

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

## CHANCELLOR ROLE AND PROFILE STATEMENT

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### Introduction

The *Western Sydney University Act 1997* (**the WSU Act**) makes the following provisions with regard to the role of the Chancellor.

#### **13. Chancellor**

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(3) The Chancellor:

- (a) is to advise and assist the Vice-Chancellor in the exercise of his or her functions under this Act, and
- (b) is to exercise a pastoral role within the University, and
- (c) has such other functions as are conferred or imposed on the Chancellor by or under this or any other Act.

The election process for the Chancellor is prescribed in Part 2 of the *Western Sydney University (Governance) Rule 2017* (**Governance Rule**), made under section 41 of the *WSU Act*.

The key role for the Chancellor is to chair the Board, which is the governing authority of the University. The Board's powers functions and its powers are detailed in the *WSU Act*, but the functions are briefly stated in section 11:

#### **11 Functions of Board**

(1) The Board is the governing authority of the University and has the following functions:

- (a) the development of broad policies and strategic plans with respect to the University,
- (b) generally defining the University's educational profile,
- (c) the management of the University's resources and the monitoring of the University's performance,
- (d) representation of the University as occasion requires.

(2) The Board has such other functions as are conferred or imposed on it by or under this Act or any other Act.

### Duties of the Chancellor

The Chancellor is responsible for:

1. Leadership of the Board and ensuring that the necessary business of the Board is carried out in an efficient and proper manner in accordance with relevant external and internal frameworks and requirements. This includes the operation of an effective system of committees to support the Board, some of which the Chancellor will also chair.
2. Establishing a constructive working relationship with the Vice-Chancellor that recognises the proper separation between governance by the Board and operational management of the University by the Executive. The Chancellor will also provide advice and support to the Vice-Chancellor.
3. Chairing the Board in a manner that is inclusive and promotes consensus but allows open discussion and debate that draws on the diversity of skills and experience among Board members, within the framework of collective corporate responsibility.
4. Undertaking performance review of the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the Board and reporting the outcomes to the Board. The Chancellor must also ensure that the Board periodically reviews its own performance.

5. Conducting the important ceremonial role of representing the Board and the University at formal occasions including graduation ceremonies and other internal and external events. The Chancellor also undertakes a unifying role within the University that embodies and gives expression to the statutory objectives, mission and values of the University.
6. Undertaking the important outreach role on behalf of the University that includes:
  - a) Representing and advocating for the University to government, business and community;
  - b) Garnering support and benefaction for the University;
  - c) Promoting and protecting the reputation and standing of the University in the community; and
  - d) Representing the University at various forums and committees.

### **Profile of the Chancellor**

The qualities and experience to carry out the role of Chancellor successfully include the following:

1. Having experience and reputation for organisational governance, leadership and the chairing of bodies like the Board of Trustees.
2. Being influential and respected by government, business and community at the highest levels with extensive networks and exhibiting the capacity to present issues and lobby effectively on behalf of the University.
3. Having the capacity for strategic thinking and envisioning and articulating the future of the University in national and international higher education contexts, as well as being an exceptional communicator with the capacity to persuade, manage dissent, inspire and lead.
4. Being personally committed to the statutory objectives, mission and values of the University, its role in Greater Western Sydney, and to the importance of and the opportunities provided by university education.
5. Having a reputation for integrity and probity and a respected public profile.
6. Being able to engage with the University community at all levels and willing to be involved in University life and events, and contribute to fundraising on behalf of the University.
7. Able to commit substantial time to carrying out the duties of Chancellor on an ongoing basis for the term of the appointment.

### **Conditions and Benefits**

The Chancellor is not remunerated but expenses of office are met by the University. Support is provided to the Office by a personal assistant as necessary and a fully maintained motor vehicle is provided if required.

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