



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of the meeting 2014/1 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney, held at 9am on **Wednesday 26 February 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 John Banks
- Mr Christopher Brown (to 10.30am)
- Mr Tim Ferraro
- Ms Genevieve Gregor
- Mr Elie Hammam
- Ms Vivienne James
- Ms Taylor Macdonald
- Dr George Morgan
- Mr Paul Newman
- Ms Jenny Purcell
- Mr Ian Stone
- Ms Gabrielle Trainor
- Associate Professor Paul Wormell

Apologies: Ms Elizabeth Dibbs

In Attendance: Ms Rhonda Hawkins (DVC Corporate Strategy & Services) and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

- Ms Terri Anderson
- Mr James Fitzgibbon
- Ms Helen Fleming
- Mr Peter Pickering
- Ms Sharon Rigney, minutes

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1. Welcome

The Chancellor welcomed those present and extended a special welcome to Jenny Purcell and Taylor Macdonald for their first Board meeting. The Chancellor also welcomed Professor Barney Glover to his first meeting as the new Vice-Chancellor of UWS. The Chancellor noted that the Minister has approved the appointments of Genevieve Gregor, Elizabeth Dibbs and Paul Newman, and welcomed Paul to his first meeting.

1.2. Apologies

The Board accepted an apology from Elizabeth Dibbs. The Chancellor explained that she had agreed to chair the Scholarships Committee of the Council of Executive Women prior to

her appointment to the Board.

1.3. Declarations of Interest

The Chancellor reminded Board members of the need to declare any real or perceived conflicts in regard to any Board agenda items. The Chancellor advised that he was no longer Chair of the Aged Care Reform Implementation Council but is now Chair of its replacement body, the Aged Care Sector Committee. The Chancellor has also joined the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Council.

Gabrielle Trainor advised that she is a member of a NSW Government advisory body with a remit in the area of property development but that this is likely to finish in a couple of months.

1.4. 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, 2.8, 2.9, 6.2, 6.4 and all items under 3.

Resolution

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

1.5. Arrangement of Business

The Board agreed with the Chancellor's suggestion that the meeting would consider items 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 3.1, 3.4 and 3.5 under closed session. The remainder of the items would be discussed in open session.

1.6. Confirmation of Minutes

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved to confirm the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees held on 4 December 2013.

1.7. Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions from previous meetings without discussion.

2. MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION

2.1 Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor's report was taken as read. 2014 will be a busy year for the Board with some major strategic issues to be considered throughout the year. In a highly regulated but increasingly competitive market for Higher Education, board members will need to have an appetite for the prudent management of risk. He noted that Minister Pyne recently attended the opening of the UWS College facilities at the Bankstown campus and, as was evident from his speech, he is very supportive of UWS and its mission.

2.2 Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor's comprehensive report was taken as read. In the short time since commencing with the University in January, the Vice-Chancellor has already met with many staff from Schools and Divisions to introduce himself and to share his vision of UWS into the future. At a recent meeting of Universities Australia Vice-Chancellors major national issues were discussed, including university funding and student debt, proposed changes to the

funding of research and a review of teacher training entry standards chaired by Professor Greg Craven (Vice-Chancellor ACU). Student loan defaults continue to be a major issue across the sector and a report commissioned by UA will be available later in the year.

The Vice-Chancellor recently met students who were attending a two-day leadership program organised through the UWS Academy, and discussed expanding opportunities for international placements during UWS undergraduate programs; a concept which was well received by the students.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board's closed session discussions included the following items:

- 2.3 Cases Under Management**
- 2.4 Callista**
- 2.6 Open University UK**
- 2.7 2014 Admissions and Student Load**
- 2.8 Research Staffing Matter**
- 3.1 Finance and Investment Committee**
- 3.4 Board Standing and Remunerations and Nominations Committee**
- 3.5 University Infrastructure Committee**

2.3 Cases Under Management

This item was discussed under closed session.

2.4 Callista.

This item was discussed under closed session.

2.5 UWS Directions 2020

The Vice-Chancellor outlined the major strategies for UWS to 2020 to sharpen the *Making the Difference* strategy in key areas. A main area of focus will be strategies to make UWS an internationally recognised institution, whilst maintaining our mission of providing a 'university of the people' for Greater Western Sydney. In part this will involve the boosting of inbound and outward bound student numbers and increasing opportunities for international partnerships and collaboration. The ethnic diversity of the region is seen as an asset that can be leveraged. The Board also discussed significant business developments in Western Sydney and opportunities for UWS to become *the* research voice of Western Sydney; investment in IT; the establishment of learning centres in key locations; and the importance of the ongoing project to review the University's cost structures. The Board indicated support for the directions set out by the Vice-Chancellor, noting that impacts upon the student experience should underpin all strategic planning considerations.

2.6 Open University UK

This item was discussed under closed session.

2.7 2014 Admissions and Student Load

This item was discussed under closed session.

2.8 Research Staffing Matter

This item was discussed under closed session.

