

PROFESSOR STEPHEN GARTON AM – VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PRINCIPAL (2020 – 2021)

Professor Stephen Garton was the University of Sydney's 26th Vice-Chancellor and Principal and an ex officio Fellow of the Senate from December 2020 to July 2021.

PROFILE

Stephen Garton AM, FAHA, FRAHS, FASSA FRSN is a graduate of the University of Sydney (BA) and UNSW (PhD). Professor Garton's research expertise is in Australian history, although he has also published in American, British and British Dominion history, in areas such as the history of psychiatry, crime, social policy, eugenics, masculinity, higher education and war veterans.

Education and early career

Professor Garton was appointed as a Lecturer in History to the University of Sydney in 1987, becoming Professor of History in 2000 and Challis Professor from 2004-2009. He was first elected to the Academic Board in 1990 and served almost continuously on the Board from then until 2022.

Professor Garton held a number of senior management positions at the University of Sydney, including Head of the History Department (1996-98), Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1999), Dean of the Arts Faculty (2001-9), Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (2009-2019), Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (2019-20 and July-December 2021) and he was Vice-Chancellor (December 2020-July 2021).

As Dean of the Arts Faculty (2001-2009) he was responsible for developing strategies for ensuring the financial sustainability of the Faculty. During the 1990s the Faculty faced significant annual and accumulating deficits, resulting in a major decline in staffing levels. Under his leadership the Faculty was able to turn this around and begin to invest again in research and education. New education and research strategies resulted in a lift in the ATAR entry for the BA by more than 10 points, due to increasing demand for the Faculty's programs and by the mid 2000s the Faculty was also regularly ranked the best humanities and social science Faculty in Australia and in the top ten in the world (in one year it reached a ranking of five) in the Times Higher Education rankings. Other notable achievements included managing the transfer of Government and International Relations from the Business School to the Faculty.

In his capacity as Provost and then Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, serving Vice-Chancellor Dr Michael Spence, Professor Garton led or was co-lead for a number of initiatives, including the restructure of the Faculties, the rescue of the Sydney Student

Project, the transfer of Sydney College of the Arts from Rozelle to the Camperdown campus and of Economics and Political Economy from the Business School to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, the establishment of the University's Centre in Suzhou, the modern slavery project, the sustainability strategy, and key service reforms in areas such as HR, safety, governance and business intelligence. In these roles he also sat in attendance at Senate meetings and in many Senate committees from 2009 till 2022.

Following his role as Vice-Chancellor and Principal he was appointed as Principal Advisor to the 27th Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Mark Scott AO, although he returned for a brief period (April till October 2024) as interim Vice-President Operations.

In 2003 he was awarded the Centenary Medal for services to Australian history and in 2020 was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to tertiary education administration and to history. In November 2023 he was appointed President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

Accomplishments as Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Professor Garton served in the role for seven months, while the search continued for the 27th Vice-Chancellor. His focus during this period was to support students and the University during the COVID pandemic. He was also proud to launch the new Indigenous Strategy and Student Centre in March 2021.