First Ordinary Meeting 2016

Friday, 1 April 2016
at 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start
Banquet Hall,
The University Club of Western Australia

Convocation welcomes all graduates and other members of Convocation to the FIRST ORDINARY MEETING for 2016

Guest Speaker: Hon. Peter Collier MLC, Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs
will be speaking on ‘The role of the State in Higher Education’.
Agenda

The First Ordinary Meeting of the Convocation of The University of Western Australia, 6.00pm, Friday 1 April 2016, The University Club of Western Australia.

1. Minutes of the Second Ordinary Meeting held on Friday 18th September 2015
2. Amendments and motion of acceptance of minutes
3. Business arising from the minutes
4. Correspondence
5. Results of Convocation Elections for Warden, Deputy Warden, Members of the Council of Convocation.
6. Report from the Vice-Chancellor
7. Report from the Guild President
8. Report from the Warden of Convocation
9. Guest Speaker
   Hon. Peter Collier MLC
   Minister for Education; Aboriginal Affairs; Electoral Affairs.
   'The role of the State in Higher Education'
10. Report from the Convocation Officer
11. Other Business
12. Questions and Answers Session
The Second Ordinary Meeting of Convocation was held on Friday 18th September 2015 commencing at 6:30 p.m. in The University Club of WA.

The meeting was attended by the following graduates and guests.


The following members of Convocation asked that their apologies be recorded.

1. Welcome

In opening the Second Ordinary Meeting for 2015, the Warden of Convocation, Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM, welcomed the following guests:
• Chancellor, Dr Michael Chaney AO CitWA;
• Former Chancellor, Clinical Professor Alex Cohen AO;
• Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson;
• Ms Lizzy O’Shea, the Guild President;
• Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community and Engagement), Professor Kent Anderson;
• Mr Paul McCann AM, the Deputy Warden of Convocation;
• Members of the UWA Senate and the Council of Convocation;
• Ms Brenda Tournier, the Associate Director for Alumni Relations and Community Engagement, and
• all the life-long members of Convocation, including their guest and friends

After formally thanking UWA graduate Ric Stern for providing the musical interlude prior to the meeting, the Warden declared the meeting open at 6.32pm.

2. Apologies

The Warden noted apologies from Former Chancellor, Dr Ken Michael AC, Adjunct Professor Jennifer Searcy OAM, Mr Ray Tauss, Dr Trisha Kotai Ewers OAM, and over 700 other members of Convocation.

3. Minutes of the First Ordinary Meeting 2015

A copy of the minutes of the First Ordinary Meeting 2015 appeared at Attachment A of the Second Ordinary Meeting 2015 booklet.

The motion to accept the minutes of the Second Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday 4th March 2015 was proposed by Mr Jim Paparo and seconded by Mrs Pauline Tremlett. The motion was carried.

4. Business Arising

The Warden reported that following the last meeting, there was feedback from members indicating that they would like to have the opportunity to view the Agenda prior the meeting. The Warden explained that because of the cost involved with printing and posting the meeting papers, it was decided that the Agenda and attachments would be made available online and a link provided in the reminder email sent prior to the meeting. The Warden will ensure that these arrangements are in place for future Ordinary Meetings of Convocation so that all members of Convocation can access the agenda papers prior to the meeting via the Convocation website.

Following the last meeting, a request was also received asking whether it was possible to include more time for questions at each Ordinary Meeting. So this evening, the Warden indicated that he had decided to trial a new format by providing a question and answer (Q&A) session at the end of the meeting with a panel of speakers consisting of the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community and Engagement) and the Guild President. He stated that as this was a trial, all attendees would be asked to provide their feedback after the meeting.

5. Correspondence

The Warden reported that the largest number of letters and emails received since the last meeting related to the new branding strategy for UWA. As a consequence, the Warden has arranged for Professor Kent Anderson in his role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community and Engagement) to address the meeting this evening to provide the background and the rationale for the branding strategy.

6. Vice-Chancellor’s Report

The Warden invited Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson, to present his report. A copy of the Vice-Chancellor’s written report appeared at Attachment B of the Second Ordinary Meeting 2015 agenda booklet.

In his address, Professor Paul Johnson highlighted the following items from his report.

Federal Government’s Higher Education Reforms

The Vice-Chancellor reported that as we now have a new Prime Minister, he expected that we will also have a new Federal Education Minister. The Vice-Chancellor said that as a result there may be significant changes in the way in which the Government carries forward the discussion on higher education in Australia.

The current Education Minister, Mr Christopher Pyne, has twice taken a Reform Bill to the Senate, and twice it has been rejected. The Vice-Chancellor indicated that though it may be easier for the new Education Minister to discard the current Reform Bill and to propose a new Reform Bill, there is a challenge because the proposals in the Higher Education Reform Bill included a 20 percent reduction in government funding for students, and that 20 percent reduction is still written into the Government’s medium-term financial forecast, and the forward estimates for the current Parliament in the next four years.

As a result, it was not possible for the Government to simply sweep away that proposal without incurring a multi-billion dollar cost in terms of forward expenditure. The Vice-Chancellor stated that he does not know how the government
will resolve this issue. What the entire university sector is asking for is stability in the policy making and the financial circumstances in which it will work because the uncertainty that universities have faced in the last 18 months has been difficult to manage. One example of this uncertainty is that UWA cannot in confidence say to prospective students what fee regime will be in place for 2016, because there is still a strong probability that the Government may decide to initiate a cut in funding.

Student Surveys of Teaching and Learning

In terms of research, the Vice-Chancellor announced that the University still continues to prosper. He indicated that Professor Mark Cassidy had recently been announced as the WA Scientist of the Year. He also announced that UWA had again improved its performance in the ranking of World Universities from being ranked 88 last year to being ranked 87 this year.

In terms of teaching and learning, he stated that the University is undertaking a lot of innovation and as a result a lot of change. He indicated that many would have seen in the Good Universities Guide that was published with quite a lot of publicity about one month ago, the University of Western Australia received a one-star rating for overall satisfaction, which was disappointing. The Vice-Chancellor then went explained two things about that ranking. The first, is that it is a ranking which takes the student satisfaction data from the Course Experience Questionnaire – a survey of graduates, and then stretches it out into one to five-star rating. Because every University in the country received between 80 and 90 percent satisfaction from their students, the Guide then rates any University that received between 80 and 82 percent a one-star rating. Those universities that received between 88 and 90 percent satisfaction were given a five-star rating. While UWA should be amongst the five-star rating (and he was disappointed that it wasn’t), he stated that it was important to understand what the ratings meant.

The second aspect about the data used to determine the ratings, is that it relates to graduates who graduated in 2013 and 2014, and asks them about their student experience while at university in the years prior to these dates. As a result, the ratings are not based on the student experience since the University introduced its new curriculum in 2012. The University’s own internal results of students enrolled since 2012 show that the level of satisfaction with the teaching has been improving. Therefore, the Vice-Chancellor expects that in the future the external survey will better reflect those of the University’s own survey and ratings will improve.

Bloom

In referring to the section in his written report on innovation, the Vice-Chancellor One highlighted one example which has been titled ‘Bloom’ at St. Catherine’s College. Bloom is an initiative set up by students for students. It is a non-profit organisation which is designed to promote enterprise and innovation. Essentially it is run by students for other students to start up small companies/small businesses to generate ideas and to get it out to the market. St. Catherine’s college has supported this initiative; students have gone out to raise money from philanthropists and businesses. He stated that this has resulted in the creation of a Bloom laboratory – which he stated was like an innovation incubator at St. Catherine’s College. Already they are generating a lot of good ideas. He reported that today’s students are very much focused on the future, on how they can change the world and how they can build a career.

Review of University Friends and Volunteer Groups

In the area of Community and Engagement, the Vice-Chancellor announced that the University Senate has recently appointed Dr Sue Boyd to undertake a review of the University Friends and Volunteers groups to investigate how these groups are currently organised, and how they can be better supported by the University. He anticipated that Dr Boyd would report back to the Senate in March 2016.

New Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences

The Vice-Chancellor indicated that he was also pleased to announce that the University had recently appointed Professor Wendy Erber as the new Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. As a result of this appointment, he indicated that for the first time in its history, the University now has more women than men in senior academic positions.

Following the Vice-Chancellor’s report, the Warden requested that all questions be held under the Q&A session scheduled for later in the meeting.

7. Guild President’s Report

The Warden invited Ms Lizzy O’Shea, the Guild President, to present her report to Convocation. Miss O’Shea highlighted key aspects of her report which was contained in Attachment C of the Second Ordinary Meeting 2015 agenda booklet.

Ms O’Shea commenced her address by thanking Convocation for all of the support that she and the Guild has received from Convocation. She indicated that the Guild is presently in the middle of their annual elections and her term as Guild President will be completed at the end of November 2015.

Ms O’Shea reported that 2015 had been a very big year for the Guild as it has been a strong year for transformation and re-organisation. This has demonstrated that the only constant is change and that the Guild needs to keep transforming to
make sure that they continue to deliver the representation and services students require as they have been doing for the past 100 years.

One of the key areas of work that they have done this year is the Student Lifecycle report. The Guild conducted research on what students want, as far as services representation, needs, drivers, what they are motivated by, not only when they enter University, but also as they progress through University. The findings presented in this report have been used as a guide to drive new initiatives where changes needed to be made, and to look at what the Guild and the University were providing, and whether there were any gaps. The report also revealed a lot of the pressures that students were under. That has meant that the Guild has had to alter a lot of the things that they do to make it more appropriate for students, and a lot of that has meant trying to digitise their services as well. For example, the website My Guild has been restructured as an online personal student interface. The purpose of this website is for students to access their services online so that they can access these services on and/or off campus.

The Guild President indicated that 2015 has also been a very intense year for capital works projects citing the Guild Collaborative Zone as one example. She stated that this is a brand new area on the middle floor of the Guild Central Wing which will have available ‘hot desks’, meeting rooms and other facilities and amenities for student clubs and societies.

The other two areas where the Guild has had a strong focus was on community engagement and representation. At the start of the year, Ms O’Shea realised that there were not many ways to get a youth voice on issues in the community and in the media as an individual or small group of individuals, without going through an elected representative group such as the Guild. The Guild then looked at finding better ways to communicate what they are doing to the community, to expand their volunteering initiative, and to promote what the UWA students were doing out to the community. So this year, she stated the Guild has had a stronger presence in local media. The Guild has had a lot of support from The Post and other local outlets publicising initiatives such as Guild Volunteering and Carbon Offsetting which has been really positive, and which has also showed where they sit within the local sphere and all of the initiatives that they have been doing to reach out to give the students a voice.

The Guild has also been promoting the opportunity for UWA staff to become Associate Members of the Guild. Funds derived from this membership will provide for other Guild initiatives such as Emergency Student Loans and Grants, the Women’s Collective and other initiatives. She indicated that the response has been very positive resulting in the numbers of Associates doubling this year.

During 2015, she stated that the Guild has also had a very strong focus on their Guild alumni. The Guild President urged all present that if they have ever been involved with the Guild, to please to get in touch with her as they are trying to revive ‘Friends of the Guild’. The Guild has had a positive launch of this initiative with the Hon. Kim Beazley, who is a former Guild President, when he was on campus recently. The Hon. Kim Beazley helped them open the refurbished Guild Council Room. The Guild President stated that this is a very positive initiative that links in with Convocation. She stated that the Guild has also received great assistance from the Warden of Convocation, Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM, regarding the refurbishment.

Another highlight in terms of engagement mentioned by the Guild President was the event hosted by the Guild for His Holiness the Dalai Lama where the Dalai Lama gave a talk on ‘the importance of education’. The event was a great success with very positive feedback from high school students, university students and staff that attended the event.

