

WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2026/1 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 9.00am, Tuesday, 17 February 2026 in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Level 2, Barney Glover Building, Parramatta South campus.

Present: Professor Jennifer Westacott AC, Chair and Chancellor
Distinguished Professor George Williams AO, Vice-Chancellor and President
Professor Robert Mailhammer, Chair of Academic Senate
Ms Christine Cawsey, AM
Dr Linda O'Brien AM, Pro-Chancellor
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO, Pro-Chancellor
Dr Amanda Larkin, Pro-Chancellor
Ms Georgia Lee, Pro-Chancellor
Mr Doug Taylor
Mr Simon Hickey
Mr Martin Bowles AO PSM
Mr Matt Graham
Professor Alison Downham Moore
Ms Alison Barclay
Ms Lisa Hanlon – *arrived 9.14am*

Apologies: Mr Brendan Thomas
Miss Pooja Zinzuwadia
Mr Philip Maloney, General Counsel and University Secretary

In Attendance: Professor Deborah Sweeney, Provost
Mr Bill Parasiris, Chief Operating Officer
Professor Michelle Trudgett, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Indigenous Leadership
Professor Maryanne Dever, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education and Students
Professor Ian Anderson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Research and Enterprise
Professor Geoff Lee, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Western Sydney and External Engagement
Mr Mario Milanovic, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Ms Elisabeth Burn, Chief Audit and Risk Officer
Ms Stefanie Balogh, Executive Director, Strategic Communications
Ms Christine Sharpe, Executive Governance Officer (minutes)
Ms Elisa Cristallo, Administration Officer (meeting support)

In attendance for Item 2.2.1:

Mr Scott Granelli, Program Director, Pay Confidence

In attendance for Item 2.2.2:

Ms Bianca Jordaan, Chief Information Officer

Mr Ben Wise, Executive Director, Security and Digital Operations

In attendance for Item 2.2.3:

Mr Andrew Younis, Chief Marketing Officer

Ms Christina Aventi, Chief Strategy Officer, BMF Australia

Ms Melissa Carey, Accenture

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 new Board members Ms Christine Cawsey AM, Mr Martin Bowels AO PSM, Mr Matt Graham and Ms Alison Barclay.

1.3 Acknowledgement of Country

The Chancellor gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.4 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Mr Brendan Thomas and Mr Philip Maloney, General Counsel and University Secretary.

The Chancellor advised the Board that Miss Pooja Zinzuwaida was granted a leave of absence for this meeting.

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 made.

1.6 Consent Agenda

The Chair advised the Board that the Consent Agenda considers routine items and will be adopted by a single motion. The Chair advised that members may request an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

The Board resolved to approve the items listed in the Consent Agenda.

Resolution

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

[17/02/2026:1]

1.7 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 3 December 2025 meeting.

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 3 December 2025 meeting.

[17/02/2026:2]

1.6 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on the items listed.

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for discussion in the meeting: 1, 2.1, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 5.1, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5.

2. REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor welcomed the newly appointed Chairs of the Board Committees, noting the appointments of Mr Simon Hickey as Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee, Ms Georgia Lee as Chair of the Cyber and Information Technology Committee, and Mr Matt Graham as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee. The Chancellor also advised the Board that Ms Gabrielle Trainor will continue in her role as Chair of the People and Culture Committee.

The Chancellor provided an overview of the upcoming Strategy Day in June, advising the Board that it will need to consider future strategic priorities and determine the areas in which it intends to invest for long-term organisational advancement.

The Chancellor spoke to the following matters:

- Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion
- Respect at Uni: Study into Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and the experience of First Nations people report.
- Establishment of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), an independent body designed to act as a steward for Australia's higher education system.
- The University Report Card Project, a national initiative to assess how Australian universities are responding to antisemitism on campus.
- Philanthropy and the establishment of a Philanthropy Framework
- The University's commitment to lead on social cohesion.
- The Indigenous Centre of Excellence and the strategies through which the University intends to secure the necessary funding.
- Continued advocacy for Western Sydney and Bradfield
- Australian Investor Mission in Jakarta
- The Government has established an expert panel, led by Federal Education Minister Jason Clare to scrutinize Vice-Chancellor salaries. It was agreed to circulate the letter from Minister Clare to members.
- Women of Western Sydney Awards to be held on 5 March 2026.
- Campus visits will be held in 2026 for Board members, with the Board Strategy Day to be held at the Parramatta City campus and the September Board meeting to be held on the Campbelltown campus.
- A communique will be issued following the meeting to inform staff and students of the matters considered during the open session.

2.1.1 Vice-Chancellor's Performance Plan [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.1.2 ECUG Review – Update on University Processes [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

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

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.1 Pay Confidence Program Update [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 Brand Strategy Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.4 WSU and TAFE NSW Strategic Partnership [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.5 Social Cohesion [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

The Chair of Academic Senate spoke to aspects of his report, including:

- *Academic Workload Model* – Academic Senate reviewed the new academic workload model designed to improve autonomy and trust, as well as bringing the University more in line with the sector.
- *Quality indicator, performance reporting and strategy* – Academic Senate reviewed the research quality indicators on which it will receive regular standardised at-a-glance and detailed reports on research performance.
- *Research Performance* – The Research Committee noted data on the University's research performance based on September 2025 data, noting that the University was behind on targets on most metrics.

3. MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

3.1 Election of Deputy Chancellor [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Board and Committee Membership [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3 Honorary Titles and Awards [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.4 Easements – Biodiversity Stewardship Site [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.5 Uses of the University Seal [Open Session Item]

The Board approved the recommendation as part of the Consent Agenda.

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*.

[17/02/2026:7]

4. STANDARD REPORTS

4.1 Finance Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.2 Workforce Profile 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 2026 WSU Events Calendar [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the WSU Events Calendar without discussion.

5.2 Annual Compliance Statement and University Chancellor’s Council (UCC) Code of Governance Principles [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the Annual Compliance Statement and University’s Chancellor’s Council (UCC) Code of Governance Principles.

6. BOARD COMMITTEES

6.1 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.2 Cyber and Information Technology Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.3 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.4 People and Culture Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.5 Remuneration and Nomination Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS


There was no other business noted.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday 9 April 2026 at 9.00am in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Barney Glover Building, Level 2, Parramatta South campus.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.45pm.

Confirmed by:
(Chair)



Date:

9/4/26

An Artificial Intelligence was conducted for members after the Board meeting, with slides available in Diligent.