WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2023/1 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 22 February 2023 in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

Present:	Professor Jennifer Westacott AO (Chair and Chancellor)
	Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)
	Professor Robert Mailhammer (Chair of Academic Senate)
	Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)
	Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)
	Dr Linda O'Brien AM (Pro-Chancellor)
	Ms Holly Kramer (Pro-Chancellor)
	Mr Lee Pinder (Pro-Chancellor)
	Dr Amanda Larkin
	Mr Simon Hickey
	Ms Georgia Lee
	Mr James Christian PSM
	Ms Natalia Centellas (née Vukolova)
	Dr Fiona Pacey
	Ms Coralie Properjohn
	Mr Bayan Sohailee *(arrived 9.35am)*
	Associate Professor Jennifer Mensch
Apologies:	Mr Joseph Carrozzi AM
In Attendance:	Ms Jane Hutchison (University Secretary)
	Mr Peter Pickering (Senior Vice-President)
	Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and International)
	Mr Darren Greentree (Vice-President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer)
	Mr Bill Parasiris (Vice-President, Infrastructure and Commercial) *(arrived 8.45am)*
	Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)
	Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)
	Ms Teneille Rousianos (Administration Officer) (Meeting Support)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open and confirmed a quorum was present.

The Chair welcomed members and observers and noted that this is the first meeting for the newly elected undergraduate student member, Mr Bayan Sohailee.

The Chair welcomed back Professor Robert Mailhammer, returning from six months leave.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

Mr James Christian PSM gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Apologies

The apology from Mr Joseph Carrozzi AM was noted.

1.4 Declarations of Material Interests

The Chair invited Board members to declare any new material interests in relation to matters on the agenda or their role on the Board more generally. No new declarations were made.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 7 December 2022 meeting.

[22/02/2023:1]

1.5.1 Confirmation of Rotary Resolution Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the Rotary Resolution held between 4 January 2023 to 11 January 2023.

[22/02/2023:2]

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 resolved to approve all unstarred items as having been considered and noted, and their respective recommendations as adopted.

[22/02/2023:3]

1.8 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 2.1.1, 3.1, 3.4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5. Items 4.2 and 4.4 were brought forward on the agenda. Item 4.2 was discussed before 3.2, and item 4.4 was discussed prior to 4.1.

2. REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor spoke to her report, noting the following:

- *Australian Universities Accord:* The Chancellor is a member of the Australian Universities Accord Ministerial Reference Group and provided an update from the most recent roundtable with the Minister. The Business Council of Australia (BCA), of whom the Chancellor is the Chief Executive, has also met with the Accord Panel to discuss the role the BCA can play to strengthen the position of universities.
- *Individual meetings with Board members:* The Chancellor has met with most members of the Board and will provide a report at the next meeting once all one-on-one meetings with Board members have been completed.
- *Jobs and Skills Australia:* The first meeting of Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) has taken place. JSA will work with the Australian Universities Accord.
- *Board of Trustees Induction Session:* The Chancellor highlighted her key messages to new members at the recent Board of Trustees induction. This included the Board's role in assisting the management team to maintain momentum, ensuring collegiality, raising concerns with the Chancellor prior to Board meetings, and the importance of ensuring that the staff and student voice is heard.
- *Stepping down from the BCA:* The Chancellor spoke to the recent media announcement of her stepping down from the BCA, with a date yet to be determined.
- *Western Parklands City Authority (WPCA):* WPCA has signed a letter of intent with the NSW Vice-Chancellors' Committee regarding education and research opportunities in Bradfield.

[Mr Bill Parasiris, Vice-President, Infrastructure and Commercial arrived at 8.45am]

- *Trip to India:* The Chancellor will travel to India with the Prime Minister, which will be an opportunity to showcase the University's strengths and strong connections to India.
- *Voice to Parliament:* There will be a session at a future Board meeting on the Voice to Parliament.
- *Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Course* – The Chancellor encouraged members to attend an upcoming AICD course on University Governance.

2.1.1 Vice-Chancellor's Performance Plan and University Achievements and Challenges in 2022 and Priorities for 2023 [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

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

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted the following items in his report:

- *Australian Universities Accord:* the Panel has released a discussion paper which will be circulated to all members of the Board. A deep-dive presentation has been scheduled with Board and Committee members for 2 March. Submissions to the paper are due by 11 April, with the Panel's interim report expected to be released in June.

[Mr Bayan Sohailee joined the meeting at 9.35am]

- *Council of International Education:* the Vice-Chancellor met with the new Council to discuss its overlap with the Accord.
- *International Travel:* in the week commencing 27 February, the Vice-Chancellor will be in India as part of a Ministerial led delegation, which will include a focus on agriculture

research and training. The Vice-Chancellor will travel to China in March with a delegation of Associate Deans (international), to reengage with partners in the region.