In terms of representation, she indicated that the Guild has been doing a lot of work for students from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds. In addition, their Women of Colour Collective is going from strength to strength. The Guild is now starting to look at ways to start an Ethno-Culture Collective which would be a representative voice for students from diverse backgrounds that is not currently represented on campus. The Guild has also started initial discussions with students who use UniAccess - such as students with disability and medical conditions; and had very positive feedback about the idea of an Access Collective which would give students a voice on how their disability, medical condition or mental health condition impacts on their student experience. She indicated that the Guild is hoping to formalise the Access Collective in 2016.

Ms O’Shea stated that there will be a lot more campaigns and initiatives coming out from the Guild in the future such as their Safety at Night at UWA campaigns, Environment Collective campaigns, and Education campaigns. These future campaigns will be included in the Guild Annual Report which is soon to be finalised.

In closing the Guild President gave thanks once again for all of the support from Convocation and stated that she is confident that she is leaving the Guild in good hands. Ms O’Shea said that the Guild has a really strong staff team and student representatives who are coming through the ranks, and it is really positive to see those people start to take ownership of current initiatives.

The Warden thanked the Guild President for her report.
8. Warden’s Report

The Warden, Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM, then addressed his report. A copy of the Warden's Report appears at Attachment D of the Second Ordinary Meeting 2015 booklet. The Warden highlighted the following issues.

Possible Use of Electronic Voting for Convocation Elections

One of the current initiatives of Convocation Council is to improve the way in which Convocation elections are conducted. As part of these investigations the Council of Convocation is examining the benefits of introducing electronic voting for Convocation elections.

When the Warden was elected in March 2013, he stated that he would like to reduce the cost of conducting Convocation elections. He has achieved some reductions in cost ($30,000 – $40,000) by out-sourcing the conduct of these elections to the WA Electoral Commission. However, it still costs approximately $177,000 to conduct these elections each year, primarily due to the detailed arrangements prescribed in the Statutes, which require the elections to be undertaken using paper based voting forms which must be mailed to every member of Convocation.

In his role as Warden, he believes that he has a responsibility to diligently investigate cheaper options.

The Warden added that having had the good fortune to be born in a democracy like Australia, he is a passionate and resolute advocate for democratic elections. He therefore wishes to encourage everyone who wishes to contribute to stand for election, to have the opportunity to do so – however, he also believes that a democratic election should be able to be conducted for far less than $177,000.

Electronic voting would enable us to fulfill our legal responsibilities in a democratic manner at a cost far less than we are currently paying. Electronic voting is routinely used for a number of staff-elected positions within the University and the new Blackbaud software used to maintain the graduate database for UWA will shortly be able to provide this capability for members of Convocation.

During the past two months, he has held discussions with the responsible personnel within the University to explore how a change to electronic voting can best be achieved.

Part of the changes required will necessitate a redraft of UWA Statutes 9 and 12 to enable electronic voting to legally be used rather than the cumbersome paper-based arrangements currently specified. This will require the agreement of the UWA Senate, as it is the only body permitted under the UWA Act to initiate amendments to the Statutes. As a result, the Council of Convocation is currently preparing a submission for consideration by the Senate for the necessary arrangements to these Statutes, so that we can have the capability to use electronic voting if we decide to initiate that reform. To get to this point, there has been excellent work carried out by the Statutes Committee, and the Warden commended the work of this committee, especially the individual efforts of Paul McCann AM, Garry Hawkes and Jonathan Strauss.

He stated that hopefully their work will enable the changes proposed to the Statutes to become a reality during 2016 and therefore for Convocation to evaluate the benefits of introducing Electronic Voting for future elections during the following year. As part of these arrangements, in the interim, an option will be offered for those who wish to continue to receive a paper ballot form.

UWA Magazines Review

During July, Professor Kent Anderson informed the Warden that the University had taken a decision to review the magazines that it produces, including the Uniview magazine that is distributed to all graduates. Professor Terri-ann White, the Director of UWA Publishing has been appointed to undertake this review.

As Professor Anderson was keen for Convocation Council to be consulted as part of the review, he requested Professor White to meet with members of Council to seek feedback. A meeting was arranged for Monday 17th August at 5.30 pm in the Convocation Council Room so that members of Council could provide their initial feedback.

The Warden indicated that the review should be completed by March 2016, and regular reports will be provided back to Convocation Council as the review proceeds.

Engagement Framework for Convocation and UWA

Another initiative being undertaken is in conjunction with Professor Kent Anderson is to develop an outline for an Engagement Framework to document how Convocation and UWA should relate to each other by clearly defining roles and responsibilities. The outline of the Framework is not yet fully developed and is currently a work in progress. The Warden is looking forward to providing an update of the Engagement Framework at the next Ordinary Meeting.

Strategic Plan

During the past six months, Convocation Council has also continued to consider its strategic priorities and to capitalise on one of the inherent strengths of Convocation – its unique relationship with the graduates of UWA and their role as life-long members of the University. To improve implementation of its strategic objectives, the Convocation Council is
Currently aligning its committee structures with the roles of Convocation. The Council believes this initiative will result in a far more direct relationship between our strategic plan and the actual structure in which they implement decisions. This is also currently a work in progress and the Warden looks forward to reporting back on the Strategic Plan at the next Ordinary Meeting.

9. Convocation Officer’s Report

The Convocation Officer’s report appeared as Attachment E of the Second Ordinary Meeting 2015 booklet. This report contains a list of graduates whose whereabouts have become unknown since the last Ordinary Meeting. Those attending the meeting were asked to review the list and to notify the Convocation Officer Ms Juanita Perez if their contacts details were known to them.

10. Audit Report

The independent Financial Audit Report for Convocation for the year ending 31 December 2015 was provided for information. The Financial Audit Report appeared as Attachment F of the Second Ordinary Meeting booklet. The Council of Convocation has considered and endorsed the Audit Report on behalf of the Convocation of UWA Graduates. It is an unqualified Audit Report which demonstrates that Convocation is in a healthy financial state and able to pay debts when they fall due. On behalf of the Convocation of UWA Graduates, the Warden commended the Convocation Officer, Ms Juanita Perez, for her contribution to this excellent outcome.

11. Other Business

The Warden asked if there were any other items of business or questions that any member of Convocation wished to raise. The Warden reported that he has not received any formal request to include any additional items for consideration for this meeting.

The Warden reported that the only item he wished to raise was to promote the 50th Reunion which is initiated by Convocation each year. This year the 50th Reunion will celebrate the graduates of 1965. The Reunion will be held on Saturday, 10th October 2015 in the Hackett Hall (Old Ref). All graduates and staff of 1965 and those who were at the University in those days were encouraged to attend. Among the graduates of 1965 is the first female Pro-Chancellor and the first female Dean appointed in UWA; they will be attending in their capacity as graduates of 1965.

The Warden thanked Mrs Pauline Tremlett and Dr Joan Pope OAM for all their efforts in forming the organising committee this year’s 50th Reunion celebrations.

12. Presentation On The Rationale For Refreshing The UWA Brand

In his introduction, the Warden indicated that because of the interest generated by the ‘refresh’ of the UWA Brand, he had invited the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Community and Engagement, Professor Kent Anderson to address the meeting. He then introduced Professor Kent Anderson who gave a presentation on ‘The Rationale for Refreshing the UWA Brand – An update on engaging with UWA’s student and graduate communities’. This presentation was videoed and may be viewed on the Convocation website www.convocation.uwa.edu.au

At the conclusion of Professor Anderson’s address, the Warden thanked him for his presentation and invited him to join the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor and the Guild President on stage for questions from the audience.

13. Q&A Session

The Warden opened the Q&A session by inviting all those who wished to ask questions to wait for the microphone (as the session was being recorded), to stand and state their name for attribution in the minutes, and to keep their questions brief and to the point so that in the time available as many members of Convocation as possible could have the opportunity to ask questions.

Question 1:
Anna-Marie Wilson asked “By building houses on Underwood Avenue bushland, are you demonstrating that the University is placing financial values above its intellectual values, its ecological values and its community relationships. What will it take for you to withdraw this housing plan that will damage our University’s reputation and our beautiful cockatoos that land all around us?”

Response:
Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson replied that the University is not actually building anything at present. The University has received environmental approval from the State government a number of years ago to develop some land in Shenton Park. That environmental approval was for a fixed period which ran through to July of this year. The University also applied for and received from the WA Planning Commission, a subdivision approval which runs through to 2018. The University has asked for and applied to the government to align those two approvals to both coincide in 2018 – but currently the University does not have any approval to do anything there because it does not have Federal Government approval. The University has not applied for any environmental Federal Government approval; the University has not taken any decision to do so. The Vice-Chancellor
added that if the University were to consider putting in an application, then the University would go out and have some extensive consultation – so at present, nothing is in train. There is no permission for the University to undertake any construction activity because there is no Federal environmental approval.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Kent Anderson reported that he meets frequently (every six weeks) with the Friends of Underwood Avenue group. He reiterated that if the University were to go forward to develop Underwood Avenue bushlands, there would definitely be consultation building on the sharing of information that has occurred during his conversations with the Friends.

Question 2:
Mr Ross Graham said that he has always been very proud of the cultural life of UWA and the community, and how it affects the community – and now he is pretty worried. The reason for this is that when he went to see a very good production by the UWA Graduate Dramatic Society (GRADS) at Stirling Theatre recently, he asked the group why was the production held at the Stirling Theatre? He was informed that The University Club has taken over all the venues at UWA and the group was not able to afford to hire the venues anymore. Mr Graham said that University Dramatic Society (UDS) puts on one show every year; GRADS has had to go somewhere else; UWA Extension has disappeared altogether; he has heard that the UWA Publishing is under threat; we’ve heard tonight that nobody is quite sure that the Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF) will continue to be funded because of falling revenues. Mr Graham’s question is whether this is all going to happen or is he worrying unnecessarily?

Response:
The Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson based his response on the overall financial context of the University, and the principal purpose of the University. The Vice-Chancellor stated that the principal purpose of the University is to teach students and to undertake research – and if we do not manage to do that, the University cannot do anything else. At present, this University spends more that it earns, and it has been doing that for a number of years.

Two-thirds of the University’s revenue is derived from students. This is why the University has to ensure that it continues to recruit an appropriate number of the very best qualified students that come into the University; and that will then allow the University to do many of the other things it wants to do. The University has a burgeoning music program; it has a growing number of concerts, and a growing number of awards for its musicians. The Perth International Arts Festival last year received a whole slew of Helpmann Awards and brought in 1.3 million people into the centre of Perth with The Giants, which was the biggest cultural spectacle the city of Perth has ever seen. The Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery (LWAG) also recently presented a superb Elise Blumann Exhibition.

The Vice-Chancellor said that the University continues to do a huge amount in the arts and cultural area, but, it costs a lot of money. The Vice-Chancellor stated that the University spends many millions, and in fact, some tens of millions of dollars a year on artistic and cultural support for the community, and we have to therefore focus on ways of continuing to support that. The Vice-Chancellor added that he has to ensure that the University operates in a cost-effective manner, and that is why, for example, he thoroughly endorses the Warden’s desire to move to electronic voting for Convocation elections.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Kent Anderson added a few specifics:

- **UWA Publishing** – the last two years has performed the best it has in a long while, it is now producing 30 books, and doing that in an economical model so that it is sustainable. UWA Publishing has just recently celebrated its 80th anniversary. The University is very proud that it is one of the four remaining university publishers in the country. Professor Anderson noted that 48 of the top 50 universities in the world have university publishers. Given UWA’s quest to be one of the top 50 universities, it is something UWA wishes to retain.

- **UWA Extension** – has been reorganised, but it still exists. UWA Extension courses are now advertised through The University Club.

- **UWA Access** still exists – it is run through Admissions. The Study Abroad which was run by UWA Access is now run by the Centre for English Language Training (CELT).

- **UWA Theatres and Venues** – as there are costs involved in running the theatre and venues, such as staffing, lighting etc., the University needs to operate in a cost-effective manner. In the past, some of the costs involved were borne by those that hired the venues and some have been absorbed by the University. The Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Kent Anderson and the Chief Operating Officer Ms Gaye McMath are looking at re-approaching venue hire costs so that the University can hire out venues at a lower cost.

