



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**

**Convocation
Council**



2

MINUTES

COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 02/2023

held at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, 05 April 2023

PRESENT:

In person Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM (Warden) (Chair), Dr David Griffiths, (Deputy Warden and Acting Treasurer), Mr Matthew Budge, Ms Devon Cuneo, Mr David Davidson, Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis, Dr Agi Gedeon, Mr Graham Goerke, Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM (Councillor and Senator), Associate Professor Estie Kruger, Dr Raj Kurup, Dr Bob Olivier, Ms Nee Nee Ong, Dr Fran Pesich, Mr Ric Stern, Winthrop Professor Marc Tennant, and Ms Juanita Perez (Convocation Officer)

On TEAMS (online):

Ms Harriet Calverley and Dr Moira Maley

BY INVITATION:

Ms Fiona Allan Chief Advancement Officer (in-person)

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

APOLOGIES:

Adjunct Professor Dr Brett Davies (Councillor and Senator), Mr Geemal Jayawickrama 2023 Guild President, Mr Viknash VM 2023 Postgraduate Students' Association President

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Warden welcomed new Councillors and asked everyone to provide a brief introduction of themselves.

The Warden then declared the meeting open at 6.20pm.

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND WELCOME

PART 1 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR DECISION

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF CONVOCATION COUNCIL MEETING OF 1 FEBRUARY 2023 [F873-04]

MOTION

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 February 2023 were confirmed.

Proposed: Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM

Seconded: Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM

Resolved: 05/23

3. PRESENTATION BY MS FIONA ALLAN, ON THE 2023 UWA DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS STRATEGIC PLAN

Ms Allan gave a slide presentation on the 2023 UWA Development and Alumni Relations Strategic Plan (refer to **Attachment A1**).

In addition to speaking to her slides, Ms Allan acknowledged the good work of the Joint Committee, a partnership between Convocation Council and DAR which was set up by the Chancellor. She said that the Joint Committee has been a forum for meaningful discussions and has created a greater working relationship between the Council and DAR. Some great initiatives have been achieved through the Joint Committee, such as securing a three-year contract for an external voting company, a better communications plan and data sharing.

One initiative Ms Allan would like to put forward to Council was to introduce the use of Sharepoint for Council to access Council documents at any time. This would reduce the size and volume of emails cluttering email mailboxes. Sharepoint is a cloud-based Microsoft document management system. UWA IT services will be able to assist in the set-up of this system for the Council. The Warden was supportive of this initiative.

Mr Stern asked whether DAR has a standardised powerpoint presentation pack that is used globally for fundraising. Ms Allan replied that a lot of the fundraising done by DAR is relationship-based. The fundraising team generally engages prospective donors through one-on-one conversations for specific initiatives and proposals are then tailored to that specific initiative.

The Warden thanked Ms Allan for her presentation.

4. GUILD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr Jayawickrama was unable to attend the meeting. No written report was supplied.

5. POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT

Mr Viknash VM was unable to attend the meeting. A written report was provided and is contained in this set of minutes as **Attachment A2**.

6. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM reported that in order to implement Convocation Council's Strategic Plan, a number of changes will be required to Chapter 4 of the UWA Statute, and these will need to be presented to the Senate for consideration. To facilitate this process, during December 2022 the Senate established a Senate Legislative Committee and on 13 March this year it appointed Dr Bob Olivier as the Chair and Ms Linda Kenyon and Professor Emerita Jane den Hollander AO as members of this Committee with a recommendation that Greg Calcutt AM be co-opted to assist the Committee.

As Greg Calcutt is a member of our Governance Committee and has been instrumental in preparing the changes required to the UWA Statute to implement our Strategic Plan, his participation in the deliberations of the Senate Legislative Committee was viewed very positively. Bob Olivier reported that the first meeting of this Committee will be held in late April.

7. REPORT ON STATISTICS ANALYSIS

Associate Professor Estie Kruger spoke to her report (agenda Att 7).

Ms Harriet Calverley left the meeting at 7:07pm.

In addition to her report, Associate Professor Kruger made the following comments:

- Hybrid forms of activity are here to stay – they engage people interstate and overseas.
- Convocation events seem to be predominantly attended by older graduates and those who live in the Western Suburbs.
- Communication by email is fine for most people.
- It could be valuable to encourage nomination of Councillors from interstate or even overseas as there are some countries where there are quite large groups of graduates.
- How do we encourage people to actually click, open and read through our eDMs {electronic direct mail}?
- From the surveys, it seems that Alumni and graduates are interested in lifelong learning. They want to read about research, education, innovation, environment, sustainability etc.
- We need to consider how to attract younger graduates.
- Almost 60% are not interested in Convocation events. How do we change that?

Comments from others:

- Surveys encourage 'nit-picking'.
- Do we utilise the Guild enough to educate final year graduates about Convocation?

