

F20/378

MINUTES UWA SENATE

Held Monday, 6 July 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 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:

Co-opted Member, Mr Michael Byrne

By Invitation:

Former Vice-Chancellor: Professor Jane den Hollander, AO

For all agenda items (excluding Closed Senate)

Acting Director, Governance and General Counsel, Mr Paul Shanahan

For agenda items 23 and 26

Chief Financial Officer, Ms Leona Marquand

Secretariat:

University Secretary, Ms Sue Moore

Attendees (Open Senate):

Associate Professor Debra Judge

LATE DOCUMENTS:

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

Item 21: Additional Resolution – UWA Statute (Attachment D)

Item 23: Finance Presentation July 2020 (Attachment B)

[Secretary's Note: Items were considered in the following order: 1 – 23, 26, 24 - 25, 27 - 30. The minutes have been maintained to align with the order of the agenda.]

PART 1: INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chancellor as Chair welcomed all members and particularly Professor Amit Chakma on his

first day as Vice-Chancellor and his first meeting of the Senate. He also thanked former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jane den Hollander for attending the meeting.

Professor Chakma thanked the University for facilitating his commencement in light of COVID-19 and thanked Professor den Hollander for her service as Interim Vice-Chancellor noting discussions are in train to ensure UWA would continue to benefit from her counsel and advice.

He commended the University's strength, history, purpose, achievements and strong culture noting his immediate focus would be to engage the broader University in meaningful communication and to focus on the significant structural and resourcing issues facing the institution.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In addition to the interests declared by members detailed in the Register of Interests at Attachment A to agenda item 2, Ms Michele Dolin advised she had been appointed to the board of PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA. The Register will be updated accordingly.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED – S R38/20

That the Senate confirm the minutes of the Senate meeting held on 18 May 2020 (S 03/20) as at Attachment A as a true and accurate record.

4. ACTIONS ARISING

Item 1: Addressed at Item 15.

Item 2: The Senate member induction process is under review by Director Governance and General Counsel and the University Secretary.

Item 3: The communication plan is under development as part of the Asset Realisation Strategy.

It was requested an additional item be added to the Actions Arising being 'ensure future recommendations to the Senate in relation to the Asset Realisation Strategy are presented in the context of the UWA Masterplan'.

ACTION: Secretary to update the Actions Arising.

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

The Chair noted a Strategic Seminar would not occur until 2021. It would be proposed that a half-day event be scheduled to further inform Senate members of their duties and responsibilities under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011*, the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015*, the *University of Western Australia Act 1911*,

State and Federal legislative and regulatory requirements and UWA's own regulatory, statutory and policy framework.

6. APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

The list of appointments and promotions circulated with the agenda in accordance with Senate Resolution 274/00 was noted.

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* conferrals on 25 May 2020;
- VC Approved *in absentia* conferrals on 29 June 2020.

8. CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: HONORARY DEGREES AND CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL

Members were advised nominations for Honorary Degrees and the Chancellor's Medal are now open and can be submitted until Monday, 3 August 2020.

9. MINUTES AND REPORTS OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

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

10. ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 17 June 2020 were noted.

11. MEMBERSHIP OF SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES: AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Senate noted the appointment of Michael Byrne, external member of the Senate, as Deputy Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

12. UWA STUDENT GUILD AND UWA SPORT PTY LTD'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SSAF REPORTS

Following feedback on the length of the documentation provided, the Chair undertook to discuss the format of documentation to be provided by the Student Guild and UWA Sport in future years with a focus on concise and informative financial reporting prioritizing strategic issues, identifying trends while ensuring the Senate meets its obligations under Statute.

Senate noted that the Student Guild's 2019 Audited Financial Statements and the Student Guild Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Acquittal Report are in compliance with Section 8(1) of Statute 20; and that UWA Sport Pty Ltd's 2019 Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) Acquittal Report is in compliance with Section 8(2) of Statute 20.

In subsequent discussion, it was agreed that efficiency and regularity of reporting to the Senate would ensure increased priority is placed on strategic issues. The Chair undertook to work with the University Secretary to develop an annual Senate agenda, aligned with management

processes, identifying matters of operational and strategic relevance to be considered at each meeting

ACTION: Chair and Secretary to develop annual Senate Work Program for consideration and review.

13. 2019 WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee advised that Committee had requested Senate view the report given its ultimate responsibility for occupational health and safety at the University.

Members expressed concern at the lead and lag statistics within the report, the lack of compliance in completion of online occupational health and safety training and the University's poor record keeping. Professor den Hollander advised she had written to the University's Executive directing them to ensure managers address this issue.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the data provided within the report was not sufficient particularly in relation to the disaggregation of injury management data.

The Vice-Chancellor was requested to drive occupational health and safety as a leadership issue, consider current issues of under-investment, communicate at regular intervals on matters of safety, and to update the Senate at each future meeting on how the University is progressing in addressing its obligations in this regard.

The Chair reiterated the Senate's responsibility for setting, supporting and ensuring a safety culture within the University.

Senate noted 2019 Work Health and Safety Report.

ACTION: Vice-Chancellor to report to each meeting of the Senate on the University's progress in addressing its health and safety training and reporting obligations.

