



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

**Convocation
Council**



2

MINUTES

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 04/2023
held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, 02 August 2023

PRESENT:

In person Professor Jenny Gregory AM (Warden) (Chair), Mr David Davidson, Adjunct Professor Dr Brett Davies (Councillor and Senator), Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM (Councillor and Senator), Associate Professor Estie Kruger, Dr Bob Olivier, Dr Fran Pesich, Mr Ric Stern and Winthrop Professor Marc Tennant

On TEAMS (online):

Dr David Griffiths, (Deputy Warden and Acting Treasurer), Ms Harriet Calverley, Ms Devon Cuneo, Dr Moira Maley, and Ms Nee Nee Ong

BY INVITATION (In Person):

Mr Geemal Jayawickrama 2023 Guild President, Mr Viknash VM 2023 Postgraduate Students' Association President, Ms Fiona Allan, CAO, DAR, and Ms Jenn Parsons, Manager, Alumni & Community Relations and Engagement, DAR

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Dr Agi Gedeon and Dr Nin Kirkham

APOLOGIES:

Mr Matthew Budge, Mr Graham Goerke, Dr Raj Kurup, and Ms Juanita Perez (Convocation Officer)

The Warden then declared the meeting open at 6.04pm.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND WELCOME

PART 1 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF CONVOCATION COUNCIL MEETING OF 7 June 2023 [F873-04]

MOTION

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 June 2023 were confirmed.

Proposed: Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM

Seconded: Adjunct Professor Dr Brett Davies

Resolved: 15/23

3. GUILD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Jayawickrama took his report as read. He highlighted the Guild Masterplan which had been presented to the DVCE, Campus Management and UWA Senator Em Professor Jane Den Hollander AO in July. They all supported the plan, which will be presented to Senate in August.

4. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT ((Att A2 of the minutes))

Mr Viknash VM spoke to his report. He reported that they are currently busy organising Research Week, which will run from 2 October to 4 October 2023. The Warden asked Viknash what type of support he seeks from Convocation Council. Viknash said that they would be grateful for some financial assistance as well as having some Convocation Councillors to speak at their Careers Night.

5. CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES WORK IN PROGRESS – VERBAL UPDATE - JENN PARSONS

Purpose

To reflect on current activities and discover new ways to celebrate our graduates for meaningful two-way interactions:

- Provide opportunities for Schools to celebrate their alumni within the UWA community and beyond
- Facilitate recognition of graduate achievements, and also their stories
- Reflect on and consolidate current cross campus celebration activities (Convocation, DAR, Schools, Sports etc.)

The working group, which is comprised of Em Prof Jenny Gregory, Dr Angelia Evangelinou-Yiannakis, Adj Prof Warren Kerr and Jenn Parsons has had 3 meetings so far.

- Two new individuals have been added to the working group – Co-Chair and former Co-Chair of the Young Alumni Network, E.J. Lin and Rhiannon Compton
- The working group is now well-represented by group and age demographic.

Key findings and recommendations

- Develop a list of activities and calendar of how and when alumni are currently celebrated (School-based, UWA broadly, community)
- Create a 2-to-3-year plan to roll out on-going cross campus celebration engagement (include a mix of events and communications like profiling)
- Engage leaders from a variety of networks/disciplines/schools to establish an Awards Program to celebrate our graduates (recognition without starting an event, but leveraging existing celebration activity)
- Share relevant stories / message of thanks with the wider community about our graduates and friends who achieve great things (career related, volunteering)

Ms Jenn Parsons left the meeting after her presentation.

6. CONVOCATION GENERAL MEETINGS FORMAT - DISCUSSION PAPER

The Warden addressed the items in the discussion paper, noting that the word 'Ordinary' (meeting) will be removed with the changes to the statute. Meetings will then be referred to as 'General' Meetings.

- Ms Fiona Allan suggested each event should have a theme base.
- All resources of the University are overstretched.

- Volunteer resources are also limited.
- Ideas should be prioritised based on available resources.
- All new initiatives must be done in an efficient and viable way.

MOTION

To change the format of Convocation General Meetings for 2024, as proposed in the discussion paper so that

- the Autumn General meeting focuses on speaker/panel/debate
- the Spring General meeting focuses on business.

Proposed: Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM

Seconded: Dr David Griffiths

Resolved: 16/23

7. UWA WA UNIVERSITIES REVIEW SUBMISSION – VERBAL UPDATE

There have been a number of meetings regarding the review. As well as the Vice Chancellor and members of Executive, the Chair of Academic Board, members of Academic Council, and the Guild President, had met with the Review Panel. Feedback received suggested that the Review Panel were quite positive about the broad approach focusing on the good of Western Australia in the submission UWA had put forward.

8. RESOLUTION #12/23 RE 'REFERENDUM TO ESTABLISH A FIRST NATIONS VOICE IN CONSTITUTION' MEETING WITH CHANCELLOR VERBAL UPDATE — WARDEN

The Warden reported that in her meeting with the Chancellor, he said that he was in favour of the inclusion of First Nation's Peoples and provision for their Voice in the Constitution and will be voting 'Yes' in the Referendum. However, he believed that the University is constrained by the UWA Act relating to the Senate's ability to comment only on matters relating to the University. He considered that the subject matter of the Referendum was not directly related to the University.

With that in mind, the Warden also met with the Pro Vice Chancellor Indigenous Studies, Professor Jill Milroy AM. Professor Millroy AM said that Convocation Council could provide a valuable educational service by informing Convocation members of URL links to the government's webpage on the Referendum so that they can find the accurate information regarding the Referendum. The Warden is aware there is considerable misinformation circulated through the media regarding the Referendum. The Warden will encourage graduates to read and find out more about the referendum so that well-informed and respectful discussions could take place.