- *Student load update:* the sector is experiencing a softening in domestic student load. The Vice-President, People and Advancement provided an update, advising that despite this trend, the University is on target for commencing load, and that International student load is also performing well. Sydney City Campus and OEC are also on track to meet their targets. Continuing load remains soft, largely due to the strength of the economy and current job market. The University has introduced strategies such as study scholarships to assist with improving load. The Vice-Chancellor advised that the University is holding a contingency in the budget to address any shortfall in load.
- *WestInvest:* the University has been awarded approximately $78.5 million in funding from the WestInvest program to establish an Indigenous Centre of Excellence at Parramatta South campus. A national design competition will be held, focussing on indigenous practices and architects. The Vice-Chancellor spoke of additional funding awarded from the WestInvest program that positively impacts the University, including projects in Liverpool, Bankstown and Penrith.
- *Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Minister and Ambassador Delegation Visit:* the University hosted a Vietnamese delegation led by the Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Minister, the Vietnamese Ambassador and the Vietnamese Consul-General, which provided an opportunity to discuss the University's research and education engagement in Vietnam. Following the delegation visit, a roundtable discussion was held to explore opportunities for collaboration in education, teaching and research between Vietnam and Australia.
- *Adapting to Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):* much work is underway on how the University is responding to the challenge of generative AI. A key focus of the University's response is to ensure that members of the University community are supported and prepared for the ethical use of generative AI in their learning and work, while ensuring the integrity of credentials and scholarly knowledge creation. This will also inform work on the student experience.
- *ATEM Awards for Excellence - 2022 Best Practice Awards:* the Board congratulated the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Indigenous Leadership and the team on being awarded the Best Paper Award at ATEM's Best Practice Awards in Tertiary Education Management.
- *Cyber Security:* the Board discussed cyber security risks and external assessments of the University's cyber risks. The Senior Vice-President advised the Board that the University's cyber security framework is mapped against multiple assessments, including the Essential 8 and Mandatory 25. The Board were advised that the newly appointed CISO is leading the cultural change required to ensure cyber security is everyone's responsibility.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

The Chair of Academic Senate thanked Professor Sarah Zang, members of the Senior Executive and the Office of Governance Services for the support during his leave, and spoke to the report, noting:

- *Student Report:* the Student Member's Report to Senate continues to create a positive impact by raising key issues for Senate to consider. For example, addressing the late distribution of Learning Guides, and increasing the HDR stipend.
- *Australian Universities Accord:* the Academic Senate will contribute to the University's response to the Australian Universities Accord, via its standing committee.
- *VC and Academic Senate Form:* a forum will be held in July/August to discuss the Australian Universities Accord, and the issues and challenges raised.
- *TEQSA Renewal:* Academic Senate is assisting with preparations for the 2025 TEQSA reaccreditation submission, under the leadership of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic).
- *Generative AI:* Board members discussed Senate's role in fostering the opportunities that AI presents as a tool to assist pedagogy, and it not only being a cheating risk to be

managed. It was agreed that a future Board deep-dive session will be held on the impacts of generative AI.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 Western Sydney University Campus in Indonesia [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Annual Compliance Statement TEQSA Corporate Governance Standards and Voluntary Code of Best Practice [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the report which demonstrates that the University is fully compliant with both the Voluntary Code for the Governance of Australian Universities, and the TEQSA Corporate Governance Standards.

3.3 Transformation Program Update [Open Session Item]

The Senior Vice-President updated the Board on the following aspects of the Transformation Program:

- *Digital Acceleration (DX):* The project is gathering momentum and there is now a roadmap on how to reshape the data governance and new functional structures. The new telephony system has now been installed, moving from analogue to digital.
- *Destination College (DC)* – a series of pilots have been finalised, and the project is working towards refining the reduced set of programs to be delivered.
- *Innovation Futures (IF)* – curriculum development and partner identification are complete, and the project has successfully delivered Venture Maker components within Humanities and Communication Arts (HCA) subjects.

3.4 Western Growth Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4. BOARD COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BODIES

4.1 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

[The Chancellor left the meeting at 11.56am and Deputy Chancellor Dibbs assumed the role as Acting Chair for items 4.1, 4.3, 4.6, 5 and 6]

4.2 Board Executive Committee [Closed Session Item]

[This item was brought forward and discussed before item 4.1]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.3 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.4 People and Culture Committee [Closed Session Item]

[This item was brought forward and discussed before item 3.2]

This item was considered in closed session.

[Ms Holly Kramer left the meeting at 11.30am]

4.6 University Infrastructure Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING

5.1 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 *Western Sydney University (University Seal and Authentication) Rule 2021*.
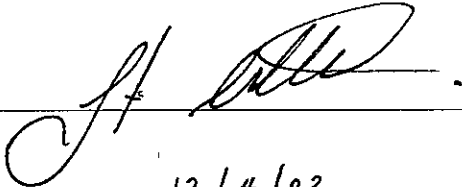
[7/12/2022:10]

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6. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 12 April 2023 at 8.30am in Boardroom 1, Building EB, Parramatta South campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.22pm.

Confirmed by:
(Chair)

12 / 4 / 23