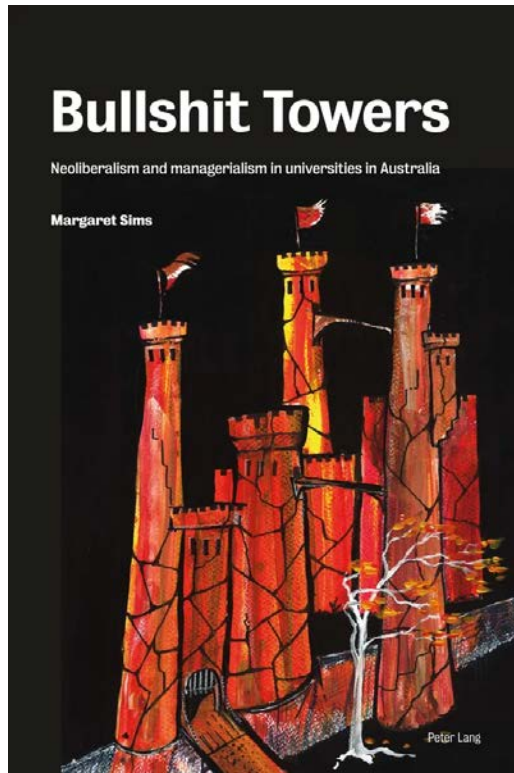


Convocation at the University of New England

Emeritus Professor Trevor Brown, Secretary, AAUP UNE Chapter
Dr Eric Ghosh, Chair, NTEU UNE Branch Governance Working Group

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Establishing Convocation at UNE



Margaret Sims, *Bullshit Towers: Neoliberalism and Managerialism in Universities*, Peter Lang 2020

“University staff are de-professionalized, disrespected and disregarded and managers increasingly define themselves as ‘the university’”

Brief History of UNE Convocation

Circa 1990: Small gatherings?

2012: Terms of Reference for a Standing Committee of UNE Convocation?

University of New England Act 1993

14 Convocation

(1) Convocation consists of—

- (a) the graduates of the University, and
- (b) the members and past members of the Council of the University, and
- (c) the present and past full-time members of the academic staff of the University and such other members or classes of members of the staff of the University as the by-laws may prescribe, and
- (d) such graduates of other universities, or other persons, as are, in accordance with the by-laws, admitted as members of Convocation.

(2) In this section—

- (a) a reference to the University includes a reference to any predecessor of the University, and to any former institution that became a part of the University or of any predecessor of the University pursuant to the *Higher Education (Amalgamation) Act 1989* (or otherwise) and is currently a part of the University, and
- (b) a reference to the Council of the University includes a reference to the governing body of an institution referred to in paragraph (a).

(3) The first meeting of convocation is to be convened by the Vice-Chancellor.

(4) Subject to the by-laws, meetings of Convocation are to be convened and the business at the meetings is to be as determined by Convocation.

(5) A quorum at any meeting of Convocation is to be such number of members as may be prescribed by the by-laws.

(6) Convocation has such functions as may be prescribed by the by-laws.

(7) The Council may establish a Standing Committee and such other committees of Convocation as it considers necessary.

University of New England By-law 2005

Part 4 Convocation

16 Additional staff members of Convocation

(1) The following members of the staff of the University are prescribed as members of Convocation for the purpose of section 14 (1) (c) of the Act:

(a) staff whose period of service with the University is at least 12 months,

(b) staff who are invited by the Council to be a member of Convocation or who are part of a group of staff that is invited by the Council to be a member of Convocation.

(2) For the purpose of section 14 (1) (d) of the Act, the Council may, by resolution, admit as members of Convocation such persons who the Council considers to have given outstanding service to the University or to be specially qualified to advance the interests of the University.

17 Function of Convocation

The function of Convocation is to submit to the Council such proposals as Convocation considers appropriate with respect to the interests of the University.

18 Quorum for meetings of Convocation

A quorum for a general meeting of Convocation is 100 members.

Membership of UNE Convocation

UNE Act 1993

14 Convocation

(1) Convocation consists of—

- (a) the graduates of the University, and **Graduates**
- (b) the members and past members of the Council of the University, and **+ Council members** **+ Academic staff**
- (c) the present and past full-time members of the academic staff of the University and such other members or classes of members of the staff of the University as the by-laws may prescribe, and
- (d) such graduates of other universities, or other persons, as are, in accordance with the by-laws, admitted as members of Convocation.

UNE By-law 2005

16 Additional staff members of Convocation

(1) The following members of the staff of the University are prescribed as members of Convocation for the purpose of section 14 (1) (c) of the Act:

- (a) staff whose period of service with the University is at least 12 months, **+ Professional staff**
- (b) staff who are invited by the Council to be a member of Convocation or who are part of a group of staff that is invited by the Council to be a member of Convocation.

(2) For the purpose of section 14 (1) (d) of the Act, the Council may, by resolution, admit as members of Convocation such persons who the Council considers to have given outstanding service to the University or to be specially qualified to advance the interests of the University.

Call for first general meeting of UNE Convocation

AAUP UNE Chapter actions

- 1) Created a petition seeking >100 signatures for a general meeting of Convocation.
- 2) Invited the interim Vice Chancellor to call a general meeting of Convocation.

UNE Act 1993

14 Convocation

- (3) The first meeting of convocation is to be convened by the Vice-Chancellor.

UNE By-law 2005

18 Quorum for meetings of Convocation

A quorum for a general meeting of Convocation is 100 members.

Call for first general meeting of UNE Convocation

The Interim Vice Chancellor

- Called and chaired the first general meeting of Convocation on 2nd December 2022;
- Included provision that Convocation should meet at least twice in 2023;
- Proposed to Council, on 30th November 2022, that a Standing Committee of Convocation be established.

UNE Act 1993

14 Convocation

(7) The Council may establish a Standing Committee and such other committees of Convocation as it considers necessary.

UNE Convocation: Proposals to Council

With NTEU UNE Branch:

3) Developed 7 proposals for the first general meeting

UNE By-law 2005

17 Function of Convocation

The function of Convocation is to submit to the Council such proposals as Convocation considers appropriate with respect to the interests of the University.

Proposal 1: Standing Committee of Convocation

Proposal 1: “That Convocation proposes to Council the establishment of a Standing Committee of Convocation ... with strong staff representation”

Convocation voting was: Yes – 450; No – 19 (96% Yes)

The only proposal that was accepted by Council in late January 2023.

UNE Act 1993

14 Convocation

(7) The Council may establish a Standing Committee and such other committees of Convocation as it considers necessary.

Draft Terms of Reference for Standing Committee

With NTEU UNE Branch:

4) Developed draft Terms of Reference.

Functions of the Standing Committee

To facilitate the role of Convocation in developing and approving proposals to Council

Membership (9 – 12 members)

- a. Chair and Deputy Chair elected by the Standing Committee
- b. UNE Vice-Chancellor or nominee
- c. Four (4) graduates of the University, elected by graduates
- d. Four (4) current or former staff of the University, elected by staff
 - 2 academic staff, and
 - 2 professional staff
- e. One (1) current or former member of Council, elected by Council members
- f. Co-opt two (2) members to ensure diversity.

Future Terms of Reference for Standing Committee

Functions of the Standing Committee

To monitor UNE Council committees, via sub-committees of the Standing Committee.

Membership on UNE Council

Include Convocation Standing Committee members: Two graduates, one academic staff and one professional staff.