

# 9 August 2017

The Board of Trustees met on 9 August 2017 in the Boardroom, Building EB, Parramatta South campus. A summary of matters discussed in the open session is provided below.

The [minutes \(PDF, 1064.21 KB\)](#) (opens in new window)  of the previous Board meeting held on 16 June 2017 were confirmed.

## **Chancellor's Report**

The Chancellor advised the Board about a number of issues, including his appointment as the Chair to the Government's review of health professional access to Medicare card numbers, and as the co-Chair to the Government's review of Building Codes of Australia. He reported on the newly developed course sponsored by the University Chancellors Council on University Governance with the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## **Vice-Chancellor's Report**

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update on the Federal Government's higher education reform package, as well as progress on the University's impending TEQSA registration renewal. He reported on the 2016 HERDC Income Return, which has the University obtaining a record result of \$37.2 million, an overall increase of 43% on 2015, and provided a progress report on the University's Gender Equality progress with the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA). The Vice-Chancellor reported that 2016 marked 13 consecutive years that the University has received the Employer of Choice for Gender Equality award, and that the University will submit its 2017 application in September.

## **Board and Committee Membership**

The Board welcomed Ms Alexandra Coleman to the position of postgraduate student member for the term 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019, and Ms Carmel Hourigan as the new graduate member of the Board. The Board was also advised that this would be Mr Michael Pratt's last meeting, as he has resigned from the Board following his appointment as Secretary to the NSW Treasury.

The Board also discussed the process for appointment of new members of the Board to replace Mr Pratt, as well as a number of Ministerial appointments which are due to expire on 31 December 2017.

## **Australian Human Rights Commission: University Student Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Survey Results**

The Vice-Chancellor presented a summary of data obtained from the Australian Human Rights Commission's landmark report: Change the course: National report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at Australian universities, as it pertains to Western Sydney University, as well as the University's response to the recommendations of the report. The Board welcomed the University's announcement to form a taskforce, led by the Vice-Chancellor, to implement all nine recommendations from the report. The University has been working closely with student leaders and staff as well as advisory groups such as NSW Police and the NSW Health and Sexual Assault Service over the last 12 months, and already has in place a range of strategies as part of the University's zero-tolerance approach to sexual assault and sexual harassment.

## **Innovative Research Universities Network**

The Vice-Chancellor presented to the Board the University's opportunity to join the Innovative Research Universities (IRU) network. The IRU was established in 2003 and is an advocacy and policy development group of Australian universities aligned by shared institutional characteristics, values and objectives. The Board welcomed this opportunity, and approved Western Sydney University's membership. The University will join current members: James Cook, Griffith, La Trobe, Flinders, Murdoch and Charles Darwin Universities, adding a NSW institution to a network that spans the entire country.

**21st Century Curriculum Project**

Professor Simon Barrie, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning Transformations) and Professor Denise Kirkpatrick, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic), presented to the Board an update on the University's 21st Century Curriculum Project (21CC) – which will renew Western Sydney University's curriculum to: 1) better leverage and reflect the University's unique institutional partnership strengths and communities; 2) enable the University to innovative at scale to respond to emergent opportunities externally; 3) make the University's curriculum more relevant, accessible and attractive to prospective students, and; 4) enable the University to realise its potential share of Australia's global education brand.

**Helen Fleming****University Secretary and General Counsel**