [Open Session Item]

Institute Director, Professor Janette Perz attended the meeting to provide Board members with an overview of the Translational Health Research Institute (THRI).

Professor Perz highlighted the Institute's research themes and vision to accelerate the translation of health and medical research for better outcomes to the community.

The Institute is a multidisciplinary Institute with a dispersed membership model. It has 165 members, including Health Associates and Adjuncts, and in 2019, the Institute had 38 HDR candidates and over 50 research projects.

Professor Perz highlighted the Program of Strength, which includes the Obesity & Metabolism Translation Research Unit (DOMTRU) and Transforming Early Education and Child Health (TeEACH). The TeEACH program was funded through the Corpus Investment.

[Ms Gabrielle Trainor left the meeting at 11.22am]

Professor Perz spoke of the challenges and opportunities faced by the Institute, including communicating impact, amplifying research activities in Schools and Clusters, realising the potential of new precincts, optimising research consortia and securing Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) research funding.

The Board thanked Professor Perz for her presentation.

[Professor Janette Perz, Institute Director, Translational Health Research Institute (THRI) left the meeting at 11.35am 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.

5.5 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 approved the affixing of the University Seal to those documents listed in the attached report, pursuant to the University Seal Usage Policy.

[19/2/2020:9]

7. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 8 April 2020 at 8.30am at the Parramatta South Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.00pm.



Confirmed by:

Professor Peter Shergold (Chair)

(Date) 8 April 2020

STRATEGIC INFORMATION SESSION

The Board held a lunch time strategic information session immediately following the Board meeting.

Professor Kerry London, Dean, School of Built Environment, gave a presentation to the Board on the School of Built Environment. Topics included:

School Professional Disciplines

The School of Built Environment has three core Disciplines comprising Architecture, Construction Management and Industrial Design. The School also has four supporting Disciplines: Project Management, Building Surveying, Quantity Surveying and Fire Safety.

Student Numbers

Professor London advised the Board that commencing and continuing load are tracking above target for 2020. The School is not impacted by the Coronavirus as it has a low International load.

Research Activities

The School of Built Environment has recently seen success in Category 2 and 3 grants, Field of Research (FoR) 1202 Building Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 3 ranking, is building capacity in architecture and industrial design, and has exceptional Q1 journal publications rates. The School also has strong industry collaborations.

Business Engagement

The School of Built Environment have a number of MOUs and Agreements with various organisations.

The Board thanked Professor London for her presentation.