



Senate minutes summary, 21 September 2009

Minutes summary of the ordinary meeting of the Senate of the University held in open session on Monday 21 September 2009 at 5.00 pm in the Senate Room at the University.

There were present: The Chancellor (Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir) presiding, the Deputy Chancellor (Mr Alan Cameron), the Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Dr Michael Spence), the Chair of the Academic Board (Professor Bruce Sutton), the Hon John J Aquilina, Ms Kim E W Anderson, Professor Belinda Bennett, Dr Roslyn Bohringer, Mr Alec Brennan, Professor Simon F Chapman, Dr Michael C Copeman, Dr Robin B Fitzsimons, Mr Tom Kavanagh, Ms Kate Laing, Mr John A McCarthy, Ms Irene K Moss, Emeritus Professor Ann E Sefton, Mr Adam B Spencer, Dr Margaret Varady and Ms Kim Wilson.

Apologies for absence appear under item 5.1.

The Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor Stephen Garton), the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Mr Bob Kotic), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) (Professor John Hearn), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) (Professor Jill Trehwella), the CEO, the College Sydney Project and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Professor Ann Brewer), the Secretary to Senate (Dr William Adams), the General Counsel (Mr Richard Fisher), the Director, Human Resources (Mr Colin Streeter), the Chancellor's Assistant (Mrs Liz Cartwright) and the Executive Officer to Senate (Ms Lis Bergmann) were in attendance.

Items 1 – 4 were treated as confidential. Members of the public were invited to be present for all other items.

★ This symbol denotes items which were reserved for discussion at the meeting. Other items were dealt with as recommended on the agenda.

*** **

5. Procedural matters

5.1 Apologies for absence

Resolution 262/09

Senate accepted an apology for absence from this meeting from Professor Margaret Harris and granted leave of absence for this meeting to Mr Joseph Skrzynski.

5.2 Minutes of the previous Senate meeting held in open session on 3 August 2009

Resolution 263/09

Senate confirmed the minutes of the Senate meeting held in open session on 3 August 2009 as a true and correct record.

5.3 Business arising out of the minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda

6. Senate action sheet, 21 September 2009

Resolution 264/09

Senate note the Senate action sheet.

7. Report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal

★ 7.1 Update for Senate's information

There was no material beyond that listed in the agenda.

★ 7.2 **Vice-Chancellor's and Provost's Business**

7.2.1 **Strategic Planning**

In his presentation on the current stage of the strategic planning process, the Vice-Chancellor described contexts in which the University operated; the statement of purpose as a basis for the University's relationship with stakeholders; testing the University's alignment with the statement of purpose; work in progress; and key challenges for the University. He said that a Green Paper would be released in early November which would identify a range of possible models. He summed up his view that, while significant changes were needed, they would not happen overnight. The Vice-Chancellor said that he particularly sought feedback from Senate on how it wished to participate in the strategic planning process.

The Vice-Chancellor was congratulated on his report and, in response to the suggestion that Senate should be asked to support the process and the strategy outlined, the Vice-Chancellor agreed, advising that this needed to take place once it was clear about how the majority wished to go forward.

7.2.2 **Work Slate Update**

7.3 **Research**

7.3.1 **EIF**

7.3.2 **ARC Future fellowships**

7.3.3 **ERA**

7.4 **Education**

7.4.1 **University of Sydney Sport Foundation**

Resolution 265/09

Senate approved the name "University of Sydney Sport Foundation" for the time being, noting that once the Branding Project Team has reached a final position on branding for foundations, the name can be re-visited in light of that final position.

7.4.2 **Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness: Constitution**

Resolution 266/09

Senate approved the proposed changes to the Constitution of Sydney University Sport.

7.5 **Finance, Infrastructure and ICT**

7.5.1 **Financial Performance**

★ 7.5.2 **Information and Communication Technology**

7.5.3 **Campus Infrastructure and Services**

7.5.4 **Sydney Talent**

7.5.5 **Procurement Services**

7.5.6 **Investment and Capital Management**

7.6 **International and External Relations**

7.6.1 **Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (International)**

7.6.2 **Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific**

7.6.3 **International Office**

7.6.4 **Summer and Winter School**

7.6.5 **External Relations**

(1) **Approval of New Members of the Save Sight Institute Council**

Resolution 267/09

Senate approved the appointment of three new elected Members to the Institute's Council.