9. MID-YEAR REVIEW OF PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC ISSUES – WARDEN

Council was asked to review and provide feedback on the Mid-Year Review. It was noted that

- Senate Dinner will be held Monday, 30 October.
- 50th Reunion will be held 25 November.
- Uniprint is supportive of Convocation selling memorabilia that graduates may be interested in purchasing.

10. FINANCE COMMITTEE – REVISION TO COUNCIL RESOLUTION 08/23 - MOTION 2 AND MOTION 3 – DR DAVID GRIFFITHS

The following motions were resolved en bloc:

Motion:

That Council approves transfer of monies owing to the General Purpose (PG 63002001) as listed below:

1. Transfer of \$7,373.65 from Convocation Prize short term pool (PG 63002028) to General Purpose (PG 63002001).
2. Transfer of \$26,596.04 from Long-Term Investment Pool (PG 15100000) to General Purpose (PG 63002001).
3. The share of the Convocation Prize fund in the Long Term Pool to be adjusted to reflect the deduction of \$26,596.04.

Proposed: Dr David Griffiths, Deputy Warden & Treasurer

Seconded: Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM, Warden

Resolved: 17/23

9 voted in favour and 1 abstention. Motion passed.

11. AWARDS COMMITTEE – AWARDS CONFIRMATION – POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TRAVEL AWARDS AND MATILDA AWARDS FOR CULTURAL EXCELLENCE – NEE NEE ONG

MOTION

1. Convocation Council accepts the recommendation of the Awards Committee that the 2023 Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Awards be awarded to the students listed in Item 1 of Attachment A (Awards Committee Report), and that these awards will be recorded in each student's academic record.
2. Convocation Council accepts the recommendation of the Awards Committee that the 2023 Convocation Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence be awarded to Heather Blakey, and that this award will be recorded in the student's academic record.

Proposed: Ms Nee Nee Ong

Seconded: Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM

Resolved: 17/23 (unanimously)

PART 3: ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION TO BE DEALT WITH 'EN BLOC'

12. GUILD PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONVOCATION COUNCIL – JULY 2023

13. POSTGRADUATE STUDENT'S REPORT TO CONVOCATION COUNCIL – JUNE 2023

14. WARDEN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – JUNE 2023

15. WARDEN'S REPORT TO COUNCIL – JULY 2023

16. ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, 31 MAY 2023

The Warden reported that there had been another meeting since the meeting of 31 May 2023. As a result of that meeting, DAR provided the committee the use of their template for a business plan for the Higher Education e-Bulletin project. Former Advocacy Committee Chair,

Mr Simon Dawkins had started preparing a business plan before his term on Council concluded. The Warden continued this work and had developed a business plan for a six month's pilot project which will cost \$10,600. This plan will be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive Committee as required by the original resolution of Council.

Winthrop Professor Tennant AM was of the opinion that the position of the Advocacy Committee was inconsistent with the position taken by the Chancellor and the University on the Referendum. The Warden clarified that, according to the UWA Act and the Statute, the University and Convocation can only comment on matters affecting the University and these will be the subject matter of the Convocation Higher Education e-Bulletin. The Business Plan will be presented to Council for information once reviewed and approved by Executive Committee.

There is a potential risk of offending our members. Council should not form a position and attempt to persuade members. Council should present factual information to its members.

Winthrop Professor Tennant AM said that the Project Plan should include KPI and how they will be measured.

17. FINANCE COMMITTEE – CONVOCATION FUNDS PROPOSED STRUCTURE - MEETING NOTES WITH UWA TREASURY

Dr Fran Pesich complimented Dr David Griffiths on his inclusion of the notes regarding donations - 'that donations receipted are kept in a corpus unless specified otherwise by the donor or Convocation Council'. She said that this is very good, given the change in recent legislation; it protects the Council and gives more confidence to donors.

Dr Pesich proposed that such or similar wording be included in Item 19 of the agenda (Spring Ordinary General Meeting Invitation) and any future calls for a donation.

Dr Pesich also suggested that with regards to payment methods, that they be updated to include other methods such as BPay and the like to facilitate payments. Ms Fiona Allan offered to provide the information that the DAR Gift Solution Team uses to process donation payments.

18. JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING 12 JULY 2023 – DRAFT MINUTES

19. SPRING ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING INVITATION

20. DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST [TRIM 22/30259] – for noting

21. OTHER BUSINESS

Convocation Medals

The Warden circulated an email after the Council meeting recommending Convocation Medals to be presented to Ted Snell AM and the late Bruce Hartley (posthumously) at the Spring Ordinary General Meeting. (Att. A1 of this set of minutes).

This motion was passed.

The next meeting of the Convocation Council will be held **on 04 October 2023**.

The deadline for document submission is **4.00pm, 15 September 2023**.

MEETING CLOSED AT 7:50 pm

 Confirmed by Chair on behalf of the Committee

Date / / 2023

OUTSTANDING ACTION ITEMS

October 2022		
2.1.2	To look into Media Clipping Service (CAO, CO)	Fiona Allan Juanita Perez
2.1.3	To introduce SharePoint for the Council (CO) –	Fiona Allan Juanita Perez
3.1.3	The Executive will investigate developing evidence-based assessment methods to determine whether an alternative name should be used in conjunction with Convocation. (Warden to report)	Jenny Gregory
December 2022		
8	Accommodation Scholarship – (find funding) Winthrop Professor Tennant said that this would be a great initiative for the Resources Committee.	Brett Davies