The Warden replied that Council has a close relationship with each Guild President. Though the presidents are elected each year, Council maintains a close relationship with their Managing Director, Tony Goodman and Convocation Day assists in maintaining the relationship between Guild and Convocation

- It was recommended that a seminar be held for final year students to explain the purpose of Convocation.

Adjunct Professor Kerr responded that when he was Warden, he conducted numerous PowerPoint presentations to various students and areas of the University on the roles and functions of Convocation. As an initiative in the strategic plan, Council is building relationships with each of the UWA schools. This helps increase Schools awareness of the role and function of Convocation.

- Dr Kurup suggested an incentive for students would be to give a prize to a student based on an essay to write about what Convocation means to them.
- Ms Cuneo suggested a venue be provided for Convocation clubs and associations which could be managed by volunteers. There was concern for the workload of the Convocation Officer. It was suggested that additional staff be need to provide. Council was reminded that the University currently has financial constraints and that may continue to be the case until at least 2025.

PART 2 ITEMS FOR DECISION 'EN BLOC' moved to Part 1 as requested by Dr Moira Maley.

8. ELECTION RESULTS

Dr Maley enquired how the varying terms of office for elected Councilors were determined.

Terms of office for elected Councillors were drawn by the Returning Officer as per the Statute. Candidates were invited to witness the drawing of names and terms of each elected Councillor.

9. 2023 CONVOCATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR APPROVAL

MOTION

The Committee Chairs be approved (per Att. 9 of agenda).

Proposed: Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM
Seconded: Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM
Resolved: 06/23

PART 3 ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATION TO BE DEALT WITH 'EN BLOC' moved to Part 1 as requested by Dr Moira Maley

10. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, 01 MARCH 2023

Dr Maley asked about the frequency and format of General Meetings. The Warden replied that it is currently at the *discussion* stage, and that Council would have the opportunity to discuss this matter if necessary.

The Warden said that, in a bid to reduce Council expenditure, the Award Ceremony was held online last year. Awardees, however, expressed disappointment with this format. Following discussion at the Awards Committee meeting of 8 March 2023, it was agreed that the Awards presentations could be announced at the Spring Ordinary General Meeting (September 2023). Only the names and title of the thesis of each successful applicant would be announced, followed by presentation of a certificate, so as not to prolong the meeting too much.

11. EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT, 14 MARCH 2023

Dr Maley enquired what LWAG represented – Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery

Dr Maley then added that she thought that the Park Avenue site for Convocation Day celebrations 2024 was a brilliant idea.

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

12. WARDEN'S REPORTS, FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2023

13. EVENTS – CONVOCATION AND DAR RESPONSIBILITIES, 17 FEBRUARY 2023

14. AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT, 8 MARCH 2023

15. UK FRIENDS OF UWA NEWSLETTER, 2023

16. CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES WORKING GROUP NOTES

17. DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST [TRIM 22/30259]

18. OTHER BUSINESS

For the benefit of the newly elected Councillors, Dr Angela Evangelinou-Yiannakis said the topic of use of the name Convocation has been in discussion for a long time. It was agreed that the Executive Committee will investigate developing evidence-based assessment methods to determine whether an alternative name should be used in conjunction with Convocation.

The Warden said that it would be a bit complicated because one of the aspects of the strategic plan is a change in the composition of Convocation membership, beyond graduates. It was agreed by Council last year to widen the eligibility of membership to Convocation

Chair of Membership Committee Winthrop Professor Marc Tennant AM said that the idea was to go back to the position pre-2016 change of statutes. He said that at that stage, they didn't worry about the wording because it was such a small group of people. The word graduate sat underneath as a subheading to Convocation.

Ms Allan said that there is confusion as to the word Convocation, as some people do not necessarily know whether you are referring to the Convocation Council, the elected representatives, or Convocation, the body of graduates.

The Warden reported that she was recently invited to speak at the Australian Association of University Professors (AAUP) on the history of Convocation and Convocation at UWA, as the AAUP is very interested in governance issues at present. The University of New England had discovered that Convocation is in their Act, and are reactivating Convocation. Convocation is also in the Act of the University of Newcastle. As a result of present concerns about university governance, there is a resurgence of interest in Convocation.

Mr Davidson said that if you want to make an amendment in government, it could slide through very quickly if you made it very clear why you want to make these changes. If it is the name itself was causing problems, perhaps using brackets could be a way of resolving it.

Mr Davidson also expressed interest in being involved with activities in Albany and other regional areas.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND AGREED ACTIONS

A special meeting of the Convocation Council will be held on Wednesday 3 May 2023 where a presentation on the UWA Park Avenue site will be given by Mr Trevor Humphreys, Director of Campus Management, and Dr Ingrid van Bremen, Senior Lecturer in Architectural Conservation School of Design, UWA.

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