

14. Q & A Session

Professor Dawn Freshwater, Vice-Chancellor

Professor Kent Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor

(Community and Engagement)

Ms Megan Lee, Guild President

Ms Jill Benn, University Librarian

Dr Doug McGhie, Warden of Convocation

Question 1. – James Rowlands

To the Vice-Chancellor

Will UWA, hitherto a champion of all that is most precious in our Perth Community, make clear, now, to Convocation and the people of Western Australia what its intentions are for the priceless riverside land and view to the south of the recently built Forrest Hall and whether it is prepared for public opposition to any further encroachment?

Question 2. – Benjamin Fincham-de Groot

To the Guild President and Vice-Chancellor

In light of the anniversary of the release of the AHRC Change the Course Report, what steps has the University of Western Australia taken to reduce sexual assault on campus; to improve the process through which students have historically struggled to report sexual assault by other students; and has the University tried to address the rape culture present in our campus culture, or just left that to the Student Guild?

Question 3. – Anthony Postle

To the Vice-Chancellor and Guest Speaker

I am dubious about relying solely on a digital library, given that the user is, by-and-large, completely at the mercy of a three-pin-plug. Therefore, what do you intend to do with the actual books? Will they be retained or disposed of in a Nazi-style book-burning or shredding as occurred at the UQ Biological Sciences Library some years ago?

Question 4. – Jessica Moore

General

How does UWA plan to promote a balanced view to its students, particularly with respect to external guest speakers presenting at UWA, that may have differing views to that of a traditionally left wing Guild agenda? Universities are meant to equip students on how to view and critique information, not funnel and filter only certain positions on a topic and issue.

Question 5 – Ray Tauss (part 1)

To the Warden

Until this meeting members have been able to raise questions in advance or from the floor. One of these ways is at present barred. Convocation general meetings for several years have sustained a magnificent attendance of hundreds of members despite many previous years of managing to draw only a few score. This relatively recent enthusiasm by Convocation members represents deep commitment. That commitment is honoured in the information-packed Reports by Guild and staff, and the stimulation of hearing from guest-speakers who have covered a world of insight, challenge, and humour. Is it really the Warden's intention to allow no spontaneous questions at the end of Reports, no questions of the Guild President, and no questions of panel members? How is the Warden proposing to cover the half-year gap between hearing and asking?

Question 5 – Ray Tauss (part 2)

To the Warden

At present the Warden requires questions sent in advance but I presume some will be questions on matters of fact known to the University. Many members of Convocation have a range of research skills and vast areas of knowledge. Volunteer Convocation members would therefore be able to conduct research for the Warden between meetings and thereby draft reports or otherwise present to the Warden such facts as will facilitate the Warden's answering of questions provided on notice. Is it the Warden's intention to now seek from the many members of Convocation who attend meetings as volunteers, a more substantial contribution as information researchers?

Question 6 – Joan Pope

To the Deputy Vice-Chancellor

UWA is lacking a centre where its heritage can be displayed. Could Shenton House (formerly the Crawley Park Farm Homestead) be allocated for such a purpose?

Question 7 – Pauline Tremlett

To the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor

Given past experience, can the Vice Chancellor assure Convocation, that it's excellent marketing, PR & allegiance building concept of a lifetime@graduate.uwa.edu.au email, recently shut down, will not be re-introduced under the Alumni office banner?

Question 8 – Peter Gillet

To the Vice-Chancellor and Guild President

A lot of our funding comes from overseas students whose parents would not be happy to see UWA campus turned into a place that fosters socialism. Why do we continue to allow the Social or Alternative to dominate the campus?
(with a very illiberal agenda)

Question 9 – On the Medical School (summary)

To the Warden, Guild President and Vice-Chancellor

The Post published an article ‘Stressed students slam new UWA medical course’ (28/7/2018:3,38). From the article’s report on a survey of most of the new student cohort in the Medical School we learn of immense dissatisfaction. Four percent of students said they believed it was adequately preparing them to become doctors. Six academics called for a meeting and faculty members voted 145 to 1 to bring in an independent expert to conduct an urgent review of the curriculum.

Question 9 – On the Medical School (questions)

To the Warden, Guild President and Vice-Chancellor

1. Was Convocation aware of the student dissatisfaction?
2. Was there any approach to Convocation from students or from a professional association such as WAAMA, or from UWA staff, and if so what was Convocation's response?
3. On behalf of the student cohort did Convocation make any representation to the Guild, or to a professional or academic association within or outside the University?