WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of meeting 2026/2 of the Board of Trustees of Western Sydney University, held at 9.00am, Thursday, 9 April 2026 in Boardroom 1, The Chancellery, Level 2, Barney Glover Building, Parramatta South campus and via Zoom

Present:

Members present in Boardroom 1
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 Georgia Lee, Pro-Chancellor
Mr Simon Hickey
Mr Martin Bowles AO PSM
Professor Alison Downham Moore
Ms Alison Barclay
Ms Lisa Hanlon
Miss Pooja Zinzuwadia

Members present via Zoom
Ms Gabrielle Trainor AO, Deputy Chancellor
Dr Amanda Larkin, Pro-Chancellor
Mr Matt Graham
Mr Doug Taylor

Apologies: Mr Brendan Thomas

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 Philip Maloney, General Counsel and University Secretary
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 2.2.3:
Mr Andrew Younis, Chief Marketing Officer

In attendance for Item 2.2.4:
Mr Andrew Younis, Chief Marketing Officer
Ms Christina Aventi, Chief Strategy Officer, BMF Australia
Ms Rachel Tucker, BMF Australia

In attendance for Item 3:
Ms Nicole Gonzales, Grant Thornton
Ms Vinita Verughese, Grant Thornton
Ms Lawrissa Chan, NSW Audit Office
Mr Kenneth Leung, NSW Audit Office

1. OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome

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

1.2 Acknowledgement of Country

Mr Doug Taylor gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

1.3 Apologies

Apologies were noted from Mr Brendan Thomas.

1.4 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.

1.5 Consent Agenda

This item was discussed in closed session.

1.6 Confirmation of Minutes

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 17 February 2026 meeting.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes and confidential minutes of its 17 February 2026 meeting.

[09/04/2026:2]

1.6.1 Confirmation of Circular Resolution Minutes

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the Circular Resolution held between 25 March 2026 and 30 March 2026.

Resolution

The Board of Trustees approved the minutes of the Circular Resolution held between 25 March 2026 and 30 March 2026

[09/04/2026:3]

1.7 Action Sheets from Previous Meetings

The Board noted the actions taken on the items listed.

1.8 Arrangement of Business

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

2. REPORTS

2.1 Chancellor's Report [Open Session Item]

The Chancellor spoke to the following matters:

- The 3rd Women of Western Sydney Awards.
- Brand discussions on brand platform options, initial views on how the platform could extend and show up across key channels and a walk through of the visual identity refresh.
- Advancement Report discussion in relation to a review of the University's Advancement area and operations.
- Attendance at the Eid Al-Fitr Celebration at the Auburn Mosque to commemorate the end of Ramadan.
- Attendance at the Lang Walker AO Medical Research Building Opening.
- ANZAC Day Service on the Hawkesbury campus.
- Work with the National Security College at ANU.

The Chancellor updated the Board on matters including the Minister's response to the Expert Council on University Governance Final Report and Principles, the University's Chancellors Council (UCC) and Universities Australia joint plenary session and the Antisemitism Education Taskforce led by David Gonski, AC.

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 Uplifting the Educational Experience at Western [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.4 Brand Strategy Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.5 Load Update – Domestic and International (Pre-Census) [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

2.2.6 Western Research Strategy: Directions [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 the report, including report on key measures and quality indicators, the launch of the Teaching Quality Framework, implementation of the Workload Model, implementation of the External Review recommendations and the ongoing work on Academic Risk.

3. 2025 AUDITED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

3.1 NSW Audit Office – *In-Camera Session*

This item was considered in closed session.

3.2 Assurance of Internal Controls [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.3 NSW Audit Office Documents [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

3.4 Audited Financial Statements Summary Paper [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4. MATTERS FOR APPROVAL

4.1 Annual Report 2025 [Open Session Item]

[Item 4.1 was discussed after item 2.3]

The Board was supportive of the recommendation without discussion.

Resolution:

That the Board of Trustees:

1. **notes 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. **approves the Western Sydney University Annual Report 2025 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*.**

[09/04/2026:5]

4.2 Chancellor Nomination and Election Process [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.3 Optera Commercialisation [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

4.4 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*.

[09/04/2026:8]

5. STANDARD REPORTS

5.1 Finance Update [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

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

This item was considered in closed session.

6. MATTERS FOR NOTING

6.1 External Review of the Board of Trustees [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.2 Director Update – Star Entertainment Group Judgement: Implications for Directors [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.3 Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) Report [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

6.4 2026 and 2027 Board of Trustees Meeting Dates [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the 2026 and 2027 Board of Trustees Meeting Dates.

6.5 2026 WSU Events Calendar [Open Session Item]

The Board noted the WSU Events Calendar without discussion.

7. BOARD COMMITTEES

7.1 Audit and Risk Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

7.2 Cyber and Information Technology Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

7.3 Finance and Investment Committee [Closed Session Item]

This item was considered in closed session.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business noted.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Friday, 5 June 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 1.06pm.

Confirned by: (Chair) ______________________

Date: 16/6/2026

An Antisemitism Education Session was held with Board members after the meeting.