WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2025/2 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 9.00am Wednesday 9 April 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
Mr Lee Pinder, Pro-Chancellor
Dr Linda O'Brien AM, Pro-Chancellor
Mr Simon Hickey
Dr Amanda Larkin
Mr Brendan Thomas
Mr Doug Taylor
Mr Leslie Cowles
Professor Alison Downham-Moore
Miss Swetha Kumar
Mr Sonu

Board member in attendance via Zoom
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO, Pro-Chancellor

Apologies:

Ms Kerry Stubbs, Deputy Chancellor
Ms Georgia Lee
Mr Angelo Kourtis, Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer

In Attendance:

Professor Deborah Sweeney, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and Global
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 Items 2.2.1- 2.2.5 Vice-Chancellor's Update:
Ms Sharmaine Gewohn, Chief of Staff
Ms Stefanie Balogh, Director, Higher Education and Public Policy
Ms Kirsty Dwyer, Chief People Officer
Ms Bianca Jordaan, Chief Information Officer

In attendance for Item 2.2.2 only
Mr Ben Wise, Chief Information and Security Officer
Mr Peter Tow, Chief Digital Resilience Officer

In attendance for Item 2.2.4 only
Mr Scott Brewer, Chief of Staff to the Senior Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer

In attendance for Item 2.2.5 only
Ms Amy Simpson-Deeks, Director, Organisational Design and Workforce Transformation

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 In-Camera Session

This item was considered in closed session.

1.2 Welcome

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

The Chair welcomed Mr Doug Taylor, newly appointed Graduate Member.

The Chair advised the Board that this would be Ms Martine Forrester's final meeting as General Counsel and thanked her for her contribution to the University.

1.3 Acknowledgement of Country

Pro-Chancellor Pinder gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.4 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Ms Kerry Stubbs, Ms Georgia Lee and Mr Angelo Kourtis.

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 resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 21 February 2025 meeting.

[9/04/2025:1]

1.7 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on the items listed. Deputy Chancellor Dibbs advised that the Internal Audit Workplan and summary of future internal audits will be provided to the Board at a future meeting.

1.8 Starring of Items and Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in the meeting: 1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 2.2.5, 2.2.6, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3.

The Chair advised that item 4.2 *Independent Review of Corporate and Academic Governance* will be discussed with item 2.3 *Academic Senate Report.*

Resolution

The Board of Trustees resolved to approve all unstarred items as having been considered and noted, and their respective recommendations as adopted.
[9/04/2025:2]

2. REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor spoke to the following matters:

- *Current Economic Challenges* – The University needs to be aware of the current economic difficulties. The strategy and financial structure will be important to see the University through these difficulties.
- *University Chancellors Council (UCC)* – The Chancellor addressed the UCC working group on university governance and social licence, which has been established to guide the higher education sector in rebuilding public trust. The Board was informed that an update on this matter will be provided in the future meeting.
- *Governance Reforms* - The Chancellor advised that the University must continue to work to be ahead of any future reviews of the sector's Governance, for example, remuneration of senior executive staff principles and practice. The Chancellor spoke to her recent meeting with the Chair of the UCC, herself and ACTU Secretary Sally McManus to find common ground on governance reforms on key priority matters, including international caps, research and student funding.
- *Cybersecurity* – The Chancellor thanked the Vice-Chancellor and team for their work on the current cyber matter.

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

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

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.2 Cyber Security Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.3 Pay Confidence – Response to Fair Work Ombudsman [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.4 2025 Student Load Forecast [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.5 Enterprise Operating Model Principles for Feedback [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.6 Indigenous Centre of Excellence Operational Plan [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.7 Partnership between the University and Western Sydney Airport [Closed Session Item]

The Board noted the report without discussion.

2.2.8 Federal Election Update [Closed Session Item]

The Board noted the report without discussion.

2.2.9 TEQSA Renewal of Registration [Closed Session Item]

The Board noted the report without discussion.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

The Chair of the Academic Senate presented his report, highlighting the revised format, which will henceforth include minutes from previous meetings. He addressed the review of the acquittal related to the 2024 Senate work plan.

3. 2024 AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

3.1 NSW Audit Office - In-Camera Session

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Joint Audit and Risk Committee and Finance and Investment Committee Meetings [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3 Assurance of Internal Controls [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.4 2024 Audited Financial Statements [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.5 NSW Audit Office Documents [Closed Session Item]

The Board noted the NSW Audit Office Documents without discussion.

4. MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

4.1 2024 Annual Report [Open Session Item]

[This item was discussed after item 5.2]

The Board noted the 2024 Annual Report and discussed the importance of the Academic Freedom Statement and Modern Slavery Statement. It was discussed that these documents should be considered by the Board before they are included in the Annual Report. It was agreed that the Board will monitor this.

The Board was supportive of the recommendation.

Resolution:

The Board of Trustees:

1. **noted the relevant sections of the Annual Report that pertain to the Board of Trustees, namely the sections on Governance and Management and appendices 1 – 3; and**
2. **approved the Western Sydney University Annual Report 2024 and authorises the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to sign the letter of submission to the Minister in accordance with section 9A (e) of *The Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*.**

[9/04/2025:4]

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

This item was considered in closed session.

4.3 Board and Committee Membership [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.4 Naming of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence Building [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.5 University Corpus: Governance and Operating Protocols [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.6 Policy Review [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.7 Uses of the University Seal [Open Session Item]

The Board approved the recommendation without discussion.

Resolution:

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.*

[9/04/2025:10]

5. STANDARD REPORTS

5.1 Finance Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5.2 People Report [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

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

This item was considered in closed session.

6. MATTERS FOR NOTING

6.1 WSU 2025 Events Calendar [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the WSU 2025 Events Calendar.

7. BOARD COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BODIES

7.1 Cyber and Information Technology Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

7.2 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

7.3 Rotary Resolution of the Remuneration and Nominations Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business noted.

9. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 4 June 2025 at 1.00 pm in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Barney Glover Building, Level 2, Parramatta South campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2.15pm.

Confirmed by:
(Chair)

Date: 4/6/25