

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2025/1 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 9.00am Friday 21 February 2025 in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Barney Glover Building, Parramatta South campus and Zoom.

Present:

Members present in Boardroom 1

Professor Jennifer Westacott AO, Chair and Chancellor
Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President
Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair of Academic Senate
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs, Deputy Chancellor
Ms Kerry Stubbs, Deputy Chancellor
Mr Lee Pinder, Pro-Chancellor
Dr Linda O'Brien AM, Pro-Chancellor
Mr Brendan Thomas
Ms Georgia Lee
Mr Leslie Cowles
Professor Alison Downham-Moore
Mr Sonu

Board member in attendance via Zoom

Mr Simon Hickey
Dr Amanda Larkin
Miss Swetha Kumar

Apologies:

Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO, Pro-Chancellor
Mr James Christian PSM

In Attendance:

Professor Deborah Sweeney, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and Global
Mr Angelo Kourtis, Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer
Professor Kevin Dunn, Provost
Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education
Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership
Mr Darren Greentree, Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer
Mr Bill Parasiris, Vice-President, Operations and Commercial
Professor Andy Marks, Vice-President, Public Affairs and Partnerships
Ms Martine Forrester, Interim General Counsel
Ms Jane Hutchison, University Secretary
Ms Sophie Buck, Director, Governance Services
Ms Christine Sharpe, Executive Governance Officer (minutes)
Ms Teneille Rousianos, Administration Officer (meeting support)

In attendance for Item 2.3 Vice-Chancellor's Update:

Ms Sharmaine Gewohn, Chief of Staff
Ms Stefanie Balogh, Director, Higher Education and Public Policy
Ms Kay Visser, Senior Program Manager, Strategic Transformation
(Item 2.3.4 only)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 In-Camera Session

[Board members only were in the meeting for item 1.1. The University Secretary joined the in-camera session at approximately 9.40am when the Board discussed amendments to the Privileged and Confidential Addendum to the Board of Trustees minutes of the 2 December 2024 meeting]

[Non-Board members joined the meeting at 9.45am]

1.2 Welcome

The Chair declared the meeting open, confirmed a quorum, and welcomed members and observers.

The Chair advised the Board that this was Mr James Christian's final meeting and thanked him for his contribution to the Board and People and Culture Committee.

1.3 Acknowledgement of Country

Pro-Chancellor O'Brien gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.4 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Ms Gabrielle Trainor and Mr James Christian.

1.5 Declarations of Material Interests

The Chair invited Board members to declare any new material interests in relation to matters on the agenda or their role on the Board more generally. No new declarations were noted.

1.6 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board noted that a brief discussion was held in-camera under agenda item 1.1 and resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes, confidential minutes, and amended privileged and confidential minutes of its 2 December 2024 meeting.

[21/02/2025:1]

1.6.1 Confirmation of Rotary Resolution Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the rotary resolution held between 20 January 2025 and 28 January 2025.

[21/02/2025:2]

1.6.2 Confirmation of Rotary Resolution Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the rotary resolution held between 29 January 2025 and 3 February 2025.

[21/02/2025:3]

1.7 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on the items listed.

1.8 Starring of Items and Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in the meeting: 1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.4, 2.4, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1 and 6.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved to approve all unstarred items as having been considered and noted, and their respective recommendations as adopted.

[21/02/2025:4]

2. REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor spoke to the following matters:

- *Government Policy Settings and Senate Inquiry* – The Chancellor spoke to the challenging public policy context including the establishment of an Expert Council on University Governance. The Chancellor, with the Vice-Chancellor, met with recently announced Chair, Melinda Cilento. Also, the University is preparing a submission in response to the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee's inquiry into 'Quality of governance at Australian higher education providers'. The final report is due in April.
- The University Chancellors Council (UCC) released a new *Code of Governance Principles and Practice* for Australia's public universities, which is based on the ASX Corporate governance principles and is in response to the current policy climate.
- *Federal Election* – the election will be held this year, which will be disruptive to the University regardless of the outcome.
- *Launch of the Surabaya campus* – The Chancellor spoke to the success of the launch of the Surabaya campus. The Chancellor acknowledged the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and Global and the Vice-President, Operations and Commercial for the campus being operational within a relatively short period of time. The challenge is to increase student numbers and the Chancellor advised the Board that a comprehensive strategy is being developed with the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Provost, Indonesia.
- *Graduation ceremony* – The Chancellor acknowledged the successful graduation ceremony held on December 17, 2024, during which the University conferred an honorary Doctor of Letters degree on Mr. Joel Edgerton. The Chancellor advised that Board members would be notified soon of the graduation dates for 2025.
- *Chancellor's Christmas Toy appeal* – The Chancellor spoke to the success of the Christmas Toy appeal.