14. 2019 FINANCE ANNUAL REVIEWS

Senate noted the following reports:

- *2019 Annual Debt Portfolio Review*
- *2019 Investment Portfolio Review*
- *2019 University Endowments Portfolio Review*

15. CAPITAL PROJECTS STATUS REPORT

Senate noted Capital Project Status Report.

During discussion on this item an unrelated query was raised in relation to management's decision to limit researchers access to spend funds in research accounts under Section 63 of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* ('Section 63 research accounts'). It was noted the decision to slow expenditure in this regard was made to address financial risk and ensure the solvency of the University.

It was noted the issue of access to Section 63 research accounts is the topic of a legal action at present. The Senate requested a briefing on Section 63 research accounts at its next meeting detailing the framework under which these accounts operate and the governance expectations, duties and responsibilities of the various parties involved.

ACTION: Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel to provide a brief to the Senate on Section 63 research accounts.

PART 2: ITEMS FOR DECISION 'EN BLOC'

16. POSTHUMOUS CONFERRAL OF DEGREE

RESOLVED S R39/20

The Senate conferred the award of the Doctor of Philosophy upon Mr Roger Barroga posthumously.

17. AWARD OF EMERITUS PROFESSOR TITLE

RESOLVED S R40/20

The Senate approved conferral of the title of Emeritus Professor upon Professors Robyn Owens, Greg Ivey and Mark Randolph following the date of their retirement from the University.

18. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AWARDS

The Senate requested additional information on the decision to adjust ATAR requirements for a range of courses.

Professor den Hollander noted UWA has moved from being a selective university to a recruiting (equity) university and the changes to ATAR are strategically relevant to how the University is positioning itself in the higher education market and seeking to address the issue of supply by improving enrolments.

The establishment of a suite of new specialized undergraduate or 'named degrees' and changes to ATAR requirements is intended to improve UWA's equity position, and in relation to high ATAR courses, project a sense of quality and value-add in a competitive environment. It was noted the changes would provide students with an increased degree of choice and clearly articulate both a University ATAR baseline and discipline cut-off.

Guild President, Ms Bre Shanahan noted the Guild's support for the proposal to enroll students on an equity basis highlighting additional supports would need to be implemented to appropriately support students in this cohort.

The Senate acknowledged Dr Nin Kirkham for her work on the proposal.

RESOLVED S R41/20

The Senate approved the following awards to be established and offered from 2021:

- (a) Bachelor of Advanced Computer Science (Hons) in Artificial Intelligence;***
- (b) Bachelor of Advanced Computer Science (Hons) in Data Science;***
- (c) Bachelor of Advanced Computer Science (Hons) in International Cybersecurity;***
- (d) Bachelor of Automation and Robotics;***
- (e) Bachelor of Business;***
- (f) Bachelor of Environmental Design;***
- (g) Bachelor of Music;***
- (h) Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics;***
- (i) Bachelor of Economics;***
- (j) Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Technology (Advanced) as an exit award;***
- (k) Bachelor of Agricultural Science and Agribusiness (Advanced) as an exit award;***
- (l) Bachelor of Biochemistry of Nutrition (Advanced) as an exit award;***
- (m) Bachelor of Wildlife Conservation (Advanced) as an exit award;***
- (n) Bachelor of Molecular Life Sciences (Advanced) as an exit award;***
- (o) Bachelor of Environmental Science and Management (Advanced) as an exit award;***

- (p) *Bachelor of Integrated Earth and Marine Sciences (Advanced) as an exit award;*
- (q) *Bachelor of Marine Science (Advanced) as an exit award.*

19. APPOINTMENT – RAINE AND HEALY RESEARCH FOUNDATION MEDICAL RESEARCH COMMITTEES

RESOLVED S R42/20

The Senate approved the appointment of Dr Bennie Ng for a three year term to 31 December 2022 as a member of:

- (a) *The Raine Medical Research Foundation Research Committee as the WA representative of the Australian Medical Association under Deed of Trust, Clause 3.(c)(vii); and*
- (b) *The Healy Medical Research Foundation Research Committee as the WA representative of the Australian Medical Association under Deed of Trust, Clause 5.(c)(vii).*

20. NAMING PROPOSALS: EZONE; ROBSON; COHEN AND PERRON

RESOLVED S R43/20

The Senate approved:

- a) *The naming proposals for the EZONE Student Hub;*
- b) *The proposal to name the walkway between Underwood Avenue and Saw Avenue, Crawley, the ‘Robson Walk’;*
- c) *The proposal to rename N Block, QEII Medical Centre ‘The Alex Cohen Building’ pending approval from the QEII Trust; and*
- d) *The proposal to rename the EY Lecture Theatre within the UWA Business School ‘The Stan Perron Lecture Theatre’.*

PART 3: ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION

21. UWA STATUTE

Senate noted the process undertaken to finalise and agree changes to the UWA Statute and particularly the contribution of Mr Greg Calcutt who provided drafting services to Convocation.

The Chair noted that Attachment B to Item 21 represented the UWA Statute as approved by Senate with amendments agreed between Convocation and the University’s General Counsel reflecting no point of difference between them.

