

F20/378**MINUTES
UWA SENATE****Held Monday, 7 December 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
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 Emma Mezger: President, Student Guild
Mr Joseph Chan: President, Postgraduate Student's Association
Co-opted members: Mr Michael Byrne
Dr Bob Olivier
Dr Sue Gordon, AM

Apologies:

Mr Michael Byrne

By Invitation:

For all agenda items (excluding Closed Senate)
Director, Governance and General Counsel, Mr Paul Shanahan
Independent Reviewer, Geoff Kiel (via Zoom)

For agenda item 23
Professor Graham Brown, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic

For agenda items 24, 30 and 31
Professor Simon Biggs, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor

For agenda items 28 and 29
Leona Marquand, Chief Financial Officer

For agenda items 30 and 31
Trevor Humphreys, Director, Campus Management

For agenda items 32 and 33
Mr Tayyeb Shah, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships

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

Observers (Open Senate):

Associate Professor Debra Judge, UWA Academic Staff Association

Secretariat:

University Secretary, Ms Sue Moore

LATE DOCUMENTS:

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

Item 42: Convocation-DAR Joint Committee.

PART 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

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

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms Jill Benn, University Librarian outlined her involvement in the matters considered at Item 33 and during discussion on Item 30, Professor Ray da Silva noted an interest.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – S R86/20

To confirm the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 19 October 2020 (S 06/20) 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: Updated induction documentation will be considered by the first meeting of the Chancellor's Committee in 2021.

Item 2: Briefings on the University's legislative, regulatory and policy framework will continue into 2021.

Item 3: Addressed at Item 24

Item 4: All deeds have been executed.

Item 5: Addressed at Item 30.

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

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

5. 2021 SENATE MEETINGS

Members were 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 26 October 2020;
- VC approved *in absentia* conferral list 30 November 2020;

8. MINUTES AND REPORTS OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

The details of the meetings of Senate Standing Committees were noted.

9. ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 18 November 2020 were noted.

10. IT AND CAMPUS MANAGEMENT CAPITAL PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

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

11. FORREST RESEARCH FOUNDATION 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Senate noted the Forrest Research Foundation 2019 Annual Report

PART 2: ITEMS FOR DECISION 'EN BLOC'

12. AWARDS OF EMERITUS / EMERITA PROFESSOR TITLE

RESOLVED – S R87/20

The Senate approved conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor upon Professor John Dell following the date of his retirement from the University.

13. RESCISSION OF COURSEWORK COURSES AND AWARDS

RESOLVED – S R88/20

The Senate approved the rescission of the Graduate Certificate in Fieldwork Practice (12270) effective from 2021.

14. INTRODUCTION OF NEW UNDERGRADUATE EXIT AWARDS

RESOLVED S R89/20

The Senate approved the introduction of the following undergraduate exit awards effective from Semester 1, 2021:

- (a) Bachelor of Frontier Physics (Advanced); and***
- (b) Bachelor of Sport Science, Exercise and Health (Advanced).***

15. INTRODUCTION OF POSGRADUATE AWARDS

RESOLVED S R90/20

The Senate approved the introduction of the following new postgraduate awards effective from Semester 1, 2021:

- (a) Graduate Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning (12290)***
- (b) Graduate Certificate in Business Psychology (12290)***
- (c) Master of Professional Accounting (Chartered Accounting) (Coursework) (40611)***
- (d) Master of Environmental Planning (coursework or coursework and dissertation) (13550)***
- (e) Master of Bioinformatics (coursework or coursework and dissertation) (70550)***
- (f) Master of Teaching (coursework) (32540)***
- (g) Graduate Certificate in Communicable Diseases Epidemiology (92220)***
- (h) Graduate Certificate in Environment and Health (92210).***

16. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AWARD – ASSOCIATE DEGREES

In response to queries, it was noted the new awards were intended to address increased market demand for skills-based education where individuals did not necessarily seek to complete a full degree. It is expected the courses would also provide a potential entry pathway to undergraduate courses dependent upon student performance.

It was acknowledged additional resources and supports may need to be provided to this cohort.