7.7 Human Resources

7.7.1 Deanship in Architecture, Design and Planning

Resolution 268/09

Senate approved the following revised membership:

Ex-officio

- Vice-Chancellor and Principal (Dr Michael Spence)
- Chair of the Academic Board (or nominee) Professor Bruce Sutton
- Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Stephen Garton

Members appointed by Senate

Three members (plus reserve) nominated by the Faculty:

- Professor Richard Hyde
- Professor Mary Lou Maher
- Dr Gary Hill

Reserve members:

- Associate Professor Nicole Gurran (Reserve)
- Dr Andy Dong (Reserve)

External Members:

- Professor Michael Keniger, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (previously Executive Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Physical Sciences and Architecture) University of Queensland
- Dr Sandra Kaji-O'Grady, Head, School of Architecture, UTS

Resolution 269/09

Senate noted the Vice-Chancellor's report.

8. Report of the Academic Board, 26 August 2009

★ 8.1 Report of the Chair of the Academic Board

The Chair gave an oral report, making reference to judgements about plagiarism, special consideration provisions, Academic Board reviews of faculties, the Singapore graduation ceremonies and academic issues relating to English and other languages.

Resolution 270/09

Senate noted the Chair's report.

8.2 Amendment of the Resolutions of Senate

8.2.1 Governance of Faculties, Colleges, College Boards, Departments, Schools and Committees

Resolution 271/09

Senate approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the Governance of Faculties, Colleges, College Boards, Departments, Schools and Committees, as set out in the report presented.

★ 8.2.2 *University of Sydney (Amendment Act) Rule 1999 (as amended)*

A revised report was tabled.

Resolution 272/09

Following discussion, Senate approved the amendment of the Resolutions of Senate relating to the *University of Sydney (Amendment Act) Rule 1999 (as amended)*, as set out in the tabled report presented.

8.3 Minor course amendments

Resolution 272/09

Senate noted the report.

8.4 Other matters

Resolution 273/09

Senate noted the report.

9. **Report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, 12 August 2009**
 - 9.1 **Vice-Chancellor's Report**
 - 9.2 **2008 Annual Financial Report Update**
 - 9.3 **2009 Internal Audit and Risk Management programs update on Internal Audit Issues and Risk Management**
 - 9.4 **Safety Report**
 - 9.5 **2008 Annual Reports of subsidiaries and controlled entities such as Foundations and CRC's and commercial activities – (Balance of Reports)**
 - 9.6 **Superannuation Funding Shortfall Report**
 - 9.7 **Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 2009 Volume Two – Universities Overview - Controlled Entities and Governance Considerations – Report by General Counsel to ARMC**
 - 9.8 **A report on the recommendations of the Campus Security Review**
 - 9.9 **A report on the recommendations of the Business Continuity Review**
 - 9.10 **Report for 1st half FY 2009 by the Asset/Liability Committee (ALCO) sub-committee of the ARMC**

Resolution 274/09

Senate noted the Report.

10. **Report of the Finance and Infrastructure Committee, 26 August 2009**
 - 10.1 **Vice-Chancellor's report – Update on current issues**
 - 10.1.1 **Enterprise Bargaining Update**
 - 10.1.2 **University Economic Model (UEM)**
 - 10.1.3 **University Strategic Planning**
 - 10.1.4 **Education Infrastructure Fund (EIF) Round Three**
 - 10.1.5 **'Lifehouse' Sydney Cancer Centre at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH)**
 - 10.2 **Presentations to the Committee**
 - 10.2.1 **Procurement Services (Mr Harry Banga)**
 - 10.2.2 **University 2010 Budget and Efficiencies Programme (Mr Bob Kotic)**
 - 10.2.3 **Annual Report of the Tender Board (Mr Bob Kotic)**
 - 10.2.4 **Sydney Student Administration System (Professor Derrick Armstrong)**
 - 10.3 **Capital Infrastructure and Services Report**
 - 10.3.1 **Centre for Obesity, Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease (CODCD) (formerly the Sydney ARC)**
 - 10.3.2 **Abercrombie Precinct – Economics and Business Faculty**
 - 10.3.3 **Student Housing – International House Proposal**
 - 10.3.4 **Infrastructure proposal – Camden Campus Student Accommodation**
 - 10.4 **Supplementary Information:-**
 - 10.4.1 **Half-Year Financial Report / July Year-to-Date**
 - 10.4.2 **Commonwealth Budget Analysis**
 - 10.4.3 **ICT Progress Report**
 - 10.5 **Next meeting**

Resolution 275/09

Senate noted the Report.

