21 April 2010

The Board of Trustees met on Wednesday 21 April 2010, in Room EB.2.21, Building EB, Parramatta campus. A summary of matters discussed is provided below.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 10 February 2010 meeting of the Board of Trustees were confirmed and can be downloaded from this page.

Audited Financial Accounts for the Year Ended 31 December 2009

The Board adopted the audited UWS 2009 financial statements and authorised certification thereof by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. The statements had been reviewed by the 7 April meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee which members of the Strategy and Resources Committee attended and included discussions with representatives of the Audit Office of New South Wales.

The NSW Audit Office representative advised the Board that he is able to issue an unqualified independent audit report. He also advised that the individual controlled entity audit reports were satisfactory.

Board Report for UWS Annual Report

The Board approved the draft “UWS Board of Trustees Report” to be included in the UWS Annual Report and authorised the Chancellor to approve the final version of the document on the Board’s behalf.

The Board commended the 2009 Annual Report as very informative and well prepared.

Vice-Chancellor’s Report

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

- UWS again achieves EOWA Employer of Choice status
- International meeting of the Talloires network
- Successful funding submissions
- New appointments, particularly the appointment of Professor Wayne McKenna as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and Research)
- UWS signs MOU with Councils for Collaborative Water Research

The Vice-Chancellor also provided a brief presentation about current student load, retention and satisfaction, in the context of the University’s projected over-enrolment this year and planning towards deregulation of student load from 2012.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest – Board and its Committees

The Board approved revisions to the protocols for the Board and its Committees to formalise consideration of conflict of interest declarations as part of the agenda for all meetings:

- UWS Board of Trustees Meeting Protocols (PDF, 33Kb)
- Protocols for Committees of the Board of Trustees (PDF, 23Kb)

Consideration of the Hive Student Union Matters

After a wide-ranging discussion, the Board approved the Conditions of Funding Agreement 2010 and confirmed the budget allocation for The Hive for 2010 at $500,000 to be provided in accordance with the funding agreement. The Audit and Risk Management Committee had considered the arrangements in detail and had recommended approval. The Hive will report quarterly on its use of University funds and will prepare an annual budget to support future applications for University funding.

UWS Foundation Constitution Review

The Board noted the outcome of the review of the UWS Foundation Ltd Constitution and approved the amendments to the UWS Foundation Constitution.

Board of Trustees Governance Matters

The Chancellor briefed the Board on the State Minister's offer to consider changes to University legislation, particularly related to the composition of University governing bodies. The Board confirmed its view that it does not, at this stage, wish to change the University's enabling legislation, which has provided reasonable certainty and flexibility in dealing with governance issues. It authorised the Chancellor to write to the Minister in those terms.

Student Accommodation

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Corporate Strategy and Services) briefed the Board about the restructuring of the University's student residential accommodation business. The restructure resulted in:

a. All buildings, infrastructure, strategy and entitlement to revenue to come under the direct control and ownership of the University including responsibility for all maintenance and other outgoings;

b. Day to day management and the pastoral care of students to be undertaken by UWS Conferences and Residential Colleges Ltd (to be renamed UWS Residential Colleges Limited (RCL) to reflect its new role).

Chair of Non-Academic Misconduct Appeals Committee

The Board approved the appointment of Mr Michael Antrum as the chair of the Student Non-Academic Misconduct Appeals Committee.

Membership of Campus Development Committee

The Board approved the reappointment of Mr Lee Pinder and Ms Janet Sayer as members of the Campus Development Committee for further terms of two years.

Other Reports and Items Considered by the Board

- Strategy and Resources Committee
- UWS College
- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- Report from the Chair of Academic Senate
- Board Standing Committee and Remuneration & Nominations Committee
- Campus Development Committee
- Report on Study Tour – PVC Campus Development
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Staffing Matters
- Critical Incident – Werrington South Campus
- Collective Bargaining

Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at 9am on 11 August at the University's Werrington North Campus.