Council Members - Biographies

Ex-Officio Member
Chancellor
Mr David Gonski AC (Chairman)
BCom, LLB (UNSW), FAICD (Life), FCPA, Hon. LLD (UOW)

David Gonski is Chancellor of the University of New South Wales.

David is also Chairman of the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd and President of the Art Gallery of NSW Trust. He is also a member of the Sydney Airport Corporation board, the ASIC External Advisory Panel and the board of the Lowy Institute for International Policy, a Patron of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation and Raise Foundation and a Founding Panel Member of Adara Partners.

He was previously Chair of the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence in Australian Schools for the Commonwealth Government of Australia, a member of the Takeovers Panel, Director of Singapore Airlines Limited, the Westfield Group and Singapore Telecommunications Limited, Chairman of Coca-Cola Amatil Ltd, the Australian Securities Exchange Ltd, the Sydney Theatre Company, the Guardians of the Future Fund, the Australia Council for the Arts, the Board of Trustees of Sydney Grammar School and Investec Bank (Australia) Ltd.

(June 2017)

Ex-Officio Member
UNSW President and Vice-Chancellor
Professor Ian Jacobs
BA, MA, MBBS, MD, FRCOG

Professor Jacobs took up the role as UNSW President and Vice-Chancellor on 2 February 2015. He was Vice President of the University of Manchester, Dean of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and Director of MAHSC (Manchester Academic Health Science Centre) from 2011-2014. In this role he led a strategic initiative in the Faculty and MAHSC which delivered a new structure; implementation of a performance enhancement scheme; improvements in student satisfaction; a doubling of research grant awards; a major recruitment initiative; and designation of MAHSC by the Department of Health as one of six AHSCs in England.

Ian was previously Dean of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences at UCL from 2009-11, Director of the Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centre at UCLH/UCL (2006-10) and Research Director of UCL Partners Academic Health Science Centre (2009-11).

Alongside his leadership roles, he had a clinical role as a Consultant, specialising in gynaecology/cancer. Professor Jacobs directs a laboratory and clinical research team, focused on genetics, proteomics, imaging and biomarkers in detection and screening for women’s cancers. His research has received awards of >£30m from the Medical Research Council, Cancer Research UK, the National Institute of Health Research and the Eve Appeal charity. He is the Principal Investigator for the Cancer Research UK and Eve Appeal funded PROMISE (Prediction of Risk of Ovarian Malignancy Screening and Early Detection) programme and on several large multicentre clinical trials including the UK Collaborative Trial of Ovarian Cancer Screening in 13 collaborating UK centres and the UK Familial Ovarian Cancer Screening Study. He has an H-index of 61 and has published more than 200 scientific papers with over 15,000 citations including 8,000 in the last 5 years.

Ian qualified at Cambridge University and the Middlesex Hospital, completed an MD Thesis at Queen Mary University of London, the McElwain Fellowship at Cambridge University and an MRC Travelling Fellowship at Duke University, North Carolina. Ian was Head of Department of Gynaecological Oncology and then Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Queen Mary University of London from 1996 to 2004 and set up and directed the UCL Institute for Women’s Health between 2004 and 2009.

In 2005 he established the Uganda Women’s Health Initiative, which he still Chairs and which conducts a series of projects in Uganda including a cervical screening programme. He has been President of the British Gynaecological Cancer Society (2001-2004) and of the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (2005-2007). He is Medical Advisor to the Eve Appeal charity (also known as the Gynaecology Cancer Research Fund) which he founded in 1985, a Patron of Safehands for Mothers, founder and non-Executive Director of Abcodia Ltd, patent holder of the ROCA (Risk of Ovarian Cancer Algorithm) and holds a National Institute of Health Research Senior Investigator Award.

(January 2015)
Ex-Officio Member
President of the Academic Board
Associate Professor David Cohen
BSc (Hons)(Sydney), MSc (Queen’s, Canada), PhD (UNSW)

Associate Professor David Cohen was elected President of the Academic Board in 2016, having been Deputy President since 2010. He has been a member of staff at UNSW since completing his PhD in the Department of Applied Geology in 1990. He has served on a wide variety of Faculty and University academic committees and led the review of a number of academic programs.

David was Head of the School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences (BEES) from 2008 to 2016. During this time, BEES grew to one of the most research-productive schools at UNSW with a doubling in the number of higher degree research students and very large increases in research funding, publications and the number of research fellows.

David has over 30 years experience in exploration and environmental geochemistry research, with projects in Australia, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and North America. He has published over 70 paper, book chapters and major reports, including the Geochemical Atlas of Cyprus. He is associate editor of JGE.

David is a past president of the (International) Association of Applied Geochemists, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Geosciences and a Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales. He was the 2013 Australasian Institute for Mining and Metallurgy visiting lecturer to New Zealand. He is also chair of the Moore Theological College Academic Board and the UNSW nominee to the New College Board.

(February 2017)

Ministerial Appointment
Deputy Chancellor
Ms Jillian Segal AO
BA, LLB (UNSW), LLM (Harvard), FAICD

Jillian Segal was appointed Deputy Chancellor of UNSW Australia in January 2010. She has been a member of the University's Council since 2006. She is a professional company director with a legal and regulatory background. She is currently Chairman of the General Sir John Monash Foundation, Chairman of the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA), Chairman of the Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce (NSW), Director of the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, Trustee of the Sydney Opera House, Director of the Grattan Institute and is a Director of Rabobank Australia Limited, Rabobank New Zealand Limited and Rabo Australia Limited.

Jillian is a former Non-Executive Director of ASX and the National Australia Bank, a former member of the Remuneration Tribunal and the Sydney Advisory Council of the Centre for Social Impact. Jillian was a Commissioner and Deputy Chair at the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) from 1997 to 2002. Prior to her time at ASIC, Jillian practised as a corporate and environmental partner at Allen Allen & Hemsley (now Allens Linklaters) and also worked for Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York.

Jillian graduated BA. LL.B with the University Medal for law from UNSW and has an LL.M from Harvard University. Jillian was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003 for services to society through business leadership, in 2005 appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to business law, and received an UNSW Alumni Achievement Award. She was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia in January 2019.

(January 2019)

Ministerial Appointment
Pro-Chancellor
Mr Brian Long
FCA

Mr Brian Long is a member of the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. He is also the Deputy Chairman and Lead Independent Director of the Board of Directors of Network Ten Holdings Limited. He is the Chairman of the UNSW Audit Committee and is Chairman of the charitable organisation, United Way Australia.

Previously he was a partner of the accounting firm Ernst & Young for almost 30 years, and had been the Presiding Partner of the Ernst & Young Global Advisory Council and Presiding Partner of the Ernst & Young Oceania Area Advisory Council.

He is a Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia and has been a member since 1972.

(April 2012)
Member appointed by Council
Pro-Chancellor
Dr Jennifer Alexander
MCom Class of 1990
MHP Class of 1981
MB BS Class of 1974

Dr Jennifer Alexander is a registered medical practitioner, with degrees in medicine, health administration and commerce and medical specialist qualifications in medical administration (FRACMA) and public health (FAFPHM). She is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), the Australian Institute of Management (AIM), and the Australian College of Health Service Managers.

Jennifer is currently a non-executive director of Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRa), which is a medical research institute dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of brain and nervous system diseases, disorders and injuries. She is also an independent advisor on clinical governance to the board of Medibank Private.

Her previous UNSW appointments include Council member (2008-2012), Pro-Chancellor (2011-2012) and a member of the Board of Governors of the UNSW Alumni Association. Since 2005 she has been a member of the Alumni Leaders Network of the UNSW Business School and is also a member of the Leaders Forum of the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research.

She has served on the boards of the Health Insurance Commission, Medibank Private, the NSW Medical Board, Health Leaders Network, Health Communication Network, the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators, of which she was President (1994-1996) and of the national children's choir, Gondwana Voices, of which she was chairman (2006-2010).

Her previous executive roles have included Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (2009-2014), CEO Australian Institute of Management (NSW & ACT) (2004-2009), CEO Health Leaders Network (HLN) (1998-2004), General Superintendent (CEO) of Westmead Hospital and Community Health Services (1989-1995) and Medical Director and Deputy CEO (St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney) (1984-1989). She has also undertaken numerous consulting assignments in the areas of strategy, leadership and organisational development, organisational change and institutional strengthening with experience in Australia, NZ, Asia, UK, Europe and USA.

(December 2014)

Member appointed by Council
Ms Maxine Brenner
BA LLB

Ms Brenner is a Director of Origin Energy Ltd, Orica Ltd, Qantas Airways Limited and Growthpoint Properties Australia Ltd.

Ms Brenner was formerly a Managing Director of Investment Banking at Investec Bank (Australia) Ltd. She has extensive experience in corporate advisory work, particularly in relation to mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructures and general corporate activity. She practised as a lawyer with Freehill, Hollindale & Page (now Herbert Smith Freehills) where she specialised in corporate work, and spent several years as a lecturer in the Faculty of Law at both UNSW Australia and the University of Sydney.

Ms Brenner was Deputy Chair of Federal Airports Corporation and a Director of Neverfail Springwater Ltd, Bulmer Australia Ltd and Treasury Corporation of NSW. She also served as a Member of the Australian Government's Takeover Panel.

(July 2016)

Member appointed by Council
Mr Nicholas Carney
BCom, LLB (UNSW), MAICD

Mr Nicholas Carney is a Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills. Nicholas has significant experience acting for governments, consortia, sponsors, developers and banks on complex infrastructure transactions and major procurements. Nicholas has undertaken secondments in the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet (Legal Branch) and Westpac Banking Corporation (Asset Structuring).

Nicholas is the presiding member of the UNSW Risk Committee and a member of the UNSW Law Advisory Council. Nicholas is also a director of the Foundation Board of the State Library of New South Wales.

Nicholas graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance) and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales.

(September 2017)
Member appointed by Council
Mr Matthew Grounds
BCom, LLB (UNSW)

Mr Matthew Grounds is Chief Executive Officer and Country Head of UBS Australasia, a position he has held since May 2008. Until May 2014 he also held the position of Head of Corporate Client Solutions, Asia Pacific and was a member of the UBS investment Bank Global Executive Committee. Prior to being appointed as Head of Corporate Client Solutions, Asia Pacific in November 2012, Matthew held the position of Joint Global Head of Investment Banking.

Matthew is a member of the UBS Asia Pacific Management Committee and a Group Managing Director.

With more than 24 years of investment banking experience, Matthew is one of Australia’s leading corporate advisers and has been responsible for a number of landmark transactions for major Australian and international companies.

UBS is one of the world’s leading financial firms, serving a discerning global client base. As an organization, it combines financial strength with an international culture that embraces change. As an integrated firm, UBS creates added value for clients by drawing on the combined resources and expertise of all its businesses.

In Australia and New Zealand, UBS has been the number one Investment Bank for the last decade. UBS offers asset and wealth management services by combining local insight and credentials with the firm’s global franchise.

Matthew is Chairman of Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, a member of the University of New South Wales Council, a member of the Business Council of Australia and Director of the UBS Foundation.

Matthew graduated from the University of New South Wales and holds a degree in Commerce (Finance Major) and Law.

(July 2016)

Member appointed by Council
Mr Warwick Negus
BBus (UTS), MCom (UNSW), SF Fin

Mr Warwick Negus graduated with a Masters Degree in Commerce from UNSW in 1987. His career in the Finance Industry has encompassed roles in both funds management and investment banking in Australia, Asia and the UK.

Warwick began his working career as a management trainee with BHP in the early ’80s but in 1987, upon graduation from UNSW, he moved to Bankers Trust Australia Limited and began work in funds management. Between 1993 and 1999 he worked for Goldman Sachs as a Managing Director in its Asset Management Division in Hong Kong, Singapore and London. He moved back to Australia as Managing Director in the Firm’s Sydney-based Investment Banking Division where he worked until September 2002.

In 2002, Warwick co-founded 452 Capital Pty Limited, an independent fund management company focusing on the management of assets invested in the Australian Sharemarket. The Commonwealth Bank purchased a minority stake in 452 Capital in June 2005 at which time Warwick was appointed as Chief Executive of Colonial First State Global Asset Management (CFS GAM), Australia’s largest fund manager.

He is a Director of the UNSW Foundation Board, a member of the Sydney Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, and Director of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia. He joined the Council of UNSW in 2008 and has been the Presiding Member of the Finance Committee of Council since 2008. He is a Director of Washington H Soul Pattinson, a Director of Terrace Tower Group and Chairman of UNSW Global Limited.

(July 2016)
Professor Kristy Muir is the Research Director at the Centre for Social Impact (Business School) at UNSW Australia, a Professor of Social Policy and an elected academic member of UNSW’s Council. Kristy leads academic and applied research projects that help understand, measure and find innovative solutions to complex social problems in Australia. She works closely with local, state and federal government and agencies, not-for-profit organisations and civic groups, businesses and philanthropic foundations and peak bodies. Since joining UNSW in 2005, she has brought in over $10.5 million for research and capacity building projects focusing on children, young people, families and communities in addition to a broad range of social issues including housing, economic engagement, disability, mental health, place-based disadvantage and financial inclusion.

Professor Muir is widely published and cited in journals, books and is frequently a headline speaker at social impact events and academic conferences in Australia and internationally. Kristy is a member of key social purpose committees including the NSW Premier’s Council on Homelessness, Opportunity Child and Financial Inclusion Action Plan leadership groups, and her research has had a significant impact on policy, investment and practice.

Kristy Muir is a member of the Centre for Social Impact Executive Leadership team. Between 2011 and 2013 she was the Associate Dean Research (ADR) of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW. Her contribution in this role was recognised when she won the 2013 UNSW Staff Excellence Award for Senior Leadership. She was previously the Director of the Disability Studies and Research Centre, UNSW (2009-10) and held various roles at the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW (2005-09).

Kristy has a PhD in social history and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She is an alumnus of the Sydney Leadership Program and, prior to joining academia, worked in the not-for-profit sector.

(June 2016)

Elected Member of Non-Academic Staff
Aaron Magner
MEM (UNSW), LLM (UNSW), B Ec (Macq)

Aaron is the Director for UNSW Safety and Sustainability at University of New South Wales. Prior to becoming Director for UNSW Safety and Sustainability, Aaron was UNSW Sustainability Director and prior to that, was a lawyer at UNSW. Before coming to UNSW, Aaron worked for Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, the NSW Ombudsman’s Office, Turner Freeman Lawyers, trade unions (United Voice and the CPSU) as an organiser and research officer and as a legal writer and editor with CCH and Thomsons. He has also worked as a casual tutor at the University of Sydney.

During his time as an undergraduate student, Aaron was elected NSW President of the National Union of Students. Aaron is committed to improving the wellbeing of all staff and students at the university and is passionate about making UNSW the most environmentally sustainable place to live, learn and work.

(July 2014)

Elected Student Member
Postgraduate Student
Mr Nicholas Gurieff

Biography will be provided in due course.

Elected Student Member
Undergraduate Student
Mr Ike Schwartz

Biography will be provided in due course.