14 June 2006

The Board of Trustees met on Wednesday 14 June 2006, in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington North. A summary of matters discussed is provided below.

Confirmation of Minutes
The minutes (PDF, 38Kb) of the April meeting of the Board of Trustees were confirmed.

Board Membership

The Chancellor welcomed the two new ministerial appointees, Mr Ian Stone and Dr Michael Bezzina. The Board noted with regret the resignation of the Graduate Member, Mr John Heath and conveyed to Mr Heath its gratitude for his contribution while a Board Member. The University's By-Laws provide the process for determining a replacement Graduate Member.

The Chancellor also expressed the Board's sympathies on the recent deaths of Linda Burney's partner, Mr Rick Farley, and Carolyn Norberry, a long-serving member of the University's HR staff.

Vice-Chancellor's Mid-Year Report

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to her report which included the following matters noted by the Board:

Student enrolments
The target of 2% over-enrolment may not be met and the level of Commonwealth Grant Scheme funding associated with the University's student load is less than expected. A significant mid-year intake strategy has been put in place to address this shortfall against the enrolment targets and colleges are focusing on areas where offers could be made to increase enrolments with particular attention to increasing the CGS funding outcomes. There is an increase in income from local fee-paying students of $1.4m. The fee income from onshore international students is being carefully monitored.

Financial performance
On the basis of results to date, the University does not see any major variation to the projected break even financial result for 2006.

University strategic plan and review
The University has been undertaking a process to integrate all of the plans and strategies now in place into a clear and concise representation of the "vision in action for UWS 2015". This matter will be considered in detail at the August meeting of the Board, which will have a strategic planning focus.

Staffing strategy
This strategy has been titled "Our People 2015" and a staffing strategy taskforce is being established. This group will consult widely and develop a comprehensive, multi-layered strategy to enable UWS to:

- attract and retain high quality staff in areas of focus and growth
- implement systems and procedures that identify, engage and nurture staff from diverse career backgrounds
- sharpen its reward, recognition and incentive systems
- address key issues for succession planning and professional development.

VSU

The DVC Corporate Services addressed the Board on a proposed strategy for managing student services in the post-VSU environment from 1 January 2007, and identified services seen by the University as essential, highly desirable and non-essential respectively. Mr Tim Jarrett, President of UWSSA presented the Association's views to the Board together with a proposal for service delivery under VSU. Mr John McGuire, General Manager of PAUWS also spoke briefly.

There was extensive discussion on how services to students might be funded while complying with the VSU legislation and bearing in mind the University's limited financial resources. The Board agreed to establish a committee to work with the University executive on this matter, bearing in mind the various views expressed. The Committee will comprise Kim Yeadon, Genevieve Kelly, Gabrielle Kibble and Mary Foley. This matter will be discussed in detail again at the August meeting.

AUQA

The Board noted the summary overview of the trial audit outcomes and the Trial Audit Report, which outlined a range of findings. The University has prepared an action plan in response to these findings and the Performance Portfolio is in the final stages of preparation for submission to AUQA by 3 July 2006.

Draft International Strategic Plan

A draft international strategy was considered by the Board and will be considered in more detail at the August meeting. The strategy is a whole of University plan to guide internationalisation and to assure quality and diversity in all international activities.

Medical School

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) Accreditation Team undertook a week-long site visit 22-26 May. The team acknowledged the hard work that has resulted in the progress to date, and identified some areas where concentrated focus needs to be applied in the next three months. An overarching project plan has been developed to ensure these are addressed, working parties have been established and additional staff deployed.

The Board authorised the Chancellor to sign the agreement with the TAFE Commission for the School of Medicine accommodation at Liverpool TAFE. This will be done at an event at Liverpool at 21 June and the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon. Carmel Tebbutt MP, will sign for the TAFE Commission.

Delegations Relating to Finance

The Board approved recommendations to vary current financial delegations relating to capital works, facilities and infrastructure, subject to the Audit and Risk Management Committee's formal endorsement of the proposals. In future all such delegation changes will be considered by the ARMC, prior to recommendation to the Board for approval.

UWS College

The Board:

- approved the new entity being known as UWS College
- noted the timetable for the creation of the new entity
- noted that pending further investigation, the BCRI site is the preferred site for UWS College.

DRG

To date, the DRG Implementation Project has made substantial progress on six of its twenty sub-projects. Of the sub-projects remaining, five organisational change proposals have been recently released and five are nearing completion, with four sub-project recommendations subject to further review. 2006 savings from the

Project will be less than anticipated due to the lengthy process involved when implementing changes and formalising reductions in staffing. To compensate, divisions are being asked to find additional savings to ensure the overall 2006 savings target is met.

Audit and Risk Management Committee

The Board approved the amendment to the Charter of the ARMC, as outlined at the April Board meeting.

Academic Senate

The Board noted the Academic Senate report and approved the new Academic Governance Policy covering the Academic Senate and Senate's Committees. The new Academic Governance Policy is available on the Policies and Procedures Directory.

Other Reports and Items Considered by the Board

- Vice-Chancellor's Report
- Report of 1 June 2006 meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee
- Report of 8 May 2006 meeting of the Campus Development Committee and Progress Report on Campus Development Funding for 2006
- Report of 30 March and 25 May 2006 meetings of the Regional Council
- Occupational Health and Safety Report
- Staffing Matters
- Progress Report of Major Capital Buildings Projects
- Progress Report on Callista
- Bologna Process
- National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Process
- Federal Budget 2006 and Higher Education
- Research Investment
- Auditor General's Report to Parliament