11. **Report of the Investment and Commercialisation Committee, 19 August 2009**
 - 11.1 **Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2009**
 - 11.2 **Reserving Policy, Spending Rule Illiquidity Tolerance**
 - 11.3 **Sydovate Agreements Report**
 - 11.4 **Growth Compliance Report**
 - 11.5 **Discretionary Funds**
 - 11.6 **Disposal of 65 Campbell Street, Newtown**
 - 11.7 **Statement of Investment Policy**
 - 11.8 **Reports noted**
 - 11.8.1 **Circular Resolution C2/2009 – Removal of tactical Asset Allocation Suspension**
 - 11.8.2 **Cash Flow and Liquidity**
 - 11.8.3 **Individual Mandates**
 - 11.8.4 **June 2009 Quarterly Report**
 - 11.8.5 **Peer Based Performance Comparison**
 - 11.8.6 **Equity Market Outlook**

- 11.8.7 Debt Market Outlook
- 11.8.8 Currency Market Outlook
- 11.8.9 Asset Allocation
- 11.8.10 Tactical Asset Allocation Decisions
- 11.8.11 Manager Watch List
- 11.8.12 Debt Compliance Report
- 11.8.13 Non-Portfolio Shareholdings
- 11.8.14 Commercial Interest (Non-Strategic)
- 11.8.15 Commercial Interest (Strategic)
- 11.8.16 Property/Commercial Farms/Student Housing
- 11.8.17 Asset and Liability Committee Report to the Audit and Risk Committee

Resolution 276/09

Senate noted the Report.

12. Report of the Senate/Sports Liaison Committee, 18 August 2009

- 12.1 Student Amenities Fee
- 12.2 Funding for student organisations
- 12.3 SU Sport and Fitness report
- 12.4 Boatshed at Cunningham's Reach

Resolution 277/09

Senate noted the Report.

13. Senate business

★ **13.1 Nominations Committee: Ministerial appointees**

Senate was asked to appoint members of the Nominations Committee for the purpose of identifying persons who may be suitable for nomination and making recommendations to Senate as regards a person or persons to be nominated to the Minister for appointment, with a report to the December Senate meeting.

Dr Fitzsimons asked that the proposed new Constitution for the Nominations and Appointments Committee, which had been supported in principle at this meeting but deferred to the next meeting to comply with a By-law requirement, apply than the existing Constitution, with Senate to ratify the two elected Fellows at the November meeting.

Resolution 278/09

Following discussion, Senate

- (1) resolved that the current Constitution of the Nominations Committee apply for the Committee's current task; and
- (2) appointed the following to membership of the Committee in the category of "Three Fellows of Senate (of whom three must be external Fellows within the meaning of s9(9) of the University of Sydney Act) appointed by Senate":
 - Ms Kim Anderson
 - The Hon John Aquilina
 - Mr Adam Spencer

★ **13.2 Letter from Minister regarding Governance issues**

Resolution 279/09

Senate approved the draft response with two amendments to paragraph 5, along the lines of the following (deletions struck through, insertions underlined):

As regards the other specific issue raised, that being the Draft University Governance Principles, the view of the Senate is that these are ~~essentially non-controversial~~ and are appropriate as statements of general principle. We would however suggest an amendment acknowledging representation from alumni as well as the other categories mentioned in dot point four.

13.3 2010 Senate meeting schedule

Resolution 280/09

Senate approved the 2010 Senate meeting schedule.

13.4 Fellow of Senate elected by and from the postgraduate students of the University

Resolution 281/09

Senate resolved to congratulate Mr Samuel John Greenland on his election as a Fellow of Senate by and from the postgraduate students, to hold office from 1 December 2009 to 30 November 2010.