RESOLVED S R91/20

The Senate approved the establishment of the following awards effective immediately:

- (a) Associate of Arts;***
- (b) Associate of Business;***
- (c) Associate of Health Sciences; and***
- (d) Associate of Science.***

17. PERTH FESTIVAL DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED S R92/20

The Senate approved the re-appointment of Mr Tim Ungar and Mr Adrian Fini as directors of the Perth Festival Board for a third and final term effective 30 April 2021 to 29 April 2023.

18. UWA REPRESENTATIVE ON QUEEN ELIZABETH II (QEII) MEDICAL CENTRE TRUST BOARD

RESOLVED S R93/20

The Senate approved the appointment of Winthrop Professor Jeffrey Keelan, Head - School of Biomedical Sciences, to fill the vacancy left by Professor Jon Watson's departure on the QEII Medical Centre Trust Board office until further notice.

19. AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER OF GRADUATES

RESOLVED S R94/20

The Senate approved eight amendments to awards, including graduation names, as

contained in the Briefing Note (Attachment A).

20. 2021 STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE (SSAF) ALLOCATION

RESOLVED S R95/20

The Senate approved the proposed UWA Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) allocation for 2021.

21. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – MINOR AMENDMENT

RESOLVED S R96/20

The Senate approved the revision to the 2020 Annual Report effective and sustainable operations indicator.

22. SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED S R97/20

The Senate approved, In line with clause 26 of the Senate Regulations, that:

- (a) Senate establish a Senate Executive Committee to deal with any urgent matters which arise prior to the first meeting of Senate in 2021;***
- (b) The Committee constitute:***
 - (i) Chancellor as Chair;***
 - (ii) Pro-Chancellor***
 - (iii) Vice-Chancellor;***
 - (iv) Chair of the Strategic Resources Committee;***
 - (v) Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee;***
 - (vi) A member elected by the Academic Board (the Chair of the Academic Board);***
 - (vii) A student member appointed by Senate (the Guild President);***
 - (viii) A member of the Senate elected by Convocation (Simon Dawkins).***

PART 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

23. PRESENTATION: HIGHER EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

The Pro Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Professor Graham Brown joined the meeting and provided an update on UWA's compliance with Domains 1 and 2 of the Higher Education Standards (HES) Framework (Threshold Standards).

He noted work continues on collation of data, mapping of the University's performance against the Threshold Standards and identification of areas of risk as denoted in the agenda to prepare UWA's re-registration documentation.

In relation to Domains 1 and 2, Professor Brown noted:

- A new data system will be implemented in 2021 with oversight from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee to facilitate improved performance monitoring of specific student cohorts and early intervention for at-risk students;
- Learning Outcomes are under development for all courses; and
- Retrospective and trend data is being collated to allow for increased monitoring of diversity and equity performance and issues.

In response to a query it was acknowledged that the University had demonstrably responded to the risks identified to date, however, further work is required, particularly increased continuous reporting both internally and to the Senate Committees and Senate, as relevant, on the matters identified within the Threshold Standards.

The Vice-Chancellor undertook to ensure accountability for the matters addressed within the HES Framework was clearly established, mandated and monitored.

RESOLVED S R98/20

The Senate noted the information on Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015 Domains 1 and 2 as contained within the attached presentation.

Professor Brown departed the meeting.

24. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT Q3, 2020

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Simon Biggs joined the meeting and advised that more than 85% of senior leaders had completed the required health and safety training. Follow-ups are also underway to ensure full compliance.

The Vice-Chancellor noted a briefing would be provided to Senate, via the Audit and Risk Committee, on the responsibility of various University officeholders as a result of the introduction of new health and safety legislation. It was also agreed that Senate would receive the health and safety audit program, via the Audit and Risk Committee.

It was requested that future health and safety reports:

- demonstrated evidence of root causes (i.e., systemic issues) rather than the volume of matters;
- detail matters that have been closed-out, reviews undertaken and any relevant findings.

The Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor was also requested to ensure a process is implemented to ensure that the University is able to verify the Lost Time Incidents (LTI) of all contractors ahead of their engagement by UWA.

