



# **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S GENDER EQUITY AND RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **PURPOSE**

The Vice-Chancellor's Gender Equity and Respectful Relationships Advisory Committee (VCGERRAC) is an advisory body to the Vice-Chancellor providing leadership on:

- Key gender equity issues across the University, including gender diversity, intersectionality, and inclusivity; and
- The promotion of positive relationships, respect and equality, including ensuring each of the University's campuses are free from sexual harassment and sexual assault.

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The VCGERRAC will advise on:

1. Strategic directions, priorities and objectives for University staff and students in relation to:
  - i. Gender equity, including the Science in Australia Gender Equity program (SAGE)
  - ii. Gender diversity, intersectionality, and inclusivity
  - iii. The annual determination of the priorities and quantum for the Gender Equity Fund and the proposals to be funded.
2. The prevention of and response to sexual assault and sexual harassment within the University community, including:
  - i. the ongoing development and monitoring of a range of education and support initiatives
  - ii. continual review and assessment of the University's sexual harassment and sexual assault policies and procedures
  - iii. collaboration with relevant internal and external bodies to help identify and inform interventions which are based on sound research.
3. University performance and outcomes in areas of gender equity, gender diversity, and the prevention of and response to sexual assault and sexual harassment.

### **MEETINGS**

The Committee will meet four times per year. Additional meetings may be called at the Vice-Chancellor's direction.

The Committee may meet in person at Parramatta South campus or via Zoom.

Where a member is unable to attend a meeting, a nominee may be sent, with the prior endorsement of the Vice-Chancellor.

Standing Agenda items for consideration at meetings will include:

- Progress reports on Vice-Chancellor's Gender Equity Fund
- Progress reports regarding:

- Gender Equity Strategy and Action Plan;
- Indigenous Strategy;
- People Strategy;
- Respectful Relationships Action Plan;
- SAGE Project (including SAGE Assessments);
- Reports of sexual harm and outcomes from the Complaints Resolution Unit;
- Outcomes and insights arising from compliance and benchmarking processes – including but not limited to Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) Reporting, WGEA Employer of Choice for Gender Equity (EOCGE) performance, National Student Safety Survey (or other) results, and Times Higher Education (THE) Impact benchmarking;
- Periodic activity and impact reports from the Equity and Diversity Working Party (EDWP) network;
- Proposals or recommendations regarding Committee Functions;
- Stakeholder updates (annual briefing, submitted on a rotational basis, as per a schedule of reports), including (but not limited to):
  - Ally Network
  - Student Collectives – Disability Collective, Ethno-Cultural Collective, Indigenous Student Council, Queer Collective, Women’s Collective,
  - Parent Student Unions
  - Rainbow Western
  - Sexualities and Genders Research Network
  - Student Representative Council
  - Social Justice Network
  - We-CALD Network
  - VC International Student Advisory Council

## **REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

After each meeting, VCGERRAC minutes and associated papers will be provided to the Executive Committee. A summary report on key issues discussed will be provided to the People and Culture Committee.

An action list from each meeting will be used to track required actions resulting from Committee discussions. The Secretariat will have responsibility for following up actions with responsible members as required.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND SECRETARIAT**

The Vice-Chancellor (or nominee) will Chair the Committee meetings. In the Vice-Chancellor’s absence, the Deputy Chair will act as Chair.

General Committee membership will be by invitation from the Vice-Chancellor for a term of 2-years. At the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor, a member may be selected for an additional 2-year term/s.

As an advisory committee to the Vice-Chancellor, the membership will be broadly representative of the University community and include members with functional responsibilities in relevant areas of strategy and operation.

Membership will adhere to gender balance guidelines provided within the *Gender Equity Policy* (no more than 60% representation of any one gender where possible) and include:

- a range of diverse experiences, knowledge and backgrounds;
- student, professional staff and academic staff perspectives; and
- representation from First Nations people, sexuality and gender diverse people, people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and of various ages.

The Secretariat will have responsibility for keeping a register of Committee membership and providing advice to the Vice-Chancellor on membership terms, appointments and resignations as required.

**Secretariat:** through Equity and Diversity, via [equityanddiversity@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:equityanddiversity@westernsydney.edu.au)

## **RESIGNATIONS**

Members who are unable to complete their 2-year term may resign from the Committee via direct email to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. The Secretariat for the Committee should also be included in this correspondence.