13.5 Senate representation

Resolution 282/09

Senate noted the report.

13.6 Next meetings

Resolution 283/09

Senate noted the report.

14. General business

14.1 Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering Limited: Appointment of Governor

Resolution 284/09

Senate resolved to recognise the John Holland Group Pty Ltd as Governor of The Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering Limited commencing immediately.

★ **15. Notice of motion**

15.1 Notice of motion provided by Dr R Fitzsimons regarding the Nominations Committee

This item was considered in confidential session.

15.2 Notice of motion provided by Dr R Fitzsimons regarding Wentworth Scholarships

Dr Fitzsimons had given notice that she intended to move that Senate resolve in the following terms:

- (i) That a specified number of postgraduate international scholarships for overseas students to undertake a higher degree at The University of Sydney be designated as 'Wentworth Scholarships'.
- (ii) That the criteria for the award of a Wentworth Scholarship should include both academic excellence and a history of student participation in democratic university or other forms of governance in the student's home country or in public speaking and debating.
- (iii) That the scholarships be promoted as being named after William Charles Wentworth who is the father of both the University of Sydney and of responsible government in Australia, and who was unquestionably an independent and courageous thinker.
- (iv) That the University should aim to position 'Wentworth scholarships' towards obtaining an international recognition factor comparable to 'Rhodes' and 'Fulbright'.
- (v) That the Vice-Chancellor be asked whether it might be possible to report at November Senate about possible logistics and implementation of the award of such scholarships, and whether it might be possible to offer associated College accommodation.

In discussion, the Vice-Chancellor said that, while he thought the idea was good, scholarships needed to be considered as part of a suite of offerings, so took the point of Professor Sutton who advised that the Academic Board had delegated responsibility for terms and conditions of scholarships. The Vice-Chancellor suggested that the current audit of scholarship offerings be considered by the Board and then come to Senate. As it was unlikely that a report would come to the November Senate meeting, he agreed that it would be taken to the next Board meeting, with an undertaking to report back to Dr Fitzsimons and Senate. It was also pointed out that any such proposals needed to be costed.

Resolution 285/09

Senate noted that Dr Fitzsimons' item be referred to the Academic Board, and that an Academic Board report on scholarships come back to Dr Fitzsimons and Senate.



16. Question time

16.1 Question on notice from Dr R Fitzsimons regarding quality and experience of international students

Dr Fitzsimons had given notice of the following questions:

The University uses agents for recruiting and selecting many of our overseas students. It is understood that such agents often also act for other universities.

- How do we know that there is no 'conflict of interest'?
- How do we ensure that we attract the highest QUALITY students in a competitive environment?
- What mechanisms are in place systematically to monitor the entry-quality and/or potential and graduation results of our international students in comparison with
 - (a) local Australian students
 - (b) those international students recruited by other leading Australian universities
 - (c) those recruited by other leading international universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Columbia etc
 - (d) country-by-country comparisons in relation to country of origin.
- How do we monitor satisfaction and concerns of international students with respect to the University (especially in relation to the 'student experience' and staff/student ratios) for the duration of their courses and subsequently?
- How do we manage this in relation to 'reputation issues'?

Resolution 286/09

Senate noted that the Vice-Chancellor would report to the next meeting.

16.2 Question on notice from Dr R Fitzsimons regarding safety

Dr Fitzsimons had given notice of the following question:

Could Campus Infrastructure please provide a report on safety assessment in relation to the new 'cobblestones' on the concourses around Fisher Library, the Quadrangle and adjacent similar areas?

Resolution 287/09

Senate noted that the Vice-Chancellor would report to the next meeting.



17. Any other business

17.1 Sydney University Football Club

Mr McCarthy invited Fellows to attend the Sydney grade rugby premiership on Sunday 27 September 2009.

Resolution 288/09

Senate noted Mr McCarthy's invitation.

17.2 The Hon Virginia Chadwick

Resolution 290/09

Senate noted with regret the death of The Hon Virginia Chadwick and asked the Chancellor to write a letter of condolence on behalf of Senate to Mr Chadwick.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

CHANCELLOR:

DATE: