BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes of meeting 06/4 of the Board of Trustees of the University of Western Sydney, held at 9.00 am on Wednesday 9 August 2006, in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington North.

Present:  Mr John Phillips AO (Chancellor)  
Professor Janice Reid AM (Vice-Chancellor)  
Dr Michael Bezzina  
Hon Jan Burnswoods  
Professor Anne Cusick  
Ms Mary Foley  
Mr Luke Fomiatti  
Ms Genevieve Kelly AM  
Ms Gabrielle Kibble AO  
Mr Roy Medich OAM  
Mr Geoffrey Roberson  
Ms Tanya Rubin  
Ms Elfriede Sangkuhl  
Mr Ian Stone  
Hon Kim Yeadon  

In Attendance:  Dani Barley  
Geoff Brown  
Jacob Carswell-Doherty  
Professor Rob Coombes  
Gordon Cormack  
Whitney Eagle  
Dwayne Fernandez  
Rhonda Hawkins (Secretary to the Board)  
Greg Holland  
Mark Howland  
Eva Ing  
Tim Jarrett  
Mikael Kjaerbye  
Thomas Knox  
Jason Markwick  
John McGuire  
Sophia Newman  
Chris Pap  
Phil Rigg  
Simon Tayler  
Edith Taylor
1 OPENING AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome
The Chancellor welcomed those present and congratulated Professor Anne Cusick on being re-elected, unopposed, as Chair of Academic Senate.

Board members were reminded to submit an up-to-date Declaration of Private Interests and to complete the “Campus Profile – Subjective Indicators” assessment which would be referred to in the afternoon’s strategy discussions.

1.2 Apologies
The Board noted apologies from Ms Linda Burney and that Mr Glen Sanford would be arriving late.

1.3 Starring of Items
The following items were starred: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5.1, 3.5.2, 3.5.3, 3.6.5, 3.6.9, 4.1, 5.1 and 5.2.

It was resolved:
that all unstared items be taken as considered and all recommendations in the attachments for them as adopted.

1.4 Arrangement of Business
Items 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 were listed for discussion in the Closed Session.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes
It was resolved:
that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees, held on 14 June 2006, be confirmed.

2 CLOSED SESSION
The following items were considered in the closed session:

2.1 Cases Under Management

2.2 Board Standing Committee and Remuneration and Nominations Committee

2.3 UWS Medical School
3 NEW GENERAL BUSINESS & MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION

3.1 Vice-Chancellor’s Report
This report was noted without discussion.

3.2 Uses of the University Seal

*It was resolved:*
That the uses of the University Seal since 29 May 2005 be approved.

3.3 UWS College – Strategic Importance to UWS
The Chair introduced Mr Mark Howland who is to lead UWS College.

The Board gave some preliminary consideration to the core activities that might be pursued by UWS College. It was noted that the paper before the Board was only for information and that a strategy and business plan would be provided to the October meeting. During discussion, it was suggested that the College’s courses should complement, rather than duplicate or be in competition with, those of the University. The idea of external assistance in assessing the College’s plans was also canvassed.

3.4 An Analysis of Staff Costs: UWS and Sector Comparisons
Ms Foley advised that this paper, which had been considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee in March 2006, was provided to the Board for its information. Further analysis is being undertaken of the various sources and components of University revenue.

3.5 Reports and Recommendations from Board Committees

3.5.1 Strategy and Resources Committee
The Board discussed this report and its associated documents which indicate that the University is travelling reasonably, with a small underlying operating surplus for the first half of the year. Mr Holland advised that approximately half of this amount is related to deferred expenditure and the other half is real expenditure saving. There was some discussion on the draft University Key Performance Indicators document, which will be revised and provided to the Board bi-annually.

*It was resolved:*
That the Board approves the International Strategic Plan.

The Board also noted that a revised University Funding Model is being developed and will be brought to the October meeting.

3.5.2 Audit and Risk Management Committee
Mr Sanford spoke briefly to the written report, which was noted by the Board.
3.5.3 **Academic Senate**
Professor Cusick gave a brief introduction to the report, including some information on the proposed Research Quality Framework (RQF). The Report was noted.

Ms Kibble suggested that, in seeking support for courses, the University might profitably give greater emphasis to Local Government sources, approaching both General Managers and Mayors.

3.6 **Other Reports**

3.6.1 **Occupational Health and Safety**
This report was noted without discussion.

3.6.2 **Staffing Matters**
This report was noted without discussion.

3.6.3 **Staffing Strategy “Our People 2015”**
This report was noted without discussion.