The Guild President Ms Lizzy O’Shea noted that connecting the things that students are doing, and the student initiatives, is the thing that is really fostering the student culture on campus. These are the draw card for students to come to UWA. If it becomes prohibitively expensive for students to run their events, then this may impact on the student experience, and the desire for prospective students to be drawn to UWA for its student experience and student culture.
Question 3:
A gentleman in the audience announced that he has just graduated with his fifth degree from UWA and has been paying Guild fees every year since 1978. He enquired whether the Guild would consider if a person has been a Guild member for 20 years, whether one could be given an honorary membership.

Response:
The Guild President asked if she could take that question on notice to consult with her colleagues.

Question 4:
Mr Philip Shields – “When The University Club was first built, many staff would not join as members or come to the Club because the fees were very expensive. If the Club took over the venues, the costs will become prohibitive to students who wish to run their initiatives. How, and why did the University Club get involved in things which may be cost prohibitive for students?

Response:
The Vice-Chancellor replied that The University Club just runs The University Club. The University Theatres are run separately. The University Club runs as a separate entity with its own board of directors. Professor Paul Johnson and Professor Kent Anderson are looking at the structures around access and charging because they want to make sure that Friends Groups have appropriate ways of getting access to facilities, including meeting rooms. The University is looking at ways to provide support to Friends and Volunteer Groups in return for all the benefit it gets from these groups. The Vice-Chancellor said that he is sure by this time next year there will be significant changes.

The Vice-Chancellor indicated that he will also be looking at Sports, because it is another area of contention and dissatisfaction has been in the way Sports and Sporting clubs have been interacting with access to facilities. Until June of this year, the University assigned the management of its all its sports facilities to UWA Sports and Recreation which was an independent association. As of 1st July this year, that independent association has been closed down and the UWA Sports and Recreation is now under the management of the University.

The Warden added that one of the initiatives that Convocation is currently investigating and having discussions with the Guild is about providing a transition and continuity of participation in clubs and activities with students even after they graduate and become members of Convocation.

Ms Devon Cuneo commented that she is involved with the Save the Children Foundation, and the University in the past several years has been extremely generous in allowing them to use the Undercroft providing facilities and the facility at Shenton Park where they store and collect books. Students Camp for Kids has also assisted as volunteers. Through the University’s generosity and the students, the Foundation has been able to raised approximately $250,000 per year. Ms Cuneo gave thanks to the University and the student volunteers.

Question 5:
Professor Phil Silberstein, a UWA graduate and former professor in Mathematics who retired from UWA over 30 years ago, said that it seems to him that the staff satisfaction and morale has gone down. Professor Silberstein asked whether any research has been done on the relationship of staff with the University’s administration.

Response:
The Vice-Chancellor replied that the University conducts a Staff Climate survey once every three years. His understanding is that though there may be some small movements between one survey to another survey, there does not appear to be any clear significant upwards or downwards trend in overall staff satisfaction from academic staff or professional staff.

Question 6:
Mr Jacob Nazroo asked Professor Kent Anderson what would be the next step, in terms of marketing, in closing the gap between UWA in relation to Curtin University.

Response:
Professor Anderson replied that in marketing there is a very long lead time, so he does not expect to see results immediately. Presently, in the market, there is a campaign around TISC and getting people to make choices. A lot of it is around focusing on how the new flexible degrees can actually work into specific career options. Another campaign will focus on international opportunities. This campaign is being done digitally.

Question 7:
Ms Roz Hart indicated that she was distressed that the University was suggesting it wanted to put houses on Underwood Avenue, which is a very valuable piece of excellent bushland. She suggested that UWA should make a research park where students can learn about revegetation. Ms Hart asked whether it was possible to use this land for a research park involving students and the community, which would lead to a lot more happier people.

Response:
Professor Kent Anderson thanked Ms Hart for the question and said that he would like to meet with Ms Hart and hear more about her suggestion.
14. Conclusion

Due to time constraints, the Warden then concluded the formal part of the meeting and thanked the Convocation Officer, Ms. Juanita Perez, and the events team from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, and the members of Convocation Council who were involved for all their work in organising the Second Ordinary Meeting for 2015.

He also thanked UWA graduate Ric Stern for providing the musical interlude and Manny Tamayo an MBA graduate of UWA for undertaking all the photography for UWA at “mates rates” as his contribution to Convocation.

The Warden reminded everyone that he would welcome feedback on the new format trialled this evening where the Q & A session was held after all the formal reports have been presented. He indicated that a questionnaire will be sent to all the members of Convocation present at the meeting in the next few days seeking their views so that the format of future meetings can reflect their wishes.

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**Question 8:**
Mrs. Anne Gunson asked whether a disabled parking bay can be placed at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

**Response:**
The Vice-Chancellor replied that there is a disabled parking bay on Fairway, immediately next to the walkway that leads to the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

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**Question 9:**
Emeritus Professor Dennis Haskell referred to the new UWA branding’s ungrammatical slogan, and indicated that it had become a laughing stock in the community. Professor Haskell asked how the University could propose an ungrammatical slogan, as it suggests that English language skills do not matter.

**Response:**
The Chancellor responded by saying that one of the benefits of the “tag line” was that it caused people to think twice when they heard or read it, and therefore spent time considering what it meant and as a result the new branding campaign was a very successful one.

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**Question 10:**
Ms. Ema Denby said that the University seems to be very focused on China, and asked about the need to foster the many different languages now extant in the community. She asked why the University doesn't promote other languages?

**Response:**
Professor Kent Anderson said that one of the wonderful side effects of changing to the new course model in 2012 is that while language learning across the country has had a decline, there has been a sharp increase in UWA. One example he related is the Korean language. The University went from having no Korean language program, to then introducing one, which is now the largest in the country. He offered to have further discussions with Ms Denby after the meeting.
Introduction

2015 was another hugely successful year for UWA. We again improved our performance in the international rankings of research excellence, our students gave their highest ever evaluation of satisfaction with teaching, and we reached out to the community of Western Australia to an unprecedented degree, with over 1.4 million people crowding in to the centre of Perth to see ‘The Giants’ which was the major public event of the University’s Perth International Arts Festival.

We achieved this, however, without covering our costs, even though we have cut back to a parlous degree on investment in IT, buildings, and research opportunities. Members of Convocation will be familiar with the general financial challenges that weigh down heavily on all universities in Australia, and with the impasse in Canberra in the debate about university funding. There is little indication in the pre-election positioning of the major political parties that there will be any speedy resolution of the unsustainable financial position of research universities. If we are to ensure that future generations of students can benefit from all that this wonderful university has to offer, we will have to create that future for ourselves by ensuring that the University is strong, secure and resilient.

Strategic Issues

Securing Success White Paper

It was with these circumstances in mind that I released a ‘white paper’, Securing Success, to all staff on Monday 26 October 2015. In Securing Success I set the context by outlining the business model of Australian Universities before looking specifically at UWA – how we earn revenue, how we spend it and how we compare to our Go8 peers. The paper then reviewed our performance against the 15 proposals set out in the 2012 paper ‘UWA Futures’, before identifying the areas we need to focus on to secure our future success. The paper was a call for all staff to play an active role in securing our future, to talk to colleagues about the issues raised, provide feedback and develop ideas for innovation and change. An online forum was established for staff to comment and I also invited feedback via email. I received a great deal of valuable feedback on Securing Success, which I carefully considered and discussed with colleagues. This input from staff has been and will continue to be vital in shaping the University’s response to the five challenges of revenue, cost, service, reputation and staff renewal identified in the paper. On Wednesday 9 December, I shared an overview of this response with all staff at an end-of-year address which set out plans for renewal in 2016.

Drivers for Change for UWA

The mission of the University is clear and understood – to provide world-class education, research and community engagement for the advancement of the prosperity and welfare of our communities. What has not been clear is how we are to finance this mission.

The University generates core revenue from two activities – teaching and research – with teaching being the principal source of revenue. Additional revenue comes from the sale of services (student residences, catering), investments, gifts and donations. All universities, including UWA, spend most of their revenue on staff salaries. At UWA we spend more than $2 million every working day on salaries, and a further $1 million a day on the other costs of running the university (buildings, utilities, supplies). Achieving the right balance of income and expenditure across these different areas of activity is essential for the long-term sustainability and success of the University. Unlike a commercial business, we do not aim to generate a profit that can be distributed to the owners or shareholders, but we do aim to create a surplus which we can reinvest in the University. These surpluses allow us to initiate new research programs, introduce innovative approaches to teaching, upgrade or replace our buildings, and provide more scholarships. In short, they are our ‘future fund’, without which we will slide backwards in our performance, standing and status as a global university.

However, UWA has the lowest average teaching revenue per FTE student in the Group of Eight (Go8) due to the differing profile of the student body at UWA, with a low proportion of international and full-fee domestic students. In addition,
UWA commits a much higher proportion of total expenditure to salaries than is the norm across the Go8. This is a consequence of three separate factors: higher than average academic salaries, a higher proportion of professional staff to academic staff, and a lower share of non-salary expenditure.

The lower level of non-salary expenditure means that UWA has not kept up with investment in areas such as buildings maintenance and IT infrastructure, thereby further reducing the attractiveness and functionality of our teaching and research facilities.

Fundamentally, any organisation that consistently spends more than it earns and under-invests in core infrastructure will not be viable in the long term. At UWA we need to be able to bring investment in IT and infrastructure up to at least the average of the Go8 if we are to create the educational and research environment expected by students and staff. This will require additional annual expenditure of at least 3%, or $30 million. In addition, we need to be able to generate an underlying operating surplus of around 4% ($40 million) in order to create an annual ‘future fund’ to support innovation in education, research and engagement.

Our results in a number of national surveys of student experience and satisfaction have been disappointing for several years, though these relate primarily to graduates who commenced their studies at UWA five or more years ago. Our own internal student surveys indicate that student satisfaction has been consistently improving since 2012, but they also indicate that we do not always meet our students’ expectations about the quality of teaching and learning spaces or of IT support. It is imperative that the University changes its business model and addresses the high cost base in order to deliver the underlying operating surplus it requires to invest in building teaching and research excellence.

UWA needs an Academic Structure that will deliver on the strategic goals of the University. The current faculty structure no longer serves the University well. UWA’s largest faculty has over 500 academic staff while the smallest faculty has 25 academic staff. This, along with multiple schools, centres and institutes, makes our structure inconsistent, difficult to explain and inefficient. The current academic structure does little to facilitate the collaboration necessary if the University is to engage with multi-disciplinary longer-term large-scale research problems and address the world’s grand challenges, such as climate change and food security, which top global universities will be focusing on in coming years. The current structure also limits the level of interaction amongst research students, reducing the opportunities for the development of cross-disciplinary approaches to their work.

The University also needs an internal administration and service delivery model that is sustainable, flexible and responsive. Increased revenue and lower costs are prerequisites for success, but they do not guarantee it. An essential area for improvement is service. The reviews of administrative functions conducted in 2014 identified a number of areas for significant improvement across a range of services within UWA. In addition, the report from the independent review of New Courses in 2015 recommended that the University review the service delivery model and develop ways for providing ‘consistent, effective and timely course advice’ for the benefit of the students. In summary, there is currently a lack of clarity and accountability in the structure of service delivery, as well as evidence of a failure to design and implement ‘end-to-end’ processes, with duplication of effort across the organisation and significant cost inefficiencies.

Process inertia, duplication of effort and unnecessary complexity across the professional functions continues to present UWA with a challenge to achieving the ambition of operational excellence required to serve the core vision and mission of the University. Additionally, as identified in the 2015 Securing Success paper, UWA’s high ratio of professional to academic staff, which is a reflection of the institution’s organisational structure and history, needs to be brought to the Go8 average. A number of proposals for organisational change and renewal have been considered across the individual service functions. However, it is clear that attempting change in individual functions will not achieve the transformation required to provide significant improvement in service delivery. All functions and changes to improve service require integration and strategic direction in their implementation to ensure that we provide consistent and effective services and develop a culture that values high quality service delivery and stimulates a ‘One University’ ethos.

