

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Minutes** of meeting 2018/4 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 1.00pm on Wednesday 8 August 2018, Boardroom, Parramatta South Campus.

- Present:** Board of Trustees  
Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor)  
Professor Barney Glover (Vice-Chancellor and President)  
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)  
Ms Genevieve Gregor (Deputy Chancellor)  
Mr Peeyush Gupta  
Ms Alexandra Coleman  
Dr Ben Etherington  
Ms Nicole Gismondo (*arrived at 8.40 am*)  
Dr David Harland  
Ms Carmel Hourigan (*arrived at 9.15 am*)  
Dr Linda O'Brien AM  
Associate Professor Alpha Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate)  
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO  
Ms Holly Kramer
- Apologies:** Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)  
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO  
Mr Christopher Brown AM  
Mr Joseph Carrozzi
- In Attendance:** External  
Mr Peter Forster (observer)
- Western Sydney University  
Professor Scott Holmes (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor)  
Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation)  
Professor Sharon Bell (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategy and Planning)  
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)  
Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources)  
Mr Angelo Kourtis (Vice-President, People and Advancement)  
Ms Helen Fleming (University Secretary and General Counsel)  
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)  
Ms Hannah Mclean (Associate Director, secretariat) (observer)  
Ms Sara Godfrey (Executive Governance Officer) (minutes)  
Ms Christine Sharpe (Senior Governance Officer) (observer)
- (*For Item 4.1 only*)  
Mr Michael Burgess (Chief Student Experience Officer)

## **1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

### **1.1 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed members and observers, declared the meeting open and confirmed that there was a quorum present. The Chair welcomed Mr Peter Forster (who is currently conducting an independent review of the Board of Trustees and its Committees) as an observer. The Chair also welcomed as observers Ms Hannah Mclean and Ms Christine Sharpe from the Office of Governance Services.

### **1.2 Apologies**

The Board noted apologies from Mr Christopher Brown AM, Ms Kerry Stubbs, Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO and Mr Joseph Carrozzi.

### **1.3 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. No new declarations were made. The Chair asked Board members to ensure that the Office of Governance Services is made aware of any new material interests or amendments to the current register of interests.

### **1.4 Confirmation of Minutes**

The Board resolved as follows:

#### *Resolution*

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**The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 13 June 2018 meeting and 14 June 2018 strategy day.**

**[8/8/2018:1]**

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### **1.5 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings**

The Board noted the actions taken on items listed.

### **1.6 Starring of Items**

#### *Resolution*

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

**[8/8/2018:2]**

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### **1.7 Arrangement of Business**

The following items were identified as being considered in closed session: 2.2, 3.1, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5.

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

### **2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]**

The Chancellor thanked the Deputy Chancellor, Ms Elizabeth Dibbs, who acted as Chancellor while he took annual leave.

The Chancellor highlighted aspects of his written report, including a special event that took place on 6 June 2018 at the Parramatta South campus. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor welcomed all the former Vice-Chancellors of the University for the formal unveiling of Professor Deryck Schreuder's portrait.

The Chancellor informed Board members about his national speaking tour as National President of the Institute of Public Administration.

The Chancellor informed Board members of a recent report co-authored by Professor Stephen Parker AO, National Sector Lead, Education at KPMG, which highlights the shortfalls of Australia's current two-tier tertiary education system, and advocates for the restoration of a demand-driven tertiary education system. The Chancellor also informed Board members of a report published by the Grattan Institute concerning performance of school students from non-English speaking migrant families.

### **2.2 Vice-Chancellor's Report [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

## **3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL**

### **3.1 Western Growth - Update [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

### **3.2 Ethical Framework – Update [Open Session Item]**

The Chancellor informed Board members that he, the Vice-Chancellor and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Strategy and Planning, had undertaken work to develop the Ethical Framework. The revised draft takes into account the work already undertaken, albeit in a modified form. It is concise, broadly applicable to a whole range of ethical issues, and aligns with the University's mission and values, and key governance documents such as the *Western Sydney University Act* and the Board Charter.

The Chancellor invited Board members to provide written comments on the proposed draft. The final Framework will then be circulated out of session for consideration, prior to a workshop that will be facilitated by the Ethics Centre to test the framework against ethical scenarios.

Board members noted the inclusion of the ANU Statement on Academic Freedom and recommended that the University think about how to take forward its own statement on academic freedom, and what this means. It was agreed that the Chair of Academic Senate should provide an update on this in her next report to the Board following consultation with Academic Senate.

### 3.3 MyVoice Staff Engagement Survey Results [Open Session Item]

The Vice-Chancellor provided a summary of the 2018 *MyVoice* Staff Engagement Survey results and next steps.

