

F20/378

MINUTES

UWA SENATE

Held Monday, 18 May 2020 (via Zoom) 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
Vice-Chancellor: Professor Jane den Hollander, AO
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 Sue Gordon AM
Dr Bob Olivier

Apologies:

Nil

By Invitation:

For all agenda items (excluding Closed Senate)

Acting Director, Governance and General Counsel, Mr Paul Shanahan

For agenda item 11

Chief Financial Officer, Ms Leona Marquand

For agenda item 17

Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Simon Biggs

Secretariat:

University Secretary, Ms Sue Moore

Attendees (Open Senate):

Nil

LATE DOCUMENTS:

The following documents were circulated in a revised agenda on Monday, 18 May 2020

Item 12: Vice-Chancellor's presentation (Attachment B)

Item 16: VenuesWest Board Appointment

Item 17: UWA Asset Realisation Strategy

PART 1:

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chancellor as Chair welcomed all members and outlined meeting protocols for meetings conducted via Zoom.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no additional interests declared by members to those detailed in the Register of Interests at Attachment A to agenda item 2.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – S R32/20

The Senate confirmed the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 20 April 2020 at Attachment A as a true and accurate record.

4. ACTIONS ARISING

Item 1: The Vice-Chancellor provided a brief update on the status of the UWA Publishing implementation plan.

Item 2: The Strategic Resources Committee will consider an updated Capital Project Status report on 3 June and refer that report to the Senate for information.

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 6 July
- Monday 31 August
- Monday 19 October
- Monday 7 December
- Strategic Seminar – date to be determined

All meetings will commence at 3.30pm either via Zoom or in the Senate Room.

6. 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 on 30 March 2020.

Senate noted:

- VC Approved *in absentia* conferrals on 28 April 2020; and
- VC Approved *in absentia* retrospective conferrals as at 1 March 2019 and 1 September 2019.

7. MINUTES AND REPORTS OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

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

8. MEMBERSHIP OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES: STRATEGIC RESOURCES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED – S R33/20

The Senate noted the co-option of Ms Fiona Hick to the Strategic Resources Committee under clause 3(1)(e) of that Committee's Constitution effective 22 April 2020 to 21 April 2023.

PART 2: ITEMS FOR DECISION 'EN BLOC'

9. FORREST RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONSTITUTION – PROPOSED CHANGES

The Chair noted the change extended membership of the Board of Governors to each of the five Western Australian Vice-Chancellors rather than a rotating membership.

RESOLVED S R34/20

The Senate approved the amendments to the Constitution of the Forrest Research Foundation as at Attachment A, in accordance with a decision of the Board of Governors of the Forrest Research Foundation held on 6 May 2020.

PART 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

10. ESTABLISHMENT OF A REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Members had been advised ahead of the meeting that this item would be deferred for consideration at a later date.

11. FINANCE REPORT: MARCH 2020 INCLUDING UPDATE: COVID-19 AND BUDGETARY SUSTAINABILITY

The Vice-Chancellor introduced the item and advised the first of two days of staff 'Town Hall' meetings to discuss the proposed Jobs Protection Framework had commenced that day.

Chief Financial Officer, Ms Leona Marquand joined the meeting and outlined key matters within the report, provided further updates and responded to member queries as follows:

- The University's operating result to 31 March 2020 was a deficit of \$74m largely comprised of unrealized losses on investments although significant movement in the market since that date has reduced investment losses to \$56m;
- The realized student income shortfall to the end of March was \$1m but this remains significantly at risk with the international census date extended to 29 May 2020;
- The forecast deficit for the year ending 31 December 2020 is \$99m;
- Since the report, the University has taken a \$20m WA Treasury Corporation (WATC) loan and that has affected a number of key ratios including the gearing ratio. The University is now in breach of its own Debt Management Policy (a KPI) and this is expected to continue into 2021. This will continue to be monitored;
- Gains are expected to be made in relation to the University's leave liability with bookings in Q3 and Q4;
- Action to ensure sustainability over the next 24 months is imperative

Ms Marquand and Mr Paul Shanahan left the meeting.

CLOSE: 6.20 pm

Confirmed (Sign)

Date