Renewal Project
The organisational change proposal, “Renewal Project”, was presented to all staff on 2 February. The Powerpoint presentation from the announcement and a video and transcript of the presentation were posted to a staff website dedicated to the Renewal Project. A specific Renewal email address was set up in order to receive written feedback and possible alternative proposals from staff. The proposal is designed to meet the objective set by Senate in December 2015 of decreasing the recurrent cost base of the University by $35-40M within a 12 month period and to increase annual revenue of the university by $60M.

Management consulted staff and sought input on both the renewal program and other strategies to achieve these objectives. From 10 to 18 February, senior leaders held a series of meetings at various venues across campus, open to all staff,
to explain the proposal, answer questions and hear feedback. In addition to these open forums, meetings to discuss the proposal were held with senior leaders and many Schools, Faculties and Divisions also met to discuss further. Additional staff forums were held on 22 February and 3 March to present summaries of feedback received, answer questions and receive additional feedback and suggestions for alternatives to the proposal. Feedback closed on 7 March.

Approximately 1,370 people attended the 11 staff meetings and the University received 331 written submissions regarding the proposal for change. The renewal website received 12,010 page views and 8,692 unique page views from 2 February until 7 March. Following the period of consultation with staff and consideration of the feedback and submissions received, a decision on the proposal was made. All written and oral feedback was carefully and seriously considered by the extended Executive, which includes Deans of Faculties. On 14 March, this decision by management was presented as a proposal for change to the Senate with respect to:

- A new academic structure
- A methodology for evaluating academic roles
- A new service delivery model

The University Senate considered this proposal for change and approved it. I announced this via video and email to all staff on Tuesday 15 March, in which I took the opportunity to thank staff for their engagement with this project, their feedback and for the time and effort they invested in turning their attention to the bigger picture of UWA’s sustainability. On Wednesday 16 March I sent an email to all graduates to announce and explain Senate’s decision. I have witnessed exceptional professionalism and determination through this journey. I look forward to witnessing the transformative journey. I look forward to witnessing the transformative

City of Perth Act
I was very pleased to congratulate the State Liberal and Labor parties for supporting new laws to bring the Crawley campus entirely within the City of Perth. The State Government’s City of Perth Act was passed in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday 18 November, and by the Legislative Council on 26 February, which will allow for the expansion of the City of Perth’s boundaries to include UWA and the QE2 medical precinct. This will allow the University to work with a single local government authority, the City of Perth, across the entire campus on important matters such as campus and estate development, student recruitment, industry engagement and public transport.

Education City
On 18 January Gaye McMath moved into a new role as Executive Director, Education City Project. This follows agreement by WA’s five universities to explore the potential for Perth to grow as an international education city through the development of student accommodation and other facilities in the CBD area. Gaye has stepped down from her position as Chief Operating Officer to take on this new and exciting role.

Education

Review of Courses
During November 2015, the University conducted a peer review of our three-year undergraduate Bachelor degrees with a particular focus on evaluation of the new courses introduced at UWA in 2012. This review was convened by the Dean of Coursework Studies, Professor Grady Venville and is the first comprehensive review of the entire undergraduate curriculum ever conducted at UWA. It robustly triangulated several sources of data, including external and internal indicators with surveys of staff and students and identified several major themes.

Centre for Education Futures: The Futures Observatory
The Futures Observatory was officially opened by the Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) on 16 March 2016. This new space is an innovation ‘laboratory’ for staff to engage with more deep and radical education opportunities. It has been created as a space to explore existing innovations from across UWA and new ideas from around the globe. It is a place to view ‘over the horizon’ technologies that can be adapted and adopted for pedagogical purposes. Led by Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gilly Salmon, the Futures Observatory will be the conduit to facilitate partnerships with selected technology and industry organisations that promote students’ learning and provide opportunities to influence their higher education journey. I look forward to witnessing the transformative teaching and experiential learning that are forecast to emerge from these explorations.

UWA Sport
Mr Ian Fitzpatrick has been appointed as General Manager of UWA Sport. Ian has experience across a variety of sport environments including not for profit, commercial, consulting and service sectors. Ian has had experience as General Manager of Australian University Masters Games and most recently was Chief Operating Officer of a globally focussed sports industry software provider based in the USA. The General Manager will report to Chris Massey, Director of Student Life. Ian will lead an executive team at UWA Sports and will take overall responsibility for the operational planning, financial planning and the management for all sport and recreation assets and activities at the University. UWA Sport is a wholly owned subsidiary of UWA and is positioned within the UWA Education Portfolio.

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Academic Calendar
With the objective of providing options for students to accelerate their studies, and to increase the utilisation of the University's teaching resources and facilities, work is underway to examine the feasibility of changing the University's academic calendar by extending, re-arranging or increasing the number of semester teaching periods. A range of issues will be considered and evaluated in determining the best alternatives for UWA.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education
Professor Alec Cameron, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) since 2013, has been appointed the next Vice-Chancellor of Aston University in Birmingham, England. I was delighted to announce this news to all staff on 25 February and to wish him all the best for the future. Professor Cameron has made an invaluable contribution to the University since joining us from UNSW, where he had been Dean of the UNSW Business School. Under his leadership, the newly created Education portfolio was built around a clear focus on the UWA student experience. Importantly, Professor Cameron initiated the development of the Education Futures vision resulting in the establishment of the Centre for Education Futures and UWA’s entry into the Coursera partnership. He reviewed and restructured Student Services and UWA Sport, leading to the new Student Life portfolio, and fostered relations between the University and the Student Guild. Between July 2013 and April 2014, Alec also served as Acting Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor during which time he led the development of the UWA 2020 Strategic Plan, and the last round of Enterprise Bargaining.

Research
Grants
Towards the end of 2015, many of UWA’s finest researchers were successful in bidding for Australian Research Council grants and National Health and Medical Research Council grants. I have offered my congratulations to each one and thanked them for supporting the University in our efforts to be recognised as one of the world’s Top 50 universities by 2050. For 2016 UWA was awarded 31 ARC grants for Discovery Projects; 6 ARC grants for Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards; 4 ARC Linkage grants for Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities; 2 NHMRC Development Grants; 17 NHMRC Project Grants; 2 NHMRC Career Development fellowships; 4 NHMRC Early Career fellowships; and 4 NHMRC-ARC Dementia Research Development fellowships.

The 2016 Forrest Scholars
Three new Forrest Scholars were announced on 7 December. The prestigious research scholarships, supported by the Forrest Research Foundation, are available to outstanding international and Australian students who wish to undertake a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at one of Western Australia’s five universities.
- Marissa Dong will study at UWA in Duchenne muscular dystrophy
- Anna Cresswell, will study at UWA the field of marine ecology
- Karissa Lear will study at Murdoch University in the field of marine science

The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute
The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI) has officially opened at The University of Western Australia, with the aim to bring together a database for information about WA’s enormous variety of animals and plants. The Institute, launched by Premier Colin Barnett, will house the State’s biggest collective of data about Western Australia’s unique and enormously diverse flora and fauna as part of a strategic approach to develop a new knowledge platform for better policy decisions and ongoing management of WA’s terrestrial diversity. WABSI is a co-operative project between founding members: The University of Western Australia, Curtin and Murdoch Universities, CSIRO, the West Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Western Australian Museum, Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority, BHP Billiton and Rio Tinto. All have contributed financially towards setting up the Institute.

Gravity waves detected
On 12 February, we all shared in the excitement of the news that, in a world first, scientists have observed ripples in the fabric of space-time called gravitational waves, arriving at the earth from a cataclysmic event in the distant universe. This confirms a major prediction of Albert Einstein’s 1915 general theory of relativity and opens an unprecedented new window to the cosmos. UWA is part of an international project team which has spent the past seven years putting together gravitational-wave detector equipment used to regularly measure gravitational waves. The UWA project team is headed by UWA’s Professor David Blair, and included researchers Professor Linqing Wen, Professor David Coward, Professor Li Ju, Associate Professor Chunnong Zhao and Dr Eric Howell. UWA researchers contributed to the project by using high power lasers at the Gingin Gravitational Research Centre to observe and test newly discovered ways of scattering the laser beams.

Innovation
National Innovation and Science Agenda
I congratulated the Prime Minister on his announcement on 7 December 2015 of the National Innovation and Science Agenda. The $1.1bn package over four years for national-scale research reflects the University’s desire to encourage
People, Resources And Community

His Excellence Professor Doctor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
On 22 September, UWA awarded former Indonesian president His Excellency Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono an honorary doctorate in recognition of his contribution to global affairs and long-term advocacy in building strong relations between Australia and Indonesia. This Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters followed Dr Yudhoyono’s appointment earlier this year as a visiting Professor at UWA and Senior Fellow with the Perth USAsia Centre. It acknowledges Dr Yudhoyono’s many outstanding achievements during his time as Indonesian president, in particular his commitment and vision to build a stronger Indo-Pacific region and relations with Australia.

As President of one of the world’s largest democracies and a leading nation in the Indo-Pacific, Dr Yudhoyno helped set the agenda and advance regional cooperation on many issues important to Indonesia, Australia and the broader region. Later in the day, students from UWA and Murdoch University studying the Indonesian language were given an extraordinary opportunity to converse in Bahasa Indonesian with Dr Yudhoyono during an informal private roundtable meeting; and the Perth USAsia Centre hosted several excellent discussion forums with Dr Yudhoyono with key leaders.

Australia Day Honours
761 Australians were recognised on the Australia Day 2016 Honour List for their services to society and again, UWA alumni and staff featured prominently. UWA would also like to congratulate its alumni who received much deserved honours on Australia Day.

Of the recipients, one has a particularly close relationship to UWA – Mrs Tonya McCusker. Mrs Tonya McCusker was appointed a Member (AM) of the Order of Australia for “significant service to the community of Western Australia through charitable and philanthropic roles, and to children and young people.”

Awarded Australian of the Year Local hero:
Dr Catherine Keenan (BA(Hons) 1995)

Awarded an AO:
- Mr Brian Easton, AO (BA 1967)
- Professor Peter Sly, AO (DSc 2002)

Awarded an AM:
- Dr Bronte Adams, AM (BA 1984)
- Dr Barry Chesson, AM (BSc 1967)
- Mr Ronald Fritschy, AM (BEC 1974)
- Dr Neville Marchant, AM (BSc 1963)
- Mrs Tonya McCusker, AM (LL.B. 1994)
- Emeritus Professor John Nevile, AM (BA(Hons) 1954)

BHERT Award for EMI
UWA’s Energy and Minerals Institute (EMI) and Woodside have won a national award for outstanding collaboration between business and higher education. The ‘BHERT Awards’, established by the Business/Higher Education Round Table, a national organisation focused on strengthening relationships between industry and tertiary education, recognise achievement between the two across the fields of research and development and education and training.

Innovation Challenge
A UWA team of biomedical engineers and doctors, led by Associate Professor Robert McLaughlin and Professor David Sampson, in November, won The Australian newspaper’s Innovation Challenge for developing the world’s smallest handheld microscope. The team took out first prize and $30,000, competing against a record field of 310 entries from innovators across the country in the national awards which aim to drive some of Australia’s best ideas to commercialisation and honour excellence across a broad range of areas. The breakthrough invention of a miniature micro-optic device that can fit in a needle to guide surgeons while they are operating has the potential to radically improve the safety and effectiveness of cancer surgery.

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and support people with innovative ideas. Since 2008, UWA had partnered with more than 2,500 companies, published research papers with 491 industry co-authors, and has secured 112 research funding grants with industry. However, we know we can do more, which is why we are fostering a renewed emphasis on innovation, entrepreneurship and industry engagement under the banner of the new UWA Innovation Quarter, or UWA IQ.

Start Something
The UWA IQ initiative, Start Something, has been a great success and demonstrated a tremendous appetite for innovation and entrepreneurship among our post-graduate students and staff. The program is facilitated through the Innovation Cluster and involved the participation of respected industry mentors guiding skill development in commercialisation of research and engagement with industry. Workshops focussed on different aspects of the commercialisation process, with topics ranging from market identification, to how to pitch ideas and recognising funding routes. Three very different ideas won prizes for a trio of post-graduate students including an application to help university students mine the web for open access research, a wave energy harvesting device that uses gyroscopic technology and a solution to measure strain in mining structures with discontinuities, designed to improve safety in the resources industry.

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helping refugees find jobs; and working with homeless young people to increase their knowledge of local services and programs. Sixteen students have been selected for the Centre’s first intake and more than 50 internships will be available in second semester this year. They will have the opportunity to work with not-for-profits throughout the State including in regional and remote communities and international organisations. Through the McCusker Centre for Citizenship, UWA students will be exposed to critical community challenges. Students will actively help support those in need, and become involved in finding solutions to social challenges.

Australia-At-Large Rhodes Scholarship

Law/Economics graduate, Ilona Quahe, 24, of Wembley has won one of three prestigious Australia-at-Large Rhodes Scholarships for 2016. Ilona graduated from UWA in 2016 with a Bachelor of Laws (with first class Honours) and Bachelor of Economics. Ms Quahe joins UWA Medical Science graduate Andrés Noé who in October became UWA’s seventh Rhodes Scholar in five years. Of the nine Rhodes Scholarships available each year in Australia, each state offers one scholarship that is awarded by a state-based selection committee of seven members (including three Rhodes Scholars). In addition, there are three Australia-at-Large Scholarships awarded by a selection committee based in Canberra.

PIAF

The 2016 Perth International Arts Festival flourished in its new Festival home at Elizabeth Quay. The spectacular opening weekend featured a stellar cast of Western Australian artists, including several UWA Alumni and friends, in a theatrical and musical performance titled "Home". The $17.6 million 64th Perth International Arts Festival is the inaugural program for Artistic Director Wendy Martin and gathers hundreds of the world’s finest artists in more than 350 events over three weeks from 11 February to 6 March.

In January, General Manager Julian Donaldson stepped down to take up a new position as CEO of the National Trust of Australia (WA). Among his many significant achievements in 10 years of leadership at PIAF Julian has overseen growth in corporate and government support, which has led to bold artistic endeavours and exponential audience growth, with the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences.

Awarded an OAM:
- Mr Basil Best, OAM (BA 1959, GradDipEd 1961)
- Ms Christine Curry, OAM (BA 1990)
- Mr Craig James, OAM (LL.B. 1973)
- Dr Susan Jenkins, OAM – Adjunct Associate Professor, Institute for Respiratory Health, School of Medicine and Pharmacology
- Mr Ian Maitland, OAM (BE 1968)
- Mr George Sadleir, OAM (LL.B. 1961)
- Mr Alan Tough, OAM (BE 1962, MBA(Cswk) 1976)
- Mr James Trevasaki, OAM (BA 1951, MA(Res) 1962, GradDipEd 1967)
- Mr Peter Walton, OAM (BArch 1973)
- The late Dr Shirley Watt, OAM (BSc(Agric) 1948, PhD 1975)

Reid Library Refurbishment Project

On 4 December 2015 I approved $8.55M funding for the refurbishment of the ground floor of the Reid Library. On completion, the number of student spaces for collaborative and informal learning will increase from 350 to 700. This project will also deliver significant improvements to the facilities, technology and services offered to students, including upgraded bathrooms, access to wifi and power, and a new café.

Barry J Marshall Library

Ten years after Professor Barry Marshall’s Nobel Prize, the University renamed its Science Library in his honour. A dedication ceremony for the Barry J Marshall Library at UWA was held on 9 September and was attended by the Governor of Western Australia Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson. This was a well-deserved tribute - Professor Marshall remains the University’s only graduate to have achieved a Nobel Prize. He has brought extraordinary honour to UWA and to the State of Western Australia and the country with his unflinching dedication to research. It is a privilege for UWA to recognise our very own medical pioneer whose work has made a difference to the lives of millions of people around the world.

McCusker Centre for Citizenship

The McCusker Centre for Citizenship, generously supported by a major benefaction from the McCusker Charitable Foundation, was opened on 17 March as part of UWA’s commitment to significantly expand community engagement. This new centre will recruit student interns to work with community groups and not-for profit organisations with the aim of fostering a life-long commitment to the community. More than 80 organisations have already agreed to take interns from the Centre in 2016 and they will be working on projects such as improving early childhood development opportunities for children and their families in Fitzroy Crossing; increasing the number of volunteer mentors working with people with disabilities and mental health challenges;
Introduction

I would like to thank the Convocation Council for inviting me to present this report at the First Ordinary Meeting of Convocation for 2016, and I look forward to watching the relationship between the UWA Student Guild and Convocation continue to build on its prior strengths. The Warden, Warren Kerr, and the whole Convocation Council have been exceedingly warm and welcoming to me coming into the role of Guild President, and I would like to take this opportunity to show my appreciation for their continued support.

I am Maddie Mulholland and I am honoured to be the 103rd Guild President. I started at UWA studying a double Bachelor of Science (Physics) and Bachelor of Arts (French and Philosophy) degree, before changing into my current course – double Bachelor of Commerce (Corporate and Investment Finance) and Bachelor of Laws. I have been at UWA for six years and have two years left after my study leave this year.

In this report I will cover the plans that my team and I have for the year, some of the external challenges we anticipate and our desire to strengthen our relationship with Convocation.

103rd UWA Student Guild Team

The Guild is comprised of passionate and innovative students who have a desire to improve the student experience at UWA. The 103rd team are:

**Vice President:** Charlie Viska, Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) (Psychology) (4th year)

**Treasurer:** Thomas Burke, Graduate Bachelor of Science (Maths, Statistics and Economics), Juris Doctor (2nd year)

**Secretary:** Michael Kabondo, Bachelor of Science (Pathology, Lab Medicine and Genetics) (3rd year)

**Chair of Guild Council:** Lucy Moyle, Bachelor of Commerce (Management, Political Science and International Relations) (3rd year)

**Postgraduate Students:** Peter Derbyshire, Graduate Bachelor of Science (Zoology), PhD (Animal Association President: Biology) (4th year)

**Societies Council President:** Jack Looby, Bachelor of Arts (Political Science, International Relations and Japanese) (4th year)

**Education Council President:** Emma Boogaerdt, Graduate Bachelor of Arts (Political Science and International Relations), Juris Doctor (1st year)

**Public Affairs Council President:** Megan Lee, Bachelor of Arts (Political Science, International Relations and History of Art) (3rd year)

**WA Student Aboriginal Corporation Chair:** Tyson McEwan, Bachelor of Arts (Law and Society, Media and Communications) (1st year)

**Environment Officer:** Dennis Venning, Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology and English) (5th year)

**International Students’ Services Officer:** Kenneth Foo, Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing and Communications) (2nd year)

**Queer Officers:**
Fraser Windsor, Bachelor of Science (Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) (2nd year)
Reece Gherardi, Bachelor of Arts (Law and Society, Political Science and International Relations) and Diploma of Modern Languages (German) (2nd year)

Residential Students’ Department President: Shyaam Patel, Bachelor of Science (Engineering and Management) (2nd year)

Sports Representative: Torey Rickerby, Graduate Bachelor of Science (Engineering Science and Management), Masters of Professional Engineering (Mechanical) (1st year)

Welfare Officer: Emily Law, Bachelor of Science (Psychological Science and Psychology in Society) (3rd year)

Women’s Affairs Officer: Laura Mwiragua, Bachelor of Arts (Political Science, International Relations, Law and Society) (3rd year)

Senate Representative: Julian Coleman, Graduate Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), Bachelor of Science (Computer Science and Chinese) (1st year)

Plus a further 9 Ordinary Councillors!

Partnership between Guild and Convocation

I have been delighted by and appreciative of the support I have received from the Convocation Council and the strong partnership between Convocation and the Guild. Being able to present the Guild’s activities to the Convocation Council monthly, and importantly at the Ordinary Meetings of Convocation is an effective way for the Guild to show what current students are doing and link alumni back to the University.

We have also taken further steps to work together, which strengthen this natural bond between current and past students. On 4 March 2016, we celebrated Convocation Day and to recognize the relationship between Convocation and the Guild, I was invited to plant a tree. This is commencing a new tradition where the Guild President plants a tree on Convocation Day every year, which is an exciting, meaningful and permanent way to show the importance of our relationship.

The Guild has been working with the Warden to develop an extra-curricular platform for alumni, which we will continue to work on over the semester. We look forward to providing our current club members, and past students who are now members of Convocation the ability to reconnect and share their interests.

For those members of Convocation who are also Guild Alumni, you will be hearing from us soon as we build and formalise our Guild Alumni community!

2016 Guild Strategic Projects

The 2015 Guild Executive developed six platforms for Strategic Transformation, and building from their progress, my Executive and I have re-focused and developed three key strategic platforms. These will form the new long term strategic plan for the Guild. These platforms are:

- Visibility and Value Creation
- Representation and Effective Engagement
- Operational Excellence

Visibility and Value Creation

The Guild currently has the high rate of 94% membership, and we seek to provides services, support and value to all students at UWA. As part of this, we are constantly reviewing the services and initiatives we provide, and the demand of students for enrichment and support during their studies. Each of our Staff and Student departments seek to make an impact and provide real value to students and we have made changes to our program this year to give greater value.

Pelican, the student magazine, are building their online presence and have appointed a Web Director. I would encourage all lovers of Pelican to check it out: www.pelicanmagazine.com.au.

One of the most significant points of contact between the Guild and students is food and drink. The Guild operates the Tavern, Refectory and seven cafes/kiosks, plus a variety of food vans for flexibility and variety. Since 2013, we have been moving away from the previous structure of serving the same foods in all cafes, to a more bespoke model where each outlet provides its own unique experience. We have hired an Executive Chef, who has redesigned all menus, and we have made significant changes to presentation and marketing (with furniture changes to come throughout the year and in the future). In summary of the changes:

- Tavern: Now serving from a full Burger Menu, plus traditional pub foods and new cocktail menu. This changes have been enthusiastically accepted by staff, students and members of the community.
- Refectory: New ‘Spud’ outlet (jacket potatoes and carvery), new ‘Rice to Meet You’ sushi outlet, new salad bar, new fresh-pre-made sandwich bar, new ‘Wok’s Cooking?’ noodle and stir fry bar. We have retained the favourite Made to Order sandwich bar and Coffee Stop. Subway and Boost Juice have now opened, and alongside Rocket Fuel complete the food court feel of the Refectory.
• **Hackett Café**: New breakfast menu (with made to order eggs, avocado smash and all the other current popular breakfast menu items), Lunch made to order menu, and new coffee beans.

• **Science Café**: New cold brew coffee and Top Dup donuts.

We are surveying students’ feedback on these changes, and will continue to evolve the offerings based on this feedback. So far, so good!

**Representation and Effective Engagement**

As the voice for all students, my Executive and I are dedicated to reaching out to and advocating for all students from all backgrounds and will all experiences. We are building on the work of previous Guild Councils, with a focus on:

• Helping the Access Collective define itself, plan its activities and move towards becoming a formal Guild Department. The Access Collective is currently comprised of students who have experienced mental or physical disabilities, and students who are carers or supporters of students with those experiences.

• Establishing the Ethno-Cultural Collective, which is aimed at building a community for students who have faced disadvantage or discrimination due to their race or culture.

• Considering the best way to provide support to Student Parents. We have commenced by advocating for more complete parenting spaces in Libraries.

• Continuing to assist the Mature Aged Students Association with their activities.

• Building a stronger connection with the WA Student Aboriginal Corporation (WASAC), including engaging in more reconciliation events, supporting their new program of cultural sharing and recognizing the WASAC committee as the peak representative voice for indigenous students studying at UWA.

• Engaging more closely with College Res’ Clubs, and developing an opportunity for the Residential Students’ Department to be more engaged with strategic decisions made for residential accommodation.

**Operational Excellence**

Strong commercial and administrative operations are essential for us to have the funds and structure to support students and run initiatives. To achieve this we have a range of projects that we will carry through 2016:

• We have completed a successful transition and governance training of the 103rd Guild Council, and have a strong focus on comprehensive staff training.

• We have introduced a new role, Associate Director (Commercial), who will be responsible for managing the Guild’s commercial activities and catering operations.

• We have recently completed our introduction of Netsuite, our new accounting system, and will be introducing Task, a point of sale software that will link in with Netsuite to provide us better management of and data from our commercial outlets.

• Renewal of our Food and Drink, Volunteering and Club websites.

• New considerations for the potential of the MyGuild application, which exists as a one-stop-shop (in app form) for all extra-curricular and support services offered through the Guild.

• In 2015, we carried through reform of the Guild Election Regulations, and in 2016 we will be reforming the Guild Regulations to bring them in line with good governance practices and current structures.

• Building our functions business.

**2016 Guild Departments, Operations and Activities**

The Guild is an active and vibrant place. I would like to share with you some of our newest and biggest activities, but this is only the tip of the iceberg!

**Student Activities**

I am proud to report that in 2015, the Guild and our affiliated Clubs and Faculty Societies collectively ran over 900 diverse events for students, and we are set for a similar trajectory in 2016.

We started with a bang, with the biggest O-Day ever (or at least since I commenced at UWA in 2010). This year we had an estimated 9000 students attend, 220 stalls, a food van village and carnival rides, which were incredibly popular. Complementing the University’s Orientation Week program, the Guild ran two sporting events (Ultimate Frisbee and Quidditch) and two free movie nights for commencing students. We are dedicated to fostering the sense of belonging to a cohort, which the sports aimed to start to build with commencing students.

In Week 2, we ran our annual Semester One Club Carnival, which is a smaller version of O-Day held on Oak Lawn, designed to attract returning students (who don’t typically attend O-Day), and provide students who signed up to student organisations on O-Day to come back and find out more about what they do. We had around 2000 students attend, and over 80 stalls, which is the largest Club Carnival since I commenced at UWA.

The following day, on 9 March 2016, we attempted to break the Guinness World Record for Speed-Friending! The current record stands at 651 people speed-friending 20 new people in 3 minute bursts. It is a difficult record to break, and we had almost the full amount of people registered. On the day, we didn’t get there but students had a great time and made lots
of new friends, which was the purpose of the event. We have found anecdotally and through our surveys that students are increasingly feeling isolated at university, we think largely due to the New Course structure which has the benefits of flexibility, but the negatives of losing distinct cohorts. This world record attempt was intended as a fun way for students to meet new people, and in that sense it was very successful.

Throughout the rest of Semester One, we will be having a variety of themed weeks and events including Fringe Festival (a two week arts festival run by our Public Affairs Council), EnviroFest, Welfare Week, Language Festival, Social Justice Week, Faith Week, Pride Week and a Business School focused Club Carnival, amongst many others!

PROSH
This year is the 85th anniversary of PROSH! This year’s theme is Pursue ImPROSHable. Our PROSH Directors Matt and Emilie, and Editor Rae are busy running Writer’s Nights and liaising with our five charities: Bikes for Humanity, Ting Sparks, Headspace, Coolbinia Bombers Junior Football Club (StarKick) and Food Bank.

Volunteering
Guild Volunteering has had an incredible start to the year. We now have two full time staff members, one of whom is focused on Sports Volunteering which currently makes up a third of the volunteering that people do in WA! Guild Volunteering has hundreds of partnerships and programs, and engages with approximately 6000 students every year. Our programs run from one-off micro-volunteering initiatives that students can do in their lunch breaks, to regular programs that students can run as Program Directors. Our volunteering provides millions of dollars of impact to the WA community. We are always looking for more volunteering opportunities, especially skills based volunteering that students can do to complement their studies (not unpaid internships though!), so please contact us if you have any suggestions!

www.volunteering.guild.UWA.edu.au

Capital Development
This year I was excited and proud to open the Club Collaborative Zone (CCZ) in the central wing of the Guild. This project commenced in 2008 when the Guild Council at that time reviewed the Masterplan for the whole Guild Village and how they could create more student focused facilities. Between 2009 – 2013 we carried through organizational change that allowed us to free up the floor that is now the CCZ. We started surveying our student organisations about their needs for the space and developed a plan which began construction in 2015. It was completed in January 2016 and in February, I had the honour of co-opening the space with Guild Alumni Janet Holmes a Court. Janet shared with us the history of the wing (as a student she worked to get the funding for the construction of the wing), her experiences as a student and member of Guild Council, and her suggestions for student advocacy.

We are also contributing to the University’s development of a new café in the refurbished Reid Library, which we are in the process of naming in partnership with the WA Student Aboriginal Corporation Committee and School of Indigeneous Studies.

We received 54% of the SSAF Capital Expenditure allocation (with the remaining 46% going to UWA Sports) for refurbishment of the Tavern. Our plans include new paint, new flooring, upkeep of the wooden panels to make them a feature, new furniture, better use of light, addressing any concerns with electrical wiring and introducing a new sound system. The Tavern is a very popular venue for student events, and we want to make it a pleasant and functional venue! These plans have been received with enthusiasm by students and the University. We are also replacing the Tavern iron fencing with a lower wooden bar fence, which will allow better views of the river.

We have allocated further funding to some aesthetic and functional upgrades to our cafes, and our two Club and Department room areas (Cameron Hall and Guild Central wing top floor). We hope in the near future to have a larger funding pool to make significant upgrades to these spaces, and are developing a long term capital expenditure plan.

We have been approached by external commercial consultants, that the request of the University, to participate in a full review of Commercial activity at UWA, including all Guild-run outlets. We are in the process of seeking protection from the University if we do participate that we will not lose our current activities, and students will not lose the control they currently have over setting the commercial agenda for services provided for them.

We have completed the installation of Solar Panels on the roof of the Business School. This will give the Guild significant savings in its utility costs, and reduce our environmental footprint.

Total investment in capital projects for 2016: $950,000, including the SSAF Capital allocation.
Partnership between the Guild and the University

The Guild’s relationship with the University is very important to facilitating a fantastic student experience and providing student feedback back to the University. So far this year, I have enjoyed a strong and fruitful working relationship with the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Education) and his whole portfolio. We will be sad to see him leave. Some of the issues we have been working to address are:

- Sexual assault on campuses, in line with Universities Australia’s campaign ‘Respect. Now. Always.’ We are looking at the policies around sexual assault and the reporting and support given to students, how those avenues are promoted to students and what we can do to be a safe campus.
- Continuous improvements to student satisfaction, facilities and pedagogy, through the Student Consultative Committee, with the Faculty Society Presidents and members of Alec’s team.
- Considering the development of the Guild Relationship Agreement with the University.
- Giving student input on the SSAF funded-services and developing a long-term plan for SSAF capital allocation.
- Contributing to the International Student Barometer survey – working to improve the rates of participation and the results.
- Investment in amenities, especially toilets in the Guild Village.
- Contributing to the redevelopment of the Reid Library Collaborative Zone.

The Guild has been engaged in two major projects the University has been undertaking – the Renewal Proposal, and discussions on the Academic Calendar and the potential move to a trimester system. We have been communicating between students and the panels to provide meaningful input on behalf of students.

I have also been working with Chris Massey in his new role as Director Student Life, to contribute to the Orientation program, representation of college students and engagement with UWA Sports.

I was lucky to be sent to the Universities Australia conference in the middle of March, in Canberra. It was a valuable opportunity for me to understand the current trends in the higher education sector and the priorities of universities and government. It is an exciting time to be a student but we still face significant challenges within the sector!

External Issues

State Government

Members of Convocation may be aware that a Universities Act Amendment Bill may be tabled soon to the state parliament. The Guild have been working with the other University Guilds and Convocation to communicate our disagreement to amendments that could reduce the number of students on the Senate, and their method of getting to the Senate from elected to appointed. These changes will impact the quality of student input and student morale around engagement with the university’s governing body.

Federal Government

The Guild continues to engage with the National Union of Students to influence federal policy, and advocate against the introduction of Fee Deregulation. In a federal election year, where higher education is likely to be a large part of the election agenda, we will be working closely with NUS to ensure the SSAF is kept and to push for adequate funding from the government of the University sector.

We have plans to work with the University to better publicise what SSAF fees are spent on to show students the importance and value of the fee.

Conclusion

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present this report and share with you the current activities of the Guild and students at UWA. I wish all members of Convocation and the Convocation Council the best for 2016, and I look forward to engaging with you throughout the year. If you have any questions about this report, or would like to know more about what the Guild is doing, please do not hesitate to email me: president@guild.uwa.edu.au.

Maddie Mulholland
Guild President
UWA Student Guild
Introduction

Since the Second Ordinary Meeting of Convocation held in September last year, there have been a significant number of issues concerning the University reported in the press. Many of these issues and the actions being taken by the University are outlined in the Vice-Chancellor’s report for this meeting.

Although I am sure that all members of Convocation are vitally interested in the actions being taken to address these issues and the resultant impact on the University’s reputation, I will not duplicate coverage of these matters in my report.

The consistent advice provided by Convocation Council throughout this period has been for the University to communicate directly with graduates so that all members of Convocation are aware of the facts and the reasons for the actions being implemented rather than having to rely on metropolitan or suburban newspapers for this information.

Communication Challenges

Because all members of Convocation are life-time members of the University and therefore an integral part of UWA, communication with graduates and the other members of Convocation is viewed as vitally important in keeping everyone informed of the challenges facing the University and the actions being taken to address these challenges.

Like all organisations, UWA now uses a variety of electronic and printed material to communicate with its target audience. Finding the right balance between these two methods is one of the current challenges being considered by the University.

Over the past 12 months, a number of reviews have been initiated to ensure that the University is achieving the optimum balance in fully informing those graduates who wish to be informed without unduly annoying those do not wish to be bombarded by emails, letters and magazines from UWA.

UWA Magazines Review

One of the most important of these decisions with respect to communicating with graduates was the review initiated by the University to evaluate the magazines that it produces, including the Uniview magazine that is distributed to all graduates. Professor Terri-ann White, the Director of UWA Publishing, was appointed to undertake this review.

As the elected representatives of graduates, Convocation Council has been one of the main groups consulted as part of the review, in order to provide feedback on the content, format and timeliness of Uniview.

During the course of the review, Professor White has met with Convocation Council on two occasions and has had two further meetings with key members of Council. In addition, an appropriately qualified member of Convocation Council, Jim Paparo, was invited to be a member of the Review Committee chaired by Professor White.

Based on the feedback derived from these consultative sessions, one of the key recommendations arising from the review is for UWA to continue with printed editions of Uniview but to have it linked to a website in a similar manner to the Bostonia magazine produced by the University of Boston for its graduate community (see www.bu.edu/bostonia/winter-spring16)

Annual Report of UWA

Another important document which aims to provide an overview of UWA activities and the progress it is making to achieve its objective of becoming one of the world’s top 50 universities by 2050 is the Annual Report. Copies of the Annual Report of the University are available online for members of Convocation on the UWA website at www.annualreport.UWA.edu.au/annual-report-2015

A limited number of printed copies of the Annual Report will also be available at the First Ordinary Meeting. Please advise the Convocation Officer Ms Juanita Perez if you would like to receive a copy.
Review of Graduation Ceremonies

Another review of great interest to graduates is that currently underway to evaluate arrangements for the graduation ceremonies undertaken each year at UWA. This has been prompted by the significant increase in the number of graduation ceremonies resulting from the new course structure with many students now obtaining both an undergraduate and post-graduate qualification (and therefore attending two graduation ceremonies).

