



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Minutes** of the meeting 2014/2 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney, held at 8.30am on **Wednesday 9 April 2014 in the Board of Trustees Room, Building EZ, Female Orphan School, Parramatta.**

**Present:**

- Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chancellor)
- Professor Barney Glover (Vice-Chancellor)
- Mr Michael Pratt (Deputy Chancellor)
- Ms Gillian Shadwick (Deputy Chancellor)
- Mr Christopher Brown
- Ms Elizabeth Dibbs
- Ms Genevieve Gregor
- Mr Elie Hammam
- Ms Taylor Macdonald
- Dr George Morgan
- Ms Jenny Purcell
- Mr Ian Stone
- Associate Professor Paul Wormell

**Apologies:**

- Mr John Banks
- Mr Tim Ferraro
- Ms Vivienne James
- Mr Paul Newman
- Ms Gabrielle Trainor

**In Attendance:**

- Ms Rhonda Hawkins (Deputy Vice-Chancellor) and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
- Ms Terri Anderson
- Ms Belinda Attard (item 2.1)
- Mr Scott Christensen (item 2.7)
- Mr James Fitzgibbon
- Ms Helen Fleming
- Mr Darren Greentree (item 2.1)
- Professor Scott Holmes
- Professor Kerri-Lee Krause
- Dr Rob Lang (item 2.6)
- Mr Peter Pickering
- Ms Sharon Rigney, minutes
- Mr Scott Sligar (item 2.1)
- Ms Jacinta Van Vliet (item 2.1)
- Mr John Viljoen (item 2.1)
- Mr Alan Zammit

## 1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

### 1.1. Welcome

The Chancellor welcomed new board member Elizabeth Dibbs to her first Board meeting. Alan Zammit (chair of the Audit and Risk Management Committee) was thanked for attending the meeting for the consideration of the audited financial statements.

### 1.2. Apologies

The Board accepted apologies from John Banks, Tim Ferraro, Vivienne James, Paul Newman and Gabrielle Trainor.

### 1.3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

### 1.4. Confirmation of Minutes

#### *Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees resolved to confirm the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on 26 February 2014.**

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### 1.5. Action Sheet from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions from previous meetings without discussion.

### 1.6. Starring of Items

In addition to procedural items (items 1.1 to 1.7), the following items were starred: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 6.2 and all items under 3.

#### *Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees resolved that all unstarred items be taken as considered and all recommendations in the attachments for them as adopted.**

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### 1.7. Arrangement of Business

The Board agreed with the Chancellor's suggestion that the meeting would consider items 2.6, 3.1 and 3.4 under closed session. The remainder of the items would be discussed in open session.

## 2. MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION

### 2.1. Audited Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2013

Representatives from the NSW Audit Office attended the meeting for the consideration of the 2013 Audited Financial Statement. The University agreed to adopt the accounting treatment of the student residences transaction as recommended by the Audit Office, resulting in a write-down of \$34m in assets.

The Audit Office representatives thanked the CFO team for their professionalism and commended the University on consistently delivering quality accounts.

## *Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees resolved to adopt the audited Financial Statements and authorised certification thereof by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.**

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### **2.2. Chancellor's Report**

The Chancellor reported on the media campaign Fair Go for the West, aimed at boosting the region's services, facilities and economic viability, and the role that UWS has played as a key supporter of the campaign. Additional engagement opportunities for the University may include the annual Zest Awards, which recognise achievements of community sector groups and individuals in western Sydney.

### **2.3. Vice-Chancellor's Report**

The Vice-Chancellor reported on significant Federal Government activities that may impact upon the HE sector, including the "Review of the Demand Driven System" and the "Commission of Audit". Student load figures indicate that Summer session is proving popular and will be expanded to include more unit offerings in 2014/15.

The Vice-Chancellor also reported on his recent trip to China and Vietnam, where he met with university presidents, government agencies and industry partners in the area of complementary medicine.

### **2.4 Cases Under Management**

The Vice-Chancellor advised the Board that a register of cases under management will be developed and that this will be reported to the Board through the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

### **2.5 Annual Report and Board Report**

The Board authorised the Chancellor to sign the Annual Report statement, providing assurances on compliance with a range of State and Federal accountabilities, and made the following resolution:

## *Resolution*

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**The Board approved the 'UWS Board of Trustees Report' in the 2013 UWS Annual Report and authorised the Chancellor to sign the document on the Board's behalf.**

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## **CLOSED SESSION**

The closed session covered the following items:

### **2.6 Parramatta CBD**

#### **3.1 Finance and Investment Committee**

#### **3.4 Board Standing and Remunerations and Nominations Committee**

### **2.6 Parramatta CBD**

This item was discussed under closed session.

## **2.7 UWS Relationship with Regional Sporting Bodies**

The Director of Marketing and Communications presented on the range of engagements and marketing activities that the University is nurturing with western Sydney sporting codes and clubs, with particular emphasis on the University's relationship with the Western Sydney Wanderers and the GWS Giants. Sponsorship and engagement in areas not related to sport, and in particular those in which women participate, was suggested for future consideration.

## **3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **3.1 Finance and Investment Committee**

This item was discussed under closed session.

### **3.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee**

The Board noted the report without discussion.

### *Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees approved the revised Delegations Schedules D, as attached, and endorsed the delegation of the Director, Capital Works and Facilities.**

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### **3.3 Academic Senate**

The chair of Academic Senate spoke to his report and highlighted the following points:

- The Academic Senate agenda for 2014 covers substantial items such as the Parramatta CBD initiative (including the development of new courses), blended learning, the Open University UK and The Academy.
- The first co-sponsored Vice-Chancellor and Chair of Senate Academic Forum was held at the end of March and was a great success. The topic was "The Future of Higher Education", with a particular emphasis on UWS. Feedback from the table discussion emphasised the importance of people, place, community and connectedness and the importance of enabling students as they develop their skills and academic literacies. The next Forum is scheduled for June, and the proposed topic is "Academic Freedom and the Public Intellectual".

### **3.4 Board Standing and Remuneration & Nominations Committees**

The Board discussed this item in closed session and passed resolutions on honorary awards and committee appointments.

### **3.5 University Infrastructure Committee**

The UIC has not met since the last Board meeting and no report was provided.

## **4 ADVISORY BODIES**

### **4.1 Foundation Council**

The Board noted the minutes of the Foundation Council meeting held on 18 February.

#### **4.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council**

The report of the meeting held on 13 March was noted without discussion.

#### **5 USES OF THE UNIVERSITY SEAL**

The Board made the following resolution without discussion:

##### *Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees approved the uses of the University Seal since the last report, as detailed in the report provided to this meeting.**

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#### **6 OTHER MATTERS**

##### **6.1 Our Future Action Program**

The Board noted the report without discussion.

##### **6.2 Staffing Matters**

The Academic Staff member on the Board addressed the meeting. He cautioned that the increase in student numbers may impact upon the student/staff ratio, and that the reduction in casualisation and increase in the numbers of teaching-focussed roles are welcome trends.

##### **6.3 Equity and Diversity Report**

The Board noted the report without discussion.

##### **6.4 Pathways to Success**

The Board noted the report without discussion.

##### **6.5 100 Academics Recruitment Campaign Update**

The Board noted the report. The Staffing Strategy will be discussed in detail at the Board's strategy day in June.

#### **7. MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no matters raised by Board members.

#### **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

#### **9. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held at 2pm Wednesday 3 June 2014, at the Langham Hotel, Sydney.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

Confirmed by:

  
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Chair  
  
3/6/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