2.9 Revised Executive Structure

The Board agreed with the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor to establish the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). Recruitment to the position of the newly established position of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) will also be initiated as a matter of priority.

Minor changes to the Executive roles were also noted, and the following resolutions were made:

Resolutions

The Board of Trustees resolved to approve:

The establishment of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) position and immediate commencement of a recruitment process to fill the role; and

The change of title for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost.

3. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

3.1 Finance and Investment Committee

This item was discussed under closed session and resolutions were made in relation to the funding of a new Science building on the Parramatta South campus.

3.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Board noted the report without discussion.

3.3 Report from the Chair of Academic Senate

Chair of Academic Senate spoke to his report. Academic Senate's workplan for 2014 includes:

- contribution to addressing national Higher Education Standards, including AQF requirements;
- enhanced communication with the academic community, including Academic Forums jointly sponsored by the Vice-Chancellor and chair of Senate;
- engagement with University-wide projects, including Our Future Program, Open University UK and PhD Pathways projects; and
- contribution to academic risk management, including assessment and research standards and integrity.

3.4 Board Standing and Remuneration & Nominations Committees

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

The Board agreed that there was value in accessing the effectiveness of its operations and made the following resolution:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the conducting of a board performance appraisal before the end of 2014, with the engagement of an external facilitator selected by the Board Standing Committee.

Following discussion of the Board's committee structure, including the need to identify a board member willing to sit on the Audit and Risk Management Committee, the Board made the following resolutions:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved an amendment to the membership for the University Infrastructure Committee to include up to six external members.

The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Paul Newman to the University Infrastructure Committee for a two year period, to 31 December 2015.

Following brief discussion of the University entities, the Board made the following resolution:

Resolution

Board of Trustees noted that the Remuneration and Nominations Committee, under its delegation from the Board of Trustees, resolved to:

- a) endorse the appointment of Ms Ellen Brackenreg and Mr Bill Parasiris as directors on the board of uwsconnect;
- b) endorse the appointment of Senator the Hon. John Faulkner as a director on the board of the Whitlam Institute within the University of Western Sydney and, as a consequence, as a Trustee of the Whitlam Institute Trust Fund and
- c) endorse the appointment of Professor Peter Hutchings as a director on the board of Television Sydney Ltd.

3.5 University Infrastructure Committee

The Board discussed this item under closed session.

4 ADVISORY BODIES

4.1 Foundation Council

The Board noted the report of the Foundation Council meeting held on 18 February, and was appraised of the significant progress being made. The detailed report of the meeting will be provided for the Board next meeting in April.

4.2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Council

ATSIAC has not met since the last meeting of the Board and no report was presented for this meeting.

5 USES OF THE UNIVERSITY SEAL

The Board made the following resolution without discussion:

Resolution

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

6 OTHER MATTERS

6.1 Our Future Action Program

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.2 Graduation Destinations Survey

The Board noted this report and agreed that more detailed analysis and reporting would be useful in understanding graduate outcomes.

6.3 Bridges to Higher Education

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.4 Red Tape Taskforce

The Board discussed the work of the Red Tape Taskforce that was established primarily to provide advice on how to reduce and refine the administrative workload of academic staff. Areas targeted for improvement include travel approvals, curriculum approvals, student academic misconduct and human research ethics. An implementation report will be submitted to the Board in June 2014. There was support from the Board but the Chancellor emphasised the need for ongoing vigilance and continuous improvement in reducing the level of unnecessary administrative effort.

Resolutions

1. The Board endorsed the work that has been undertaken by the Red Tape Taskforce and notes the actions that have already been taken in the priority areas.
2. The Board requested the Vice-Chancellor and University Executive to consider and, where appropriate, arrange for the Taskforce's recommended actions to be undertaken. An implementation report will be submitted to the Board in June 2014.
3. The Board requested the Vice-Chancellor and University Executive to consider the view expressed by the Taskforce that there is an opportunity to implement continuous improvement processes at the University, and to take appropriate action.
4. The Board authorised the Red Tape Taskforce to continue analysing the results of the University-wide survey, in the context of other feedback and survey data, and to identify further recommendations for action.

6.5 UWS Community and Regional Engagement Masterplan

The Board noted the report, and made the following resolution:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees endorsed the draft UWS Engagement Plan 2014-2016.

6.6 Compliance with Voluntary Code of Best Practice

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.7 Staffing Matters

The Board noted the report. An enquiry was made as to the progress of the staffing strategy to recruit an additional 100 academic staff over a five year period, and it was agreed that a paper detailing the HR strategy will be prepared for the next meeting the Board.

6.8 2013 Media Coverage Summary

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.9 UWSCollege

The Board noted the report without discussion.

6.10 2015 Meeting Dates

The Board noted the report without discussion.

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 9am Wednesday 9 April 2014, in The Board of Trustees Room, Female Orphan School, Parramatta Campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.40 pm.

Confirmed by:



Chair

7.4.14

Date