25 November 2009

The Board of Trustees met on Wednesday 25 November 2009, in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington North. A summary of matters discussed is provided below.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2 September 2009 meeting of the Board of Trustees were confirmed and can be downloaded from this page.

Vice-Chancellor's Report and the Year in Review

The Vice-Chancellor provided an overview of the University's progress during 2009, and 2010 priorities, in the key priority areas of Learning and Teaching, Research and Community Engagement. She also reported on the University's financial performance and outlook, strategic staffing initiatives, campus and capital development. The key priorities for 2010 are summarised as:

- Improving the assessed quality of learning and teaching to at least sector average
- Strengthening research in Health and Science
- Achieving a quantum change in the quality and return from postgraduate programs
- Rejuvenating the academic staff profile
- Getting the UWS story out
- Integrating the University's commitment to sustainability into all strategic planning and projects.

The Vice-Chancellor's general report to the Board of Trustees included the following items:

- UWS wins Premier's NSW Export Awards
- UWS Library achieves ISO 9001 Accreditation
- Staff Giving
- Nathan Rees Delivers Guest Lecture
- Grants and Other Funding
- ARC Grant Success
- Grant to Refurbish the Female Orphan School
- $4m Grant from Federal Government for Parramatta Campus Science Precinct
- Australian Learning and Teaching Council Awards
- Australian Financial Review Higher Education Conference – Special Update 2009
- C3West Initiative

UWS 2010 Budget and 2011-2012 Forward Estimates

The DVC Corporate Strategy & Services and the Chair of the Strategy & Resources Committee presented the draft 2010 Budget and Capital Plan to the Board for consideration. The Board commended the detail and quality of the document which they considered responded to the strategic priorities of the University. The Board noted the importance of the projected operating results for 2009 and 2010 in enabling the University to fund its strategic campus development projects in coming years. The increasing cost of utilities (electricity) and the need for the University to carefully monitor this and alternative technologies was noted.

Following discussion, the Board approved the 2010 Budget and Capital Plan which will be released within the University shortly.

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Revised Making the Difference Strategy

The Board approved the revised Making the Difference Strategy, which now incorporates *Widening Participation* as a key strategic focus.

Corruption Prevention Strategy

The Board approved the revised Corruption Prevention Strategy which, in due course, will be maintained on the University's web site in a location accessible to all staff, students and members of the public.

Committee Membership

The Board approved the reappointment of Mr Alan Zammit, Ms Emma Stein and Ms Genevieve Gregor as external members of the Strategy and Resources Committee for further two year terms from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011.

Indigenous Advisory Council

The Board approved the IAC's quorum being at least 3 University members (which includes ex-officio and elected staff and students) and at least 3 community members.

Executive Presentation – College of Business and Law

Associate Professor Robyn McGuiggan, Executive Dean of the College of Business and Law, provided a presentation on the College's key strategies and directions.

Outcome of Board Elections

The Board noted the following successful candidates of its recent elections:

Professor Carolyn Sappideen – academic staff member
Mrs Lorraine Fordham – general staff member
Mr David Holmes – undergraduate student member

Their term of office is for two years from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2011.

Retiring Board Members

The Chancellor thanked the following Board members, whose terms end on 31 December 2009:

Mary Foley, Deputy Chancellor
Roy Medich OAM
Jan Burnswoods
Jan Brown, elected general staff member
Saba Ambreen, elected undergraduate student member

In particular, he thanked Mary Foley, the longest serving member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney. At the end of her current term she will have served for 17 years as a member of the Board.

Mary served on the University's Planning Committee from 1993 until 1996, on the Finance Committee from 1997 to 1998 (becoming Chair in 1998), and then as Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee from 1999. She has also been a member of the Board Standing Committee and the Remuneration and Nominations Committee. She has been a Deputy Chancellor since April 2007.

Nomination of Deputy Chancellor

Mr Glen Sanford was elected unopposed to the position of Deputy Chancellor from 1 January 2010.

Other Reports and Items Considered by the Board

- Strategy and Resources Committee Report

- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Report from the Chair of Academic Senate
- Board Standing Committee and Remuneration & Nominations Committee
- Campus Development Committee
- Indigenous Advisory Council
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Staffing Matters
- Changes to Government Research Funding to Universities
- 2010 UAC Preference Result
- UWS Schools Engagement
- Compacts with Federal Government

Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 February 2010.