In recommending Senate make the UWA Statute incorporating the agreed Convocation amendments, the Chair commended the significant work of all those involved in the extensive process of its development.

RESOLVED S R44/20

The Senate in accordance with Section 31(4A) of the University of Western Australia Act 1911 forthwith makes the UWA Statute as at Attachment B to Item 21.

Additionally, the Chair noted the University had, in 2016, abolished the position of Registrar who is the custodian of the UWA seal. It was necessary, for the time being, that there be a custodian

of the seal and a person authorized to affix it.

RESOLVED S R45/20

The Senate appoints the University Secretary as the Registrar for the sole purpose of keeping custody of the common seal and affixing it as required by Statute.

22. HONORARY DEGREES AND CHANCELLOR'S MEDAL POLICY

RESOLVED S R46/20

The Senate:

- a) noted that approval and promulgation of the UWA Statute will include the rescission of Statute 14: Granting and Conferring Degrees and Diplomas;***
- b) approved the draft Honorary Degrees and Chancellor's Medal Policy as at Attachment A to come into effect concurrent with the promulgation of the UWA Statute;***
- c) approved the amendments to the Honorary Degrees Committee Constitution as detailed at Attachment B;***
- d) rescinded the Guidelines for Award of Honorary Degrees as at Attachment C to have effect concurrent with the promulgation of the UWA Statute;***
- e) rescinded the Guidelines for the Award of the Chancellor's Medal as at Attachment D to have effect concurrent with the promulgation of the UWA Statute***
- f) noted that Honorary Degrees and Chancellor's Medal Procedures are currently under development.***

23. FINANCIAL REPORT: APRIL 2020

The Chief Financial Officer, Ms Leona Marquand joined the meeting and circulated the Finance Presentation July 2020 providing an update to the data contained within the April 2020 Financial Report noting improvements to key operating funds from outcomes including better than forecast retention of international students in semester 1 and rebounds in investment markets.

Ms Marquand noted the risk of unrealized losses is still high given market volatility and potential changes to government policy, with strategic actions required in the short term to ensure the University's sustainability and address the impacts of COVID-19. A range of proposed strategic responses were outlined in the presentation and it was noted the Vice-Chancellor will lead a strategic review of the University, supported by an enabling sustainability and investment plan.

The Vice-Chancellor advised the purpose of the review is to consider issues of budget modelling, benchmarking, investment and growth to address the University's significant deficit and structural deficiencies by facilitating resource allocation aligned to strategic activities. Highlighting the proposed establishment of a 'Research Grant Challenges Investment Fund' Professor Chakma noted the importance of fundraising linked to research priorities and undertook to provide additional detail to the Senate on the proposal in due course.

The Chief Financial Officer reiterated the risks to the University in relation to historical failures in employee benefit compliance that had already cost the University \$8m and noted an internal audit had been recommended to identify failures and ensure controls and compliance in future. The Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee expressed concern that the University did not have the staff resources, skills or capability to reliably perform the compliance review in-house and that the matter was required to be addressed via an internal audit process. It was noted a proposal to change the internal audit plan would be required to be considered by the Audit and Risk Committee.

The Financial Report: April 2020 was noted by the Senate.

24. AMENDED CHANCELLOR'S COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

The Chair noted the history informing the proposed changes to the Chancellor's Committee which was set out in the agenda paper and recommended the changes as a pragmatic solution to the issue.

RESOLVED S R47/20

The Senate approves the amended Chancellor's Committee Constitution as at Attachment A to formalise and enhance its role to effectively act as the remuneration committee in respect of the Vice-Chancellor and senior executive staff who report to the Vice-Chancellor.

25. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION POLICY

The Chair advised the item was discussed at the Chancellor's Committee meeting immediately preceding the Senate. It was resolved to request the Senate to refer the draft Policy back to the Academic Board for consideration in the larger context of the proposed amendments to the *Higher Education Standards Framework 2015* and supporting legislation introducing requirements for policies on freedom of speech and academic freedom.

RESOLVED S R48/20

The Senate requests the Academic Board to reconsider the draft University Policy on Freedom of Expression in light of proposed amendments to the Higher Education Standards 2015 and supporting legislation relating to freedom of speech and academic freedom.

26. INVESTMENT POLICY STATEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY

In introducing the item to the Senate, the Chief Financial Officer noted the policy recommendations were informed by significant work undertaken by the Investment Committee and the University's Executive and had been reviewed by the Strategic Resources Committee ahead of recommendation to the Senate.

The changes to the University's investment portfolio focused an 85/15 growth/defensive split in the Long Term Pool with the Short Term Pool moving a fully defensive objective in line with markets by the replacement of defensive alternatives with a high-yield fund.

RESOLVED S R49/20

The Senate:

- a) approves the recommendations as summarized in Appendix 1 to the Annual Health Check; and***
- b) approves the amended Investment Policy Statement 2020 as at Appendix 2 to the Annual Health Check.***

Ms Marquand, Mr Shanahan and Associate Professor Judge left the meeting ahead of 'Closed Senate'.

CLOSE: 6.30 pm

Confirmed (Sign)

Date