3.6.4 **Progress Reports of Major Capital Buildings**
This report was noted without discussion.

3.6.5 **AUQA Audit of UWS 2006**
Ms Hawkins spoke to this progress report, advising the Board of the AUQA timetable and that aide memoires to assist Board members were being prepared. The Board was also advised that *UWS Snapshots* will be revised occasionally throughout the year and provided at events such as Open Day, graduations and other community relationship events.

3.6.6 **Graduate Board Member**
A copy of the Notice of Election – Call for Nominations and Voter Registration was provided to Board Members for their information.

3.6.7 **Open Day 2006 Progress Report**
The Chancellor reminded Board Members that they are invited to attend Open Day, which is to be held at Parramatta Campus on 20 August.

3.6.8 **Callista**
This report was noted without discussion.

3.6.9 **Minor Amendment to UWS Code of Conduct**
It was explained to the Board that a minor amendment to the Code of Conduct had been recommended by ICAC, to make clear that it applies to all University activities, whether within Australia or overseas.

*It was resolved:*
*That the Board approves the revised version of the Code of Conduct attached to this Board paper.*
3.6.10 Research Investment
This report was noted without discussion.

4 STUDENT SERVICES

4.1 Post VSU Student Services – Report from Sub-Committee of the Board
Mr Yeadon spoke to this report and the following points were raised in discussion.

- The allocations of $260,000 to PAUWS and $460,000 to UWSSA (as outlined in the table on page 4 of the report) include $10,000 each for one-off support to further develop their websites. This recognises the importance of the student associations’ enhancing their systems of communication with students.

- The allowance of an amount up to $10,000 to support undergraduate and postgraduate students who are part of formal University decision-making bodies.

- The allocation of $1,615,000 to uwsconnect on the same table comprises $1,150,000 for retail functions; $360,000 for student experience and $10,000 for their website development.

- The Chancellor referred to a petition he’d received from Campus Bible Ministries, a UWSSA club, requesting that the University reconsider its funding of UWSSA.

- Some members suggested that consideration might be given to administrative, or ‘front-office’, support for the five Student Welfare Case Worker positions.

- The need for an indication of continuing funding post 2007 was canvassed, as was the need for continuing dialogue between students and the Board.

- An independent student newspaper was considered by some members to be an important communication tool in a multi-campus university environment. This led to suggestions that the University might consider providing some support for printing and distribution of the newspaper. Others felt that it was important that a student newspaper needed to be, and to be seen as, independent and that the University should do nothing to damage that independence.

- It was pointed out that the funds being recommended by the sub-committee compared well with other relevant Universities. It was pointed out that it was broadly equivalent to the full annual funding of a School at UWS. It was also stressed that the full opportunity cost of the allocations needed to be considered. The Board had to be conscious of its full range of responsibilities in allocating funds.
[Mr Sanford joined the meeting at 11:55am]

- Mr Fomiatti asked why the document suggested that access to UWS internal research grants might be considered for PAUWS but had not suggested the same approach for UWSSA. The Vice-Chancellor agreed to look into this.

- It was suggested that the University should, in due course, issue a statement, describing the full scope of the funding.

*It was resolved:*

1. That the Board endorses the Sub-Committee’s report and approves the funding recommendations contained therein.

2. That the Vice-Chancellor, in consultation with UWSSA, advise the Board of any ‘front of office’ additional funding that might be justified.

3. That UWSSA provide a detailed breakdown to the Vice-Chancellor and the Sub-Committee on how funds are spent on production and distribution of the student newspaper to determine whether any case exists for University support to be given which does not compromise the independence of the newspaper or raise issues with DEST.

4. That the amount allocated to the student associations in the report be regarded as a base-line commitment for three years, subject to satisfactory performance.

5. Approves the write-off of accumulated debt of uwsconnect of $600,000.

The Chancellor thanked the sub-committee, the student associations and uwsconnect for their work in contributing to the report. He also thanked Board members and the audience for their sensible, prudent and polite contributions to the debate.

4.2 UWSSA Deed of Settlement

This report was noted without discussion.

5 STRATEGY DISCUSSIONS

5.1 Strategic Planning Integration

This item was considered in the afternoon’s closed session.

5.2 UWS Campuses: Current Profile

This item was considered in the afternoon’s closed session.
6 NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

The next ordinary meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held at 9.00am on Wednesday, 11 October 2006, in the Boardroom, Building AD, Werrington Campus.

The open session of the Board meeting concluded at 12:50pm. The record of the afternoon’s strategy discussions is contained in a separate document.

Confirmed by: ________________________________________________

Chair

__________________________________________________________

Date