

F20/378**MINUTES
UWA SENATE****Held Monday, 19 October 2020 in the Senate Room commencing at 3.30 pm****MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE:**

The Chancellor, as Chair: The Hon Robert French, AC
The Pro-Chancellor and Chair of Strategic Resources Committee: Mr Frank Cooper, AO (at 4.25pm)
Vice-Chancellor: Professor Amit Chakma
Chair of Audit and Risk Committee: Ms Michele Dolin
Chair of Academic Board: Professor Raymond da Silva Rosa
Governor Appointees: Ms Joanne Farrell
Ms Sue Murphy, AO
Elected by Convocation: Mr Simon Dawkins
Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr, AM
Elected by Academic Staff: Dr Nin Kirkham
Elected by General Staff: Ms Jill Benn
Elected by Students: Ms Bre Shanahan: President, Student Guild
Mr Rahul Kumar MS: President, Postgraduate Student's Association
Co-opted members: Mr Michael Byrne
Dr Bob Olivier

Apologies:

Dr Sue Gordon, AM
Mr Michael Byrne

By Invitation:

For all agenda items (excluding Closed Senate)
Director, Governance and General Counsel, Mr Paul Shanahan

For agenda item 19
Professor David Sadler, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education

For agenda items 22 and 23
Leona Marquand, Chief Financial Officer

For agenda item 28
Mr Tayyeb Shah, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships

For agenda item 29
Mr Nigel Waugh, Director, Human Resources

Observers (Open Senate):

Ms Emma Mezger, Student Guild President Elect
Associate Professor Debra Judge, UWA Academic Staff Association
Ms Chloe Mortimer

Secretariat:

University Secretary, Ms Sue Moore

LATE DOCUMENTS:

The following documents were circulated after the release of the meeting agenda or at the meeting:

For Information: DAR – Convocation Working Group memorandum
Item 29: Attachment B Updated Proposed University Executive and Senior Management Structure
Attachment C Academic Board advice on UWA Structural Reform proposal

PART 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chancellor as Chair welcomed all members, invitees and attendees.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No additional declarations were made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – S R66/20

To confirm the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 31 August 2020 (S 05/20) as at Attachment A as a true and accurate record.

4. 2020/2021 SENATE WORK PROGRAM (DRAFT) AND ACTIONS ARISING

2020/2021 Senate Work Program

Senate members noted the draft 2020/2021 Work Program.

Actions Arising

- Item 1: In train.
- Item 2: Addressed at Item 19.
- Item 3: Addressed at Item 4
- Item 4: A verbal update will be provided by the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Item 31.
- Item 5: Addressed at Item 5.
- Item 6: All deeds are expected to be executed by mid-November.
- Item 7: A verbal update will be provided by the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Item 31.
- Item 8: Addressed at Item 4
- Item 9: Addressed at Item 19
- Item 11: Referred to the Chancellor's Committee

All other items are to be addressed at a later date.

PART 1: ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION TO BE TAKEN 'EN BLOC'

5. 2020 SENATE MEETINGS

The remaining dates for meetings of the Senate were noted:

- Monday 7 December

Members were also provided with a list of proposed dates for meetings of the Senate in 2021.

6. APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Nil.

7. CONFERRING OF DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

In accordance with Statute 14 clause (2)(2) made under the *University of Western Australia Act 1911*, the Vice-Chancellor conferred degrees, diplomas and graduate certificates on a number of students.

Senate noted:

- VC approved *in absentia* conferral list 31 August 2020;
- VC approved *in absentia* conferral list 24 August 2020;
- VC approved *in absentia* conferral list 29 September 2020
- VC approved retrospective conferral list 1 September 2020; and
- VC approved miscellaneous retrospective conferral list 25 August 2020.

8. MINUTES AND REPORTS OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

The items arising from meetings of Senate Standing Committees were noted.

9. ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 16 September 2020 were noted.

In response to a query, the Senate was advised that a due diligence committee has been established to facilitate UWA's compliance with and address any issues arising from the University Foreign Interference Taskforce (UFIT) guidelines.

10. IT AND CAMPUS MANAGEMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Senate noted the IT and Campus Management Capital Projects Status Report.

11. RAINE AND HEALY MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Senate noted the Raine and Healy Medical Research Foundation 2019 Annual Report and Financial Reports provided to the Senate as a requirement of the Deeds of Trust of both Foundations.

In response to a query, the Chief Financial Officer advised the 2019 investment result was largely a consequence of the unrealized Long Term Pool distribution rate of almost 17 per cent in that year, in contrast to the low rate in 2018.

The Chancellor requested the Audit and Risk Committee and Senate receive a briefing on their governance arrangements, obligations and risk management in relation to Raine and Healy and other foundations, as relevant.

ACTION: University Secretary and Chief Financial Officer arrange briefings for Audit and Risk and the Senate on governance arrangements, obligations and risk management in relation to Foundations established by the University.