ACTION: Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor to:

- facilitate provision of the University's health and safety audit program and improved safety and health and safety reports to the Senate, via the Audit and Risk Committee; and
- implement a process requiring all University contractors to provide LTI data ahead of engagement by the University.

RESOLVED S R99/20

The Senate noted:

- the UWA Safety and Health Quarterly Report Q3, 2020 as at Attachment A***
- the Health and Wellbeing Report Q3 (July – September 2020) as at Attachment B.***

Professor Biggs departed the meeting.

25. UWA CODE FOR THE PROTECTION OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The Pro-Chancellor assumed the Chair.

The Chancellor outlined the process undertaken by the University in its response to the Report of

the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Higher Education Providers noting the draft UWA Code for the Protection of Speech and Academic Freedom ('the UWA Code'), based on the Model Code, maintains a distinction between Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech while acknowledging an overlap.

He highlighted protections and limitations of the draft UWA Code noting Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech within the institution is subject to 'reasonable and proportionate regulation' provided by legal and other restrictions.

It was noted that if adopted, the UWA Code would ensure UWA's alignment with the anticipated new provisions of the Higher Education Support Act and the Higher Education (Threshold) Standards.

It was acknowledged that difficult decisions would still need to be made in particular applications of the Code, however the Code would allow the University to be guided by those principles in making its determinations.

RESOLVED S R100/20

That the Senate:

- (a) Adopts the proposed UWA Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom, as at Attachment A.***
- (b) The University establish a Freedom of Expression Panel as proposed in Part 7 of the Code (see Attachment A).***
- (c) The University undertake a general review of codes, policies and principles which may affect freedom of speech or academic freedom to ensure that they comply with the reasonable and proportionate regulation and other restrictions contemplated by this Code.***
- (d) In undertaking the review the University have regard to such of the recommendations of the Academic Board in relation to freedom of expression previously adopted by the Senate, as may be relevant.***

The Chancellor resumed the Chair.

26. INFORMATION PRIVACY POLICY AND GUIDELINES

RESOLVED S R101/20

The Senate:

- (a) Approved the Information Privacy Policy at Attachment B; and***
- (b) Approved the Information Privacy Guidelines at Attachment C.***

27. STUDENT GUILD REGULATIONS

The Chancellor outlined his concern in relation to the implications of the non-exhaustive and broad definitions of Guild Misconduct at regulation 86.

During discussion, clarification was also sought as to the implications of the definition of "University Working Day" on annual leave entitlements of the Guild President during the University Shutdown Period arising from regulation 25(4).

It was agreed that given there were no additional concerns with the draft Student Guild Regulations that they should be approved with Regulations 25(4) and 86 to be reviewed by the General Counsel and the Student Guild and reconsidered at the Senate meeting on March 2021.

ACTION: General Counsel and Student Guild to address the issues raised in relation to Regulations 25(4) and 86 and provide to the Senate in March 2021 for consideration.

RESOLVED S R102/20

The Senate approved the Student Guild Regulations at Attachment A except for clauses 25(4) and 86 with consideration to be given to revised versions of those clauses at the March 2021 meeting of the Senate.

28. FINANCE REPORT: SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2020

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

- Liquidity risk continues to trend positively;
- The financial position of the University has informed a decision to end the cost-saving measures adopted under the Enterprise Agreement Variation;
- Expected delays in supply chains could impact capital expenditure recorded at year-end between \$5m - \$20m;
- the review of historical superannuation continues with any remediation payments not able to be finalized in December to be carried over to 2021.

In response to queries, the CFO detailed the nature of the University’s underlying deficit as distinct from the structural deficit and measures being undertaken to address these.

Senate was advised that while a favourable 2020 investment result is expected, any gains in the University’s statutory investment accounts would be unrealised.

RESOLVED S R103/20

The Senate:

- (a) **noted the [Finance Report: September 2020](#) as recommended by the Strategic Resources Committee; and**
- (b) **noted the Finance Report: October 2020 (Attachment A).**

Mr Shanahan and Associate Professor Judge departed the meeting.

CLOSE: 6.52 pm

Confirmed (Sign)

Date