As a result, the number of graduation ceremonies has increased from 7–10 ceremonies in past years, to 23 ceremonies this year. The time and resources required from University personnel to attend and manage this number of ceremonies has become the catalyst for an evaluation of how to improve the process whilst ensuring that the unique UWA graduation experience is maintained and hopefully enhanced.

A Working Group has been established with representatives from all sectors of the University involved with organising graduation ceremonies. Chaired by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Community and Engagement Professor Kent Anderson, this Group also includes representatives of all stakeholders including the Students Guild and Convocation. Work is still underway with specific improvements being trialled at individual graduation ceremonies held during 2016 with a view to more permanent arrangements being implemented during 2017.

Review of Friends Groups

Another recent review undertaken which will be of interest to graduates was the review of Friends Groups conducted by Dr Sue Boyd announced at the Second Ordinary Meeting for 2015. The aim of this review was to identify the role and functions of the various Friends Groups and to prepare recommendations on the governance, resource requirements and support these Groups require to effectively undertake their functions.

Dr Boyd’s report was considered by the Senate on 14th March and will shortly be distributed to all interested parties.

Convocation Day

Convocation Day celebrates the anniversary of the first meeting of Convocation which was held on 4th March 1913. This year, Convocation Day fell on a Friday in weeks surrounded by graduations. As a result, a decision was taken to undertake only a low-key celebration with the intention to plan for a major event next year, when Convocation Day will fall on a Saturday.

However, this year we commenced an annual tradition by inviting the President of the Guild to plant a tree on the campus to symbolise the close working relationship we are forging with the Students Guild.

A native red flowering gum tree was planted by UWA’s 103rd Guild President, Ms Maddie Mulholland, in a location between the UWA Guild Tavern, Refectory and Shenton House.

Convocation Council believes the annual tree planting to celebrate Convocation Day is fitting for a University known for its beautiful grounds. The timing is also apt, with the event falling at the same time as UWA graduation ceremonies – ceremonies where graduands receive their degrees and automatically become members of Convocation.

Planning has already commenced for Convocation Day next year with the objective of encouraging all graduates to return to UWA by having a Saturday full of activities.

Ken and Jocelyn Elliott – Kidnapping in Burkina Faso

Earlier this year, we received the disturbing news that UWA medical graduate Dr Ken Elliott and his wife Jocelyn had been kidnapped in Burkina Faso. Both had worked tirelessly over the past 40 years to provide healthcare services to the impoverished people in the remote area of Djibo close to the border with Mali.

Thankfully during the first week of February, Jocelyn Elliott was released following mediation undertaken by the staff of Niger’s Foreign Minister Aichatou Kane Boualam.

At the request of the Australian Government, the University has made no public comment regarding the Elliots while negotiations continue for the safe return of Dr Kent Elliott.
Adjunct Appointments

As part of our on-going review of the Statutes relating to Convocation, during the past 12 months we have formalised the process for considering applications for membership of Convocation from those who are not automatically accorded this right.

One group of the University community who donate their expertise and time to University activities in both teaching and research are those holding adjunct appointments at UWA. While there are over 1,000 individuals contributing to the University in this way, Convocation Council recognised that all were not treated equally. Those holding adjunct appointments who were UWA graduates were automatically members of Convocation and therefore eligible to both nominate for and to vote in elections for the UWA Senate, Convocation Council and to attend the Ordinary Meetings.

However, many of those holding adjunct appointments who were not UWA graduates, were not aware that they were also eligible to become members of Convocation and therefore had the right to both nominate for and to vote in Convocation elections for the UWA Senate and Convocation Council.

To overcome this discrepancy, last year I wrote to all those holding adjunct appointments who were not graduates of UWA (and therefore not members of Convocation) to advise them of their eligibility to become life-long members of Convocation. I am delighted to report that my correspondence has resulted in many who have donated their time and expertise to UWA electing to become members of Convocation so that they can maintain a life-long connection with the University.

On behalf of Convocation Council, I therefore wish to extend a warm welcome to those new members who are eligible to attend an Ordinary Meeting for the first time.

Strategic Plan

During the past six months, Convocation Council has also continued to consider its strategic priorities and how best to capitalise on one of the inherent strengths of Convocation – its unique relationship with the graduates of UWA and their role as life-long members of the University.

This unique relationship has the potential to be a significant “point of difference” for UWA and therefore to enhance the benefits that may accrue to the University and graduates through this association. Part of the challenge faced by the current Council of Convocation is to build on this relationship and to promulgate a clear understanding of the roles and functions of Convocation.

At the March meeting of Council, the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan was approved by Convocation Council to guide our strategies over the next four years. A copy of the one-page synopsis is attached for the information of members of Convocation.

The basis for the Strategic Plan derives directly from UWA’s Strategic Plan and from the sections of the UWA Act and Statutes which designate the roles and functions of Convocation.

In the current version of the UWA Act and Statutes, Convocation has been assigned five key roles. These can be summarised as follows:

Representative Role
To represent the interests and opinions of members through effective communication and to present such views to the University and the community of Western Australia;

Governance Role
To encourage members of Convocation to participate in the governance of the University through the election of Convocation members to the Senate and the review of amendments to University statutes;

Contribution Role
To encourage members to support and contribute to the intellectual and cultural prosperity of the University community;

Engagement Role
To promote professional and social links between members of Convocation by creating and supporting opportunities for graduate interaction; and

Promotion Role
To promote the ideals and purpose of the University and Convocation to graduates and undergraduates, other members of the University and the community of Western Australia.

Review of University Acts

During 2015, the University was informed that the State Government was undertaking a review of the Acts that govern the arrangements for each university in Western Australia. The catalyst for this review were requests received from Curtin and Murdoch Universities for amendments to be drafted to their legislation to meet their future needs for development on their respective sites.

Since then, the terms of reference of the review has been widened to consider many other aspects including the size and composition of the governing councils of each University. Full details of what is proposed will only become publicly available once the review is complete.
available once the proposed amendments to the legislation for each university is tabled in State Parliament. The latest advice received from the State Government is that this is unlikely to occur before May 2016 due to a back-log of other legislative priorities.

Use of Electronic Voting for Convocation Elections

One of the cost-saving measures identified by Convocation Council is to replace the costly postal voting arrangements required by the UWA Statutes with an electronic voting system for all Convocation elections.

Whilst Convocation Council still wishes to introduce electronic voting for Convocation elections, given the potential changes to the UWA Act foreshadowed by the State Government, this work has temporarily been put on hold.

Once further details of the proposed changes to the UWA Act and Statutes are released by the State Government, a decision will be made on the best course of action to pursue to implement this cost-saving initiative.

Donation to Convocation

During November 2015, Convocation received $10,000 from the estate of Verna Rowbotham who specifically requested that these funds be used by Convocation for the granting of any scholarships that it deems fit.

Verna was the only child of Professor A.D. Ross, a founding Professor of the University and completed her science degree at UWA.

I have written a letter of thanks to the Executor of her estate and received permission to publicise this bequest in the hope that others may wish to follow Verna’s example.

Australia Day Honours List

On Australia Day, Convocation Council was delighted when graduates and other members of the UWA community were recognised for their achievements in the Australia Day Honours List.

Whilst kept confidential, the work undertaken on behalf of the Convocation Honours Committee is now resulting in an increasing number of nominations for UWA graduates thought worthy of recognition being sent through to the Honours Secretariat in Canberra. Given that the evaluation process conducted by the Honours Office normally takes 18-24 months, Convocation Council is hopeful that an increasing number of UWA graduates will soon start to be included in future Honours announcements.

Convocation Council

While the topics highlighted above illustrate the range of issues considered by Convocation Council, it does not convey a coverage of the more ‘routine’ matters considered by Convocation Council at its monthly meetings. To implement our Strategic Plan more effectively, our committee arrangements have been re-structured so that issues pertaining to awards, scholarships and events can be more closely aligned to our strategic objectives, whilst freeing up resources for long-term strategic initiatives. All members of Council are expected to take an active role in at least one of these committees.

Convocation Council currently represents the membership of Convocation through a Council of 21 elected members who are individually elected for a 3-year term with seven Councillors completing their term on a rotating basis every three years. In addition, the Warden of Convocation and the Deputy Warden are elected on an annual basis for a one-year term. Convocation Council comprises the 21 elected members, the Warden and Deputy Warden as well as the Immediate Past Warden, with the Warden of Convocation chairing each monthly Council meeting.

The current members of Convocation Council are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warden of Convocation</td>
<td>Adjunct Professor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Warren Kerr AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Warden</td>
<td>Mr Paul McCann AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past Warden</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
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<td></td>
<td>David Hodgkinson</td>
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<td>Mr Con Abbott</td>
<td>Council Member (2015-2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Paul Appleton</td>
<td>Council Member (2002-2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Devon Cuneo</td>
<td>Council Member (2011-2018)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Garry Hawkes</td>
<td>Council Member (2015-2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Kelvin Mahuka</td>
<td>Council Member (2015-2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Diana Salviris</td>
<td>Council Member (2015-2018)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Professor Lesley Cala</td>
<td>Council Member (2010-2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Colin Campbell-Fraser</td>
<td>Council Member (2005-2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Felicity Farrelly</td>
<td>Council Member (2014-2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Graham Harmsworth</td>
<td>Council Member (2015-2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr James Paparo</td>
<td>Council Member (2014-2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Jonathan Strauss</td>
<td>Council Member (2011-2017)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs Pauline Tremlett</td>
<td>Council Member (1988-1997)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Ashok Desai</td>
<td>Council Member (2002-2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Agi Gedeon</td>
<td>Council Member (2015-2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Robert Johnson</td>
<td>Council Member (2013-2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Susan King</td>
<td>Council Member (2013-2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Doug McGhie</td>
<td>Council Member (2013-2016)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Chuan Ong</td>
<td>Council Member (2013-2016)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ian Passmore OAM</td>
<td>Council Member (2007-2016)</td>
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On behalf of Convocation Council, I therefore wish to express our thanks for their contribution over the time they have been on Council, especially to Paul McCann who has undertaken the role of the Deputy Warden for the past three years, to Robert Johnson for his wise counsel as an active member of the Strategic Plan Working Group and to Chuan Ong for contributing his business expertise in his efforts to make Convocation financially self-sufficient.

I am pleased to report that by the closing date for nominations in December 2015, 26 nominations were received from members including two for the position of the Warden of Convocation, three for the position of Deputy Warden and 21 nominations for positions on Convocation Council.

I look forward to announcing the results of these elections at the First Ordinary Meeting.

**Questionnaire**

Whilst Convocation Council is comprised of the elected representatives of the members of Convocation, there are still a number of issues that we wish to seek direct feedback from members.

To assist us to be more aware of your views and interests on some specific issues, we would appreciate you completing the short one-page questionnaire enclosed with this report and then handing this back to the staff at the registration desk as you leave the meeting. Once we collate the responses, we will let you know the outcome and then implement the findings.

**Thanks to Convocation Council**

In conclusion, I wish to thank all members of Convocation Council who have contributed to the successful delivery of our roles and functions during the past six months and to commend the splendid support we have all received from the Convocation Officer Ms Juanita Perez in her untiring efforts to implement our requests.

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM
Warden of Convocation

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Ms Jennifer Low (Council Member 2015-18) resigned during October 2015 due to changed work arrangements requiring her to spend more time in Melbourne.

**Elections for Convocation Council**

As outlined above, each year Convocation conducts elections for the Warden, Deputy Warden and seven members of the 21 member Council of Convocation. The Warden and Deputy Warden are elected for one year terms and each member of Council is elected for a three year term.

In addition, as Convocation forms the electorate for the University, Convocation Council also organises elections for four members of the UWA Senate who hold office for four years.