- *Book launch* – The Chancellor spoke to the Western Sydney University commemorative publication *Worlds Within Us Merge: Western Sydney Community, Metropolis and Global Aspirations, 2012–2024* book launch after the Board of Trustees meeting.
- *Roundtable on housing affordability solutions* – The Chancellor held a successful roundtable on housing affordability solutions in January.
- *Calendar of Events* – The Chancellor drew the Board's attention to the Calendar of Events, available in Diligent.
- *AICD Foundation of University Governance* – The Chancellor encouraged Board members to attend the AICD Foundations of University Governance training course.
- *Cyber training* – Representatives from CyberCX and AICD will attend after the meeting to provide cyber training. Members who cannot attend were encouraged to review the slides available in Diligent.

2.2 Vice-Chancellor's Priorities for 2025 [In-Camera Session]

This item was discussed In-Camera under item 1.1.

[The Vice-Chancellor and University Secretary were not present for this item]

2.3 Vice-Chancellor's Updates [Closed Session Item]

2.3.1 Vice-Chancellor's Report [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.3.2 2025 Student Load Forecast [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.3.3 Product Strategy [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.3.4 Unlimited 2030 [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.3.5 Cyber Security Update [Closed Session Item]

The Board noted the report without discussion.

2.3.6 Enterprise Bargaining Update [Closed Session Item]

The Board noted the report without discussion.

2.4 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to his report, highlighting the following:

- *Artificial Intelligence: Action Plan and Research Students* - Senate discussed the action plan on securing award integrity, which was developed in response to the RFI from TEQSA. They also discussed the use of AI in HDR Training, which will be incorporated into the University's overall approach to AI.
- *Research Performance Review*: The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Enterprise, and Global discussed the document on research performance, noting that some indicators and numbers are still incomplete as the final quarter's data is not yet available. With publications, the focus is on quality, pointing to the Field Weighted

Citation Index (FWCI) improvements in 2024 data. External research income has also improved by 20%.

3. MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

3.1 Election of Deputy Chancellor [Open Session Item]

The Board approved the recommendation. The Chancellor congratulated Ms Stubbs on her election as Deputy Chancellor.

Resolution:

The Board of Trustees:

- 1. noted the report of the Returning Officer for the election of the Deputy Chancellor; and**
- 2. declared that Ms Kerry Stubbs, being the only valid nominee, is duly elected as Deputy Chancellor of Western Sydney University and resolves:**
 - a. to exempt Ms Stubbs from s.38(2) of the *Western Sydney University Act 1997* to enable her to serve as Deputy Chancellor for a third term; and**
 - b. that the term of office is to commence on 22 February 2025 and concludes on 31 December 2025, pursuant to Section 5 of the *Western Sydney University Bylaw 2017*.**

[21/02/2025:5]

3.2 Board and Committee Membership [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.4 Honorary Titles and Awards [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.4 Revocation of Awards [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.5 Annual Compliance Statement and UCC Code of Governance Principles [Open Session Item]

[This item was briefly discussed after item 6.4]

The Board noted the intention to adopt and implement the Code.

Resolution:

The Board of Trustees noted the Annual Compliance Statement 2025 and adopts the University Chancellor's Council's *Code of Governance Principles and Practice for Australia's Public Universities*.

[21/02/2025:9]

3.6 Uses of the University Seal [Open Session Item]

The Board approved the recommendation without discussion.

The Board of Trustees approved the affixing of the University Seal to those documents listed in the attached report, pursuant to the *Western Sydney University (University Seal and Authentication) Rule 2021*.

[21/02/2025:10]

4. STANDARD REPORTS

4.1 Finance Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.2 People Report [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.3 Legal Risk Report–Privileged and Confidential [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5. MATTERS FOR NOTING

5.1 Independent Review of Corporate and Academic Governance [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5.2 2025 Board Forward Planner [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6. BOARD COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BODIES

6.1 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.2 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.3 People and Culture Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.4 Remuneration and Nominations Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 WSU 2025 Events Calendar [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the WSU 2025 Events Calendar without discussion.

[This item was discussed after item 6.4]

Liverpool Health and Research Hub

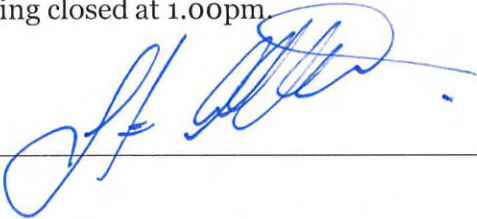
This item was considered in closed session.

8. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 9.00 am in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Barney Glover Building, Level 2, Parramatta South campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Confirmed by:
(Chair)



Date:

9/4/25

A Cyber Education Training session led by CyberCX and AICD was conducted for members after the Board meeting, with slides available in Diligent.