PART 2: ITEMS FOR DECISION 'EN BLOC'

12. AWARDS OF EMERITUS / EMERITA PROFESSOR TITLE

RESOLVED – S R67/20

The Senate:

- (a) *Noted the change to the [University Policy on: Award of the Title of Emerita / Emeritus Professor \(UP07/118\)](#); and*
- (b) *Conferred the title of Emeritus/Emerita Professor upon Professors Richard Hobbs, Simon Anderson, David Andrich, Gregory McCarthy, Mark Everard, Matthew Knuiman, Aleksander Janca, David Fletcher, Steve Zubrick, Anna Tarca and Geoffrey London following the date of their retirement from the University.*
13. **RESCISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY POLICY ON FUNDING FROM THE TOBACCO INDUSTRY (UP07/11)**
- RESOLVED – S R68/20**
- The Senate:*
- Approved the rescission of the [University Policy on Funding from the Tobacco Industry \(UP07/11\)](#).*
14. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW POSTGRADUATE COURSE AND AWARD – GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN COMMERCE (CHARTERED ACCOUNTING)**
- RESOLVED S R69/20**
- The Senate approved the introduction of the Graduate Diploma in Commerce (Chartered Accounting) Award effective from 2021.*
15. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXIT AWARD – BACHELOR OF ECONOMICS (ADVANCED) (BP014)**
- RESOLVED S R70/20**
- The Senate approved the establishment of the award of Bachelor of Economics (Advanced) (BP014) effective from 2021.*
16. **RESCISSION OF COURSEWORK COURSES AND AWARDS**
- RESOLVED S R71/20**
- The Senate approved rescission of the following courses effective from 2021, subject to continuing students being able to re-enrol and complete:*
- (a) *The Graduate Diploma in Education Leadership (articulated);*
- (b) *The Master of Educational Leadership (coursework and dissertation); and*
- (c) *The Master of Educational Leadership (thesis and coursework).*
17. **AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE DEED OF ACCESS, INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY**
- RESOLVED S R72/20**
- The Senate delegated the power to the Chancellor to execute a Deed of Access, Insurance and Indemnity with the Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the University.*
18. **ANIMAL RESOURCES AUTHORITY - NOMINATIONS**
- RESOLVED S R73/20**

The Senate:

- (a) Confirmed the nomination of Dr Mal Lawson to the Animal Resources Authority;**
- (b) Reconfirmed the nomination of Dr Stuart Hodgetts to the Animal Resources Authority; and**
- (c) Authorised the Vice-Chancellor to issue correspondence as at Attachment A to the Department of Health.**

PART 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

19. PRESENTATION: HIGHER EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education, Professor David Sadler joined the meeting and provided an introductory overview of the Higher Education regulatory framework and specifically Domain 6 of the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015*.

In addition to the documentation provided in the agenda, Professor Sadler noted:

- UWA is a 'Table A' or 'self-accrediting authority';
- There is contention in the sector as to the enforceability of TEQSA Guidance Notes with some auditors appearing to view these as an extension of the *Threshold Standards*;
- UWA is working to improve its institutional data systems to facilitate academic monitoring/ quality assurance and ensure systemic processes to meet academic governance requirements;
- It is the Senate's responsibility to ensure the University is effectively and proactively meeting its academic governance requirements;
- A steering group, including former the interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jane den Hollander, will guide UWA's TEQSA re-registration process

It was noted re-accreditation will have a positive effect on the University's governance processes and Senate will be looking for assurance that adequate and appropriate steps have been taken to identify and address any issues.

RESOLVED S 74/30

The Senate noted the initial presentation on the Higher Education regulatory environment.

Professor Sadler departed the meeting.

20. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE SENATE AND ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE

The Chancellor highlighted a compressed timeline for the review would be adopted to ensure the final report could be provided to the Senate at its meeting in early March 2021.

RESOLVED S 75/30

To note, in line with its delegation by the Senate, that the Chancellor's Committee:

- (a) subject to satisfactory reference checks, has approved the engagement of Mr Geoff Kiel of Strategic Governance to undertake the independent review of UWA's governance and accountability in accordance with Domain 6 (Standard 6.1.3) of the Higher Education Standards Threshold 2015 in line with the Terms of Reference (Attachment B) approved by the Senate on 29 April 2019 (S R20/19); and**
- (b) approved the University Secretary to engage Mr Geoff Kiel of Strategic Governance on the basis of the terms outlined in Attachment A and upon confirmation that the review can be completed in time to enable the presentation of the final outcome to the Senate meeting to be held on 4 March 2021 or as soon as practicable thereafter.**

21. PROPOSAL FOR SENATE EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUP

The Chancellor noted the Working Group would have an in-house focus complimenting the work of the independent review. The Chancellor's Committee will act as the steering committee and all staff interactions are to be arranged via the Vice-Chancellor.