Overall, the University performed well in relation to: supervisory leadership; diversity measures including the importance of gender equality, and intolerance for sex-based harassment; teamwork and relationships with co-workers; role clarity and alignment to the University's overall success; and awareness of work health and safety responsibilities. The key areas of concerns identified in the survey include: Executive leadership; change management processes; communication; support for teaching evaluation; and career opportunities for staff.

The Vice Chancellor noted that significant work will now be implemented in relation to communication and listening and learning from academic and professional staff. It was also noted that the next survey will be conducted in 2 years, rather than 3 years. The next survey will be conducted in May 2020.

Board members discussed the drop in teaching staff satisfaction, the confidence of staff in their supervisors and leaders, work load manageability, job security and career opportunities, stakeholder engagement and consultation and the academic restructure, and of the need to develop a clear communication plan to follow-up on the results.

It was agreed that Vice-Chancellor should present to the Board an updated report in early 2019.

### 3.4 NSW Standard Governing Body Provisions [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor introduced this item and asked that the Board approve the adoption of the standard governing body provisions outlined in the *Universities Governing Bodies Act 2011*, concerning the size and composition of the Board of Trustees. Board members discussed the optimum Board size. The Chancellor will consider bringing to the Board at a later date a further proposal concerning the reduction of the number of Board-appointed positions to the Board for consideration.

#### *Resolution*

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#### **The Board of Trustees:**

- 1. resolved, by a two-thirds majority, and for the purposes of section 4(1) of the *Universities Governing Bodies Act 2011* ("Act") to:**
  - a. displace the replaceable provisions of the *Western Sydney University Act 1997* and adopt instead the *Standard Governing Provisions* as set out in the Act;**
  - b. determine, for the purposes of section 4(1)(b) of the Act, that the membership of the Board of Trustees is to be amended as follows, subject to savings provisions that allow existing members to continue to hold office in the relevant categories for the remainder of their term of office, unless they sooner resign or otherwise cease to hold office:**
    - the total membership of the Board of Trustees is to remain at 18 members;**
    - the total number of Ministerial appointees is to be reduced from six to two members;**
    - the total number of Board appointees is to increase from five (counting the graduate member) to nine members; and**

- the total number of members in each other category of membership (including elected members) of the Board of Trustees members is to remain unchanged; and
  - c. adopt the *Western Sydney University (Constitution) Rule* in the form attached as a constitution rule for the purposes of clause 3(4) of Schedule 1 of the Act; and
2. noted that the Board may consider in future a proposal to reduce the size of the Board through a reduction in the number of Board-appointed members, in accordance with the *Standard Governing Provisions*.

[8/8/2018:3]

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#### **4. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **4.1 Student Experience [Open Session Item]**

*[The Chief Student Experience Officer, Mr Michael Burgess, joined the meeting for this Item]*

The Chief Student Experience Officer presented on organisational intelligence, experience and operational efficiency as they pertain to University students and highlighted two significant new enhancements the University intends to roll-out in the near future: the Student Panel Longitudinal Quantitative Survey and the Voice of Student Framework – a systematic approach to capturing, analysing, reporting and acting on student feedback about their experiences with and expectations for the products or services delivered across the university.

*[The Chief Student Experience Officer, Mr Michael Burgess, left the meeting following conclusion of this this item]*

##### **4.2 21 Century Curriculum Reform Project [Open Session Item]**

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

#### **5. BOARD COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BODIES**

##### **5.1 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

##### **5.2 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

##### **5.3 University Infrastructure Committee [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

##### **5.4 Academic Senate [Open Session Item]**

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to aspects of the written report, including the Professoriate Forum. The Forum was formed in 2018 in response to a series of conversations between the Vice Chancellor and the Professoriate regarding their roles within the University.

The Chair of Academic Senate provided an update on the number of University Medals awarded to students, comparing 2016 to 2018. It was agreed that the Chair of Academic Senate should investigate further, and discuss with Academic Senate, the impact of the introduction of the Masters of Research on the awarding of University medals in some disciplines.

#### **5.5 Board Executive Committee [Closed Session Item]**

This item was considered in closed session.

### **6. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING**

The Vice-Chancellor spoke on the University's Open Day, to be held on 19 September and encouraged Board members to attend. The Vice-Chancellor also informed Board members that an open day will take place at the new Liverpool City campus on 22 September. The Chancellor reminded members of the University's Town and Gown Dinner, to be held on 20 October 2018 in the Grand Pavilion, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse.

#### **6.1 Uses of the University Seal [Open Session Item]**

*Resolution*

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**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.**

**[8/8/2018:7]**

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### **7. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE**

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 10 October 2018 at 8.30 am at the Parramatta South Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.38 pm.

Confirmed by:

(Chair)

  
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(Date)

10/10/18  
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