

6 October 2010

The Board of Trustees met on Wednesday 6 October 2010, in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington North campus. A summary of matters discussed is provided below.

Confirmation of Minutes

The [minutes](#) (PDF, 52Kb) of the 11 August 2010 meeting of the Board of Trustees were confirmed and can be downloaded from this page.

Vice-Chancellor's Report

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

- Higher Education Under a Minority Labor Government
- UWS Open Day 29 August
- New Student Precinct at Parramatta
- TVS Appoints New Chairman
- Senator Kim Carr Visits UWS
- Student Accommodation Launched Across UWS
- UWS Medical Students Join Bankstown Community
- Connect Fitness Winner of 2010 Penrith Local Business Awards
- Installation of Eddy Flux Tower
- Garma Festival 2010

The Vice-Chancellor also advised that:

- The University continues to focus on research strategy, particularly in relation to the Excellence in Research Australia (ERA).
- Recruitment of academic staff will be a focus, in order to fill the vacancies of retiring staff and cater for the anticipated increase in student numbers.
- Budget preparations for 2011 are under way and it is likely that the University will be underfunded until 2012 when the University will receive full funds for students in Commonwealth supported places.
- Preferences for 2011 are promising with, to date, a 4.2% increase in first preferences from school leavers and 1.7% increase in first-to-third preferences.
- Feedback about the improved student precinct and facilities at the Parramatta campus are very positive. Penrith campus will be the next focus for improvements to facilities.

The Board took the opportunity for open discussion on how higher education opportunities can be improved for students who have a low SES background or are first in their family to attend university. UWS has a specific commitment to serve the community of Greater Western Sydney and as much as 23% of our students are from low SES backgrounds. UWS is at the forefront of Australian universities in increasing accessibility to Higher Education and some of the most recent improvements include:

- Moving to blended learning - for example UWS has just signed a memorandum of understanding with the University of New England whereby UWS recognises some of UNE's distance education subjects
- Strong formal articulations with TAFE

- The availability of book and food vouchers for students in hardship
- The sale of second-hand text books in the Connect Bookshops
- Peer-assisted support provided by low SES students

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, directions, challenges and future directions.

On behalf of the Board, the Chancellor thanked Robyn and congratulated her on the progress of the College of Business and Law under her leadership.

Dr Geoffrey Lee, Associate Dean (Engagement) provided a progress report on SMExcellence , an initiative which began in 2007-2008 to assist the small business community of Greater Western Sydney.

Research Institutes

The Board noted the progress report on the development of Research Institutes at UWS and that the first of these, the Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment, is strongly supported by the Executive and will commence in January 2011.

Committee Membership

The Board approved that the number of independent external members of the Campus Development Committee be increased from 4 to 5.

The Board also approved that, where there is an expression of interest and a commitment to undertake the role, the Board-appointed members of the Strategy & Planning and Finance & Investment Committees may include one of the elected staff and one of the elected student members of the Board.

The Board approved the following appointments to Board Committees:

Campus Development Committee

- Ms Janet Sayer – independent external member

Audit and Risk Management Committee

- Mr John Fehon – external member
- Mr Alan Zammit – external member (from 1 January 2011 Mr Zammit will Chair this Committee)

Strategy and Planning Committee

- Ms Leslie Loble – external member
- Mr Sean O'Toole – external member
- Professor Carolyn Sappideen – staff member

UWS Foundation Board

The Board approved the expiry dates of the terms of current Foundation directors and the addition to the UWS Foundation Constitution to specify two ex-officio directors.

Parking Strategy

The Board considered the University's parking strategy. This will be the subject to a separate communication to the University community.

Commercial Activities Guidelines

The Board endorsed the updated Commercial Activities Guidelines and recommended the Guidelines to the Minister for Education and Training for approval. In due course, they will be available on the University's [Policy DDS](#).

Review of Internal Audit Charter

The Board approved the revised Internal Audit Charter.

Revocation of Awards Rule

The Board made the Revocation of Awards Rule, which will be available on the University [Policy DDS](#) in due course.

Interest Rate Risk Policy

The Board noted the approval by the Board Standing Committee of the SRC-endorsed version of the Interest Rate Risk Policy on behalf of the Board. This will be available on the University's [Policy DDS](#) in due course.

Change of Name of the College of Business and Law

The Board noted the approval by the Board Standing Committee of the change of name of the College of Business and Law to the College of Business and Law and Law.

Honorary Award

The Board approved the conferral of an honorary award.

AUQA Trial Audit

The Board noted this progress report. Feedback on the draft portfolio will be sought from Board members before year end.

Other Reports and Items Considered by the Board

- UWS 25 Year History
- Naming Policy
- Campus Development Committee
- Space Utilisation Progress Report
- Student Residences Development Plan
- Report from the Chair of Academic Senate
- UWS Indigenous Advisory Council
- UWS Community Leaders Forum
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Staffing Matters
- Television Sydney (TVS) – Governance Changes

Date of Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at 9am on 24 November at the University's Werrington North Campus.