In August 2013, Convocation Council took a decision to outsource the conduct of future elections to the WA Electoral Commission. We did this for a number of reasons:

- To utilise the specialist expertise of the WA Electoral Commission in organising elections
- To reduce costs as the WA Electoral Commission was able to conduct the election more cost-effectively
- To free-up resources in the Office of Convocation who would otherwise be engaged in conducting the elections.
- To encourage greater participation in the electoral process, as anecdotal evidence suggested that many members of Convocation often did not realise that they had received voting papers when these were enclosed in the first edition of Uniview each year.

During 2015, we again contracted with the WA Electoral Commission to arrange elections for the Warden, Deputy Warden, the normal seven members of the 21 member Council of Convocation and an additional member of Convocation Council to replace Jennifer Low who had resigned during October 2015 due to changed work arrangements taking her frequently to Melbourne.

In accordance with previous arrangements, the call for nominations was advertised in The West Australian, the UWA News, the November and December editions of the Alumni E-News bulletin and in the Spring 2014 edition of Uniview.

Although all members of Convocation Council are eligible to stand for re-election, the following members decided not to seek re-election:

- Paul McCann AM
- Robert Johnson
- Chuan Ong

On behalf of Convocation Council, I therefore wish to express our thanks for their contribution over the time they have been on Council, especially to Paul McCann who has undertaken the role of the Deputy Warden for the past three years, to Robert Johnson for his wise counsel as an active member of the Strategic Plan Working Group and to Chuan Ong for contributing his business expertise in his efforts to make Convocation financially self-sufficient.

I am pleased to report that by the closing date for nominations in December 2015, 26 nominations were received from members including two for the position of the Warden of Convocation, three for the position of Deputy Warden and 21 nominations for positions on Convocation Council.

I look forward to announcing the results of these elections at the First Ordinary Meeting.
Council of Convocation of UWA Graduates: 2016–2020 Strategic Plan

Fulfilling the Potential of Convocation – April 2016

Convocation Council has adopted the following:

- **Purpose**: To add value to the relationship between the members of Convocation and the University of Western Australia.
- **Vision**: A mutually-valued and lifelong engagement between members of Convocation and the University of Western Australia.
- **Mission**: To utilise the unique relationship between members of Convocation and UWA to provide feedback to the University and to champion the University through the commitment, skills and networks of Convocation members.

Convocation Council has structured its Strategic Plan around the five roles set out for it in UWA Statute No. 9: Convocation: Representation, Governance, Engagement, Contribution and Promotion, together with the overall management of Convocation.

<table>
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<th>ROLE</th>
<th>GOALS</th>
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| 1. **Representation**: To represent the interests and opinions of members through effective communication and to present such views to the University and the community of Western Australia. | 1.1 Council is recognised as a valued representative of Convocation members as stakeholders in UWA.  
1.2 Council and Convocation members are well informed of issues facing the Australian higher education sector, and UWA in particular.  
1.3 UWA decision-makers and the broader community are informed of and influenced by the views of the members of Convocation. |
| 2. **Governance**: To encourage members of Convocation to participate in the governance of the University through the election of Convocation members to the Senate and the review of amendments to University statutes. | 2.1 Convocation members substantially participate in elections for Senate and the Council.  
2.2 Council provides meaningful and timely input to changes to the UWA Act and Statutes, particularly those of direct relevance to Convocation.  
2.3 The UWA Act and Statutes include contemporary provisions relating to Convocation.  
2.4 New policy issues are addressed in a timely manner. |
| 3. **Engagement**: To promote professional and social links between members of Convocation by creating and supporting opportunities for graduate interaction. | 3.1 Recent graduates have an interest in and commitment to Convocation.  
3.2 Lifelong connections are maintained.  
3.3 Council has direct links to UWA’s sporting and other clubs.  
3.4 A valued package of benefits is available to Convocation members.  
3.5 Eligible non-members are encouraged to join Convocation. |
| 4. **Contribution**: To encourage members to support and contribute to the intellectual and cultural prosperity of the University community. | 4.1 Skills, networks and experience of Convocation members assist students, recent graduates and staff.  
4.2 Philanthropic support for UWA is encouraged. |
| 5. **Promotion**: To promote the ideals and purpose of the University and Convocation to graduates and undergraduates, other members of the University and the community of Western Australia. | 5.1 The value of a UWA degree is promoted to potential students, industry and society.  
5.2 The value of UWA’s teaching and research activities are actively promoted to society.  
5.3 A strategically determined range of Convocation scholarships and awards augments those offered by others. |
| 6. **Management**: To provide strong leadership and coordination so that Council’s statutory roles are fulfilled. | 6.1 Working relationships between Council, the DVC (Community and Engagement) and staff in DAR and other administrative units are strong and cooperative.  
6.2 Effective short and long-term financial and resource planning takes place.  
6.3 Council committees are configured to complement the roles, goals and actions in Council’s Strategic Plan.  
6.4 Monitoring and reporting to stakeholders of progress against the Strategic Plan is timely, transparent and tailored to audience needs. |
Convocation Officer’s report

The following is a list of graduates whose current whereabouts have become unknown since the Second Ordinary Meeting of Convocation on 18 September 2015. Graduates are listed according to the Faculty from which they obtained their latest degree, along with their year of graduation.

**Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts**
- 2008 Gemma M. Smith

**Arts**
- 1981 Janice E. Baker
- 1988 Geoffrey E. Bull
- 1996 Shannon M. Clarke
- 1993 Anthony M. Georgeff
- 2014 Xin Guo
- 2011 Rebecca L. Stafford
- 2001 Karen F. Vincent
- 2008 Robyn J. Walsh
- 1993 Gail H. White
- 1979 Bruce D. Williams

**Business School**
- 1995 Brett M. Adler
- 1996 Jeffrey N. Bell
- 1987 Brent L. Bonadeo
- 1991 Adam H. Boyd
- 2011 Cheyne E. Buckley
- 1999 Richard H. Hamersley
- 1993 Mark Skiffington
- 2013 Veronica Snook
- 1991 Anna H. Tan

**Graduate Research School**
- 1995 Justin Lee
- 1998 Ruth A. Reid

**Law**
- 1985 Richard J. Price
- 1985 Sharron F. Wise

**Medical School**
- 1995 Nicholas C. Bentley
- 1993 Jeffrey L. Frew
- 1993 Jill A. Harris
- 1994 Michael H. Lai

**Education**
- 2005 Samuel D. Cruise
- 1953 Anne H. Leach

**Engineering, Computing and Mathematics**
- 2006 Marco Datau
- 1997 Andrew Gibson
- 1951 Don H. Hewitt
- 2005 Andrew Wilkins

**Sciences**
- 2006 Jodie E. Bowling
- 1993 Jonathan P. Clarke
- 1986 Alasdair C. Cooke
- 1972 Rhondda E. Jones
- 1967 Ross A. Maller
- 1997 Jenny L. McRae
- 1974 Bruce W. Paulik
- 1998 Naomi R. Telford
- 1981 Shirley B. Watson
50th Reunion of the Graduates of 1966

Pauline Tremlett and the Convocation Events team are organising the 32nd Convocation 50th annual reunion for the graduates and diplomates of 1966. Your assistance in locating the addresses of the following with whom the University has lost contact would be very much appreciated so that they can be invited to attend and contribute their biographies to the commemorative booklet.

Mrs Pauline Tremlett can be contacted by telephone on (08) 9384 4657 or by email at ptremlet@iinet.net.au

Thank you!

Arts
Ms Cherry-Anne Black (Howard)
Ms Clare Booth
Ms Kathleen Byas
Mr Robert Casey
Ms Kim Chee
Ms Helen Colquhoun
Mrs Allison Cunliffe (Mitchell)
Ms Sandra Edwards
Ms Shirley Ewers
Mr Ronald Fell
Ms Sze Foo
Mrs Sharifah Ghazali (Syed Mansor)
Mr Charles Grahame
Dr John Hall
Ms Ursula Halls
Ms Rosemary Hayward
Mr Joseph Heinrich
Ms Philippa Heron
Mr Ian Hodge
Mr John Hunter
Ms Kathleen Kinsella
Ms Ruth Levene
Mr Lester Levinson
Ms Marianna Malot
Ms Annabel McCooke
Ms Ellen McKenna
Mr Donald Melrose
Ms Marcelline Moody (Burrows)
Mr Leslie Mutton
Ms Nguyen Ninh
Ms Phyllis O’Neil
Ms Eva Politis
Mrs Jacqueline Prior (Wickham)
Mr Alan Robertson
Mr James Robertson
Ms Maureen Ryder
Mrs Dorothy Shea (Thompson)
Dr Bryan Smith
Mr Terence Somers
Ms Barbara Spark
Mr John Taylor
Professor John Trinder
Ms Dianne Vasey (O’Neil)
Ms Janina Wasko
Ms Katherine Wills
Ms Kay Wilson
Ms Siong Wong
Mr Edward Wright
Ms Ljubica Zarkovic

Business School
Ms Catherine Chapman
Mr Rae Diggins
Mr Eric Evans
Mr Ross Fisher
Mr Boon Foo
Mr Ian Greenham
Ms Fook Heng
Ms Huynh Hiap
Mr Robert Ho Pak Cheong
Mr Richard Hubbard
Ms King Leong
Mr Ronnie Ong Hock Hian
Ms Theyventhiran Paramasivam
Ms Vigneswarer Ponnudurai
Mr David Rodway
Mr James Ryan
Mr Christopher Somas
Mr John Staote
Mr Hon Tang (Thin)
Mr Melvyn Tozer
Mr John Worthington

Education
Mr Richard Anthony
Mr Morgan Baker
Ms Jennifer Bryant
Professor Peter Cole
Mr Wayne Davey
Professor Len Edwards
Mr John Ewing
Ms Barbara Ferguson
Ms Maureen Frost
Mrs June Hutchison (Birt)
Mr Dwight Jones
Mr Antony Knight
Mr David Leung Nung Yum
Mrs Jacoba Lowry (Hos)
Ms Sylvia Narmontas
Mr John Peers
Mr Johnson Samuel
Ms Lotis Sims
Mr William Wallace
Mr Barry Wells

Engineering, Computing and Mathematics
Mr Yueh Sung
Mr Kia Tan
Mr Yew Thoo

Graduate Research School
Dr Md Chowdhury
Dr John Kelsall
Mr John Murdoch

Law
Mr Robert Pullan
Mr William Rayner
Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences
Dr Malcolm Bird
Dr Richard Hardy
Dr Robert Heady
Dr Murray Howse
Dr Margaret Johnston
Dr Peter Van Duren

Science
Mr Leslie Bousefield
Mrs Hung Ching Broughton
Dr William Broughton
Ms Cheuk-Yin Chan
Mr Kenneth Cheng Nai Kwong
Ms Peggy Cole
Ms Victoria Curtic
Mr John Donnelly
Mrs Mary Edwards (Lamb)
Mr Ian Everingham
Mr Eric Finkelstein
Ms Eva Fraser
Mr Bruce Gardiner
Mr Muhammad Ghani
Mr Ngie Gong Ngie-King
Dr Michael Gray
Mr Maxwell Greive
Mr Mui Han
Mr Ian Haynes
Mr Basil Hickey
Mr Donald Keene
Mr Allan Kent
Mr David Kirton
Dr Eric Ko Chok Fai
Mr Teck Kor
Dr Shui-Lung Lee
Mr Peter Lewis
Ms Liangchai Limlomwongse
Mr Frank Ling Chui Pui
Mr Wah Lung
Dr Brian Martin
Mrs Joan Maw (Walsh)
Dr John May
Mrs Eve Morrissey (Chamberlain)
Mr Warren Murphy
Mr Stuart Newton
Ms Wee Ng
Dr Donald Palmer
Mr Reginald Pearson
Ms Robin Peers
Mr Max Petrich
Mr Peter Ridley
Mr Terrence Robinson

Dr Vivian Robinson
Mrs Suzanne Stevenson (Boyd)
Ms Shuit-May Tang
Mr John Walsh
Mr Colin Ward
Associate Professor Chee-Hoong Wong
Ms Sin Wong
Mr George Yeats
Dr Desmond Yeung Chak-Yew