WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 2020/2 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 8.30am on Wednesday 8 April 2020, by Zoom and Building EB, Boardroom, Parramatta South campus.

Present:

Board of Trustees present by Zoom
Professor Peter Shergold AC (Chair and Chancellor)
Ms Elizabeth Dibbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Carmel Hourigan (Deputy Chancellor)
Ms Kerry Stubbs (Deputy Chancellor)
Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO
Mr Joseph Carrozzi
Dr Ben Etherington
Dr David Harland
Ms Naomi Hastings
Ms Georgia Lee
Ms Rose Lewis
Dr Linda O'Brien AM
Professor Alphia Possamai-Inesedy (Chair of Academic Senate)
Mr Bob Sahota
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO

Board of Trustees present in Boardroom, Parramatta South Campus
Professor Barney Glover AO (Vice-Chancellor and President)

Apologies:

Mr Peeyush Gupta AM
Ms Holly Kramer

In Attendance:

Western Sydney University in attendance by Zoom
Professor Denise Kirkpatrick (Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor)
Professor Deborah Sweeney (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and International)
Mr Angelo Kourtis (Vice-President, People and Advancement)
Professor Simon Barrie (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic)
Mr Michael Burgess (Chief Student Experience Officer) [until 12.10pm]
Mr Kerry Holling (Chief Information and Digital Officer)

Western Sydney University present in Boardroom, Parramatta South Campus
Ms Helen Fleming (University Secretary and General Counsel)
Mr Peter Pickering (Vice-President, Finance and Resources)
Ms Sophie Buck (Director, Office of Governance Services)
Ms Christine Sharpe (Executive Governance Officer) (Minutes)

(For Items 3.1 and 3.2 only)
Mr David Daniels (Deputy Director, NSW Audit Office)
Ms Belinda Attard (Team Leader, NSW Audit Office)

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

The Chair welcomed members and observers, declared the meeting open and confirmed that there was a quorum present.

The Chair welcomed Mr David Daniels and Ms Belinda Attard from the NSW Audit Office. The Chair also welcomed Mr Kerry Holling, Chief Information and Digital Officer and Mr Michael Burgess, Chief Student Experience Officer.

1.2 Apologies

The Board noted apologies from Ms Holly Kramer and Mr Peeyush Gupta.

1.3 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.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board resolved as follows:

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 19 February 2020 meeting.

[8/4/2020:1]

1.5 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on items listed.

1.6 Starring of Items

Resolution

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

[8/4/2020:2]

1.7 Arrangement of Business

The following items were identified for consideration in closed session: 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.4.1, 3.6, 4.1, 4.4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

The Board agreed to consider items in the following order: 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.4.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.5 and 4.2.

2. CHANCELLOR'S AND VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor advised the Board that the meeting would focus on the COVID-19 crisis and the University's response. The Chancellor noted that the University is committed to supporting domestic and international students with the challenges they face, including transitioning to online learning, financial hardship and anxiety.

The Chancellor noted the University's significant achievement in moving to a fully online teaching format by 30 March 2020. He also noted the University's financial challenges.

The Chancellor advised the Board that he communicates daily with the Vice-Chancellor, and weekly with the Deputy Chancellors.

2.1.1 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting Dates [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the 2021 Board of Trustees meeting dates.

2.2 Vice-Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Vice-Chancellor's Report was taken as read.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted a number of items, including:

<u>2021-2026 Strategic Planning</u>
Preliminary work has been undertaken on the next Strategic Plan. Further consultation to help inform the development of the Strategic Plan will be undertaken through virtual focus groups.

<u>Indigenous Strategy</u>
Following widespread consultation in the second half on 2019, the Indigenous Strategy was approved by the University's Executive Committee in February and will be launched in Quarter 2, 2020.

Board members commended Professor Michelle Trudgett for her work on the Indigenous Strategy.

<u>Western Sydney Aerotropolis Multiversity</u>
On 12 March 2020, the Aerotropolis Multiversity concept proposal was presented to the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Authority. The proposal was well received, with a heightened level of interest around the economic stimulus it can provide post COVID-19.

<u>General Staffing Matters</u>
Recruitment for the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor role has been postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Professor Denise Kirkpatrick will continue in the role until the end of 2020.

2.3 Academic Senate Report [Open Session Item]

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

<u>Committee Membership and Terms of Reference</u>
The Academic Senate recently confirmed the revised membership and Terms of Reference of Standing Committees of Senate, including the Graduate Research School's Academic Committee.

New Committees
The Multi-Disciplinary Learning and Teaching Committee (MTALC) is operational, meeting at the Cluster level to discuss pedagogical advancement.

Policy
The Chair of Academic Senate noted that academic governance continues to focus on urgent policy changes required as a result of COVID-19. The Vice-Chancellor thanked the Chair of Academic Senate for her critical work in this space.

3. SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DELIBERATION OR APPROVAL

3.1 Assurance of Internal Controls [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Audited Financial Statements 2019 [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3 2019 Annual Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor introduced this item, drawing the Board's attention to the Governance and Management Sections of the Annual Report.

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the Annual Report, noting that it reflects well on the University's performance in 2019. The Vice-Chancellor noted that the 2020 Annual Report will be considerably different due to the impact of COVID19.

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 (pages 8 - 15), and Appendices 1 – 3;**
2. **Approved the Western Sydney University Annual Report 2019, including the Board of Trustees report, and authorised 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) Action 1984.***

[8/4/2020:4]

3.4 Report on the University's Response to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.4.1 Urgent changes to the Delegations of Authority Policy [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.5 Draft Freedom of Speech Policy [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor spoke to this item and advised the Board that the Freedom of Speech Policy is the final aspect of the commitment to the principles of the Model Code. In-principle approval of the draft Policy is required, subject to any minor amendments that may occur as part of the conclusion of the consultation phase with the Academic Senate at its meeting on 17 April 2020.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees provided in-principle approval of the Freedom of Speech Policy, subject to any minor amendments that result from consultation with members of Academic Senate.

[8/4/2020:6]

3.6 Western Growth Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4. BOARD COMMITTEES AND ADVISORY BODIES

4.1 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.1.1 Whistleblowing (Reporting Corruption and Other Wrongdoing) Policy and Procedures [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.2 Board Executive Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.3 External Relations Working Party [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.4 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.5 University Infrastructure Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

5. OTHER MATTERS FOR APPROVAL OR NOTING

5.1 Uses of the University Seal [Open Session Item]

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the affixing of the University Seal to those documents listed in the attached report, pursuant to the University Seal Usage Policy.

[8/4/2020:11]

6. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 1.00pm by Zoom.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.40pm.

Confirmed by:

(Chair) ______________________________

(Date) 10/6/20