

20 February 2019

The Board of Trustees met on 20 February 2019 in the Boardroom, Building EB, Parramatta South campus. A summary of matters discussed in the open session is provided below.

The minutes of the previous Board meeting held on [5 December 2018](#) were confirmed.

Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor advised the Board about a number of issues, including the, the University's submission to the French Review on Freedom of Speech in Australian Universities, and a draft model code that has been circulated for comment. The Chancellor also advised the Board that the proposed changes to *the Western Sydney University Act 1997*, as a result of adopting the NSW *Standard Governing Provisions*, were enacted on and from 8 February 2019.

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor provided an update to Board members on the Higher Education Policy review, the University's strong performance in comparison to the sector in response to the issue of sexual assault and sexual harassment, an update on student load, Decadal Strategies for the Western Sydney Airport (Flight Path) and Arts and Culture, Strategic Research Initiatives and an update on Social Media.

Western Sydney University Academic Restructure Report

The Board approved a restructure of University Schools from 9 to 13 Schools (plus the Graduate Research School). Professor Sharon Bell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Strategy and Planning gave a presentation to the Board about the restructure, which includes the creation of three 'clusters' of Schools with Boards constituted by Deans, relevant Research Institute Directors and Deputy/Associate Deans as required. An important role of the 'clusters' will be to identify and advance significant opportunities strategically aligned to growth in the Western Sydney region and to the University's goals.

Academic Senate

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to aspects of the written report, including the external Academic Senate Review which is currently under way.

The Chair of Academic Senate advised the Board that Senate will co-host a forum with the Vice-Chancellor on Academic Freedom in the first half of 2019.

MARCS Institute Presentation

The MARCS Institute Director, Professor Kate Stevens, gave a presentation on the MARCS Institute, highlighting the mission, vision and disciplines within the Institute.

Helen Fleming
University Secretary and General Counsel