RESOLVED S 76/30

- (a) ***That the Senate establish a Senate Effective Governance Working Group on the basis of the Terms of Reference at Attachment A, to report to Senate with recommendations as to improvements to the way in which it discharges its governance functions and obligations;***
- (b) ***That the membership of the Group comprise Senate members:***
- (i) ***Dr Robert Olivier, as Chair;***
 - (ii) ***Ms Sue Murphy, AO;***
 - (iii) ***Ms Joanne Farrell***
- With support to be provided by Mr Paul Shanahan, General Counsel, and Ms Sue Moore, University Secretary; and***
- (c) ***That the Chancellor's Committee should act as a steering group to guide the scope of the Working Group's activities and the involvement of the University's Executive in that process.***

22. FINANCE REPORT: AUGUST 2020

The Chief Financial Officer, Ms Leona Marquand joined the meeting and highlighted the following matters within the report:

- The revised 2020 forecast for the full year is favourable, attributable to the stronger than anticipated student income and return on investments;
- Semester 2 enrolments, particularly commencing international students who remain offshore were stronger than anticipated (15% down from PY), although this is offset, in part, by onshore reductions in CELT enrolments;
- Domestic enrolments responded well to the University's efforts in launching new graduate certificates and conversion of Commonwealth Support Places;
- Education Australia has reduced its holding in IDP with the sale providing unexpected distributions to shareholders in September;
- Financial modelling indicates a shift in the liquidity risk to Q4, 2021 reinforcing the need to address the structural deficit;
- Leave liabilities continue to increase in light of the impacts of COVID 19 and the EA variations;
- Gearing ratios remain within policy requirements.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the biggest risk to the University is the uncertainty in relation to WA's hard border and the risk that presents to enrolments in 2021 and beyond. Professor Chakma reiterated his focus to address the University's underlying deficit and outlined an intention to invest in UWA's research capability and infrastructure, as supported by the government's announcement of the additional 2021 research support program funding.

In response to queries, Ms Marquand advised:

- Some changes to the *Higher Education Support Act 2003* would assist the University to manage Federal Government funding caps. It was acknowledged that the Job-ready Graduates Package may negatively affect the cost of study for some student cohorts;
- The University continues to closely monitor annual and long service leave entitlements;
- The review into underpayments in relation to Uni Hall is complete.
- Senate have requested Human Resources and Legal undertake a broader review of University compliance with industrial instruments and contractual obligations;

RESOLVED S 77/30

The Senate noted the Finance Report: August 2020.

23. RECOMMENDED WRITE OFFS 2020

The Chief Financial Officer advised that the write-offs related to previous years and while values were not outside sector standards, a review of student fee payment controls, particularly in relation to international students, was underway.

RESOLVED S 78/30

The Senate:

- a) Noted the write-off under the authority delegated to the Vice-Chancellor, pursuant to Senate Resolution S R480/74 (new Limits S R429/89) of \$417,891.62:***
- b) Noted the write-offs approved under the authority delegated to the Strategic Resources Committee, pursuant to Senate Resolution S R480/74 (new Limits S R429/89) of \$494,633.00: and***
- c) Noted the write-offs approved by the Vice-Chancellor and the Strategic Resources Committee totalling \$912,524.62 in 2020.***

Ms Marquand departed the meeting.

24. 2020 ANNUAL REPORT INDICATORS AND TARGETS

The Vice-Chancellor introduced the item noting a review is currently underway of the KPIs and targets for 2021 with the intention to develop a separate set of internal targets to reflect specific management priorities in addition to the external indicators and targets within the University's Annual Report. A paper will be provided to the Senate March 2021 meeting.

RESOLVED S 79/30

The Senate approved the 2020 Annual Report indicators and targets.

25. AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED S R80/20

The Senate appointed Ms Joanne Farrell as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee under Section 4(i)(b) of that Committee's Constitution for a three year term from 19 October 2020.

26. REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY LEGISLATION - UPDATE

The Senate requested consideration be given to whether the Academic Board required a separate set of Standing Orders or, given the Board is a Standing Committee of the Senate, if the Senate Standing Orders might apply.

ACTION: University Secretary to consider application of the Senate Standing Orders to the Academic Board.

RESOLVED S R81/20

The Senate:

- (a) *Noted the status of the new University of Western Australia Statute ('UWA Statute');*
and
- (b) *Approved the amended Standing Orders of the Senate at as Attachment A.*

27. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT TO SENATE

The report was taken as read.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the Government's Job-Ready Graduates bill had now passed and despite some elements of concern, it would allow the University greater flexibility in the application of capped funding and placed no caps on regional and Indigenous students.

In response to a query, the Vice-Chancellor noted UWA will continue both collectively and, where appropriate, individually to provide feedback on issues affecting the higher education sector to ensure effective interactions with both Federal and State Governments.

Mr Paul Shanahan, Emma Mezger, Ms Chloe Mortimer and Associate Professor Debra Judge, departed the meeting.

CLOSE: 6.35 pm

Confirmed (Sign)

Date