Vice Chancellor’s Speech for Maple Leaf Agreement Signing

Time: 12 noon
Date: Tuesday 7th August 2018
Place: Council Room
## Running sheet – Maple Leaf Agreement signing and lunch

Council Room, Level 5, Hawke Building, City West campus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.00noon</td>
<td>Guests Arrive</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.05pm</td>
<td>Remarks by Professor David Lloyd</td>
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<td>Vice Chancellor and President, University of South Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.10pm</td>
<td>Remarks by Dr Sherman Jen</td>
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<td>Founder and President, Maple Leaf Educational Systems</td>
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<td>12.15pm</td>
<td>Remarks by The Hon David Ridgway MLC</td>
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<td>Minister for Trade Tourism and Investment</td>
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<td>12.20pm</td>
<td>Professor David Lloyd and Dr Sherman Jen sign the agreement</td>
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<td>Mr Nigel Relph and Mr Thomas Li witness the agreement</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.25pm</td>
<td>Professor Lloyd hands gift to Dr Jen</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Move to International Room for Lunch</td>
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• Ngangkirna, Miyurna! Naa marni Ngai nari David

• Ngai yarta-nungku yaku, ngai kunturrkinthi taakanthi ngaityu wardli

• Ngai pudlunthi naa-itya, ngai wangkanthi warra Kaurna meyurna, miipudlunthi ngaityu kuinyuntapin thi.

• What I just said, for those of you who have yet to come across Irish-accented Kaurna, is that my name is David and while I am not originally from this country, I am proud to call it my home and I do so in the language of the Kaurna people as a mark of my respect.

• We meet this morning on Kaurna land.

• The Kaurna people have performed ceremonies on this land for many centuries, and we pay respect to their living culture and the unique role they continue to play in the Adelaide region.
• The Honourable David Ridgway, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment

• Mr Sherman Jen, Founder and President of China Maple Leaf Educational Systems

• Mr Thomas Li, Director of Investment, Maple Leaf Education Systems

• Mr Sean Keenihan, Chair, Study Adelaide

• Mr Matt Williams, Advisor to Senator Simon Birmingham, Federal Minister of Education

• Colleagues and guests.

• Just over a year ago we gathered in this room to sign an MoU which really was an aspiration, a vision that would bring the outstanding bilingual education of the Maple Leaf Education group to South Australia.
• To create Australia’s first independent Chinese/English bilingual school.

• And now, a few short months later, we are here to make the vision a reality.

• Work is about to begin on refurbishing teaching accommodation for the Maple Leaf School at our Mawson Lakes Campus.

• And we have living proof of the School’s existence in its inaugural Principal, here today, Steve Bousfield, who is a great appointment with his long experience as Principal of Westminster School and of leading the establishment of an international school in China.

• UniSA likes “firsts” and we are truly delighted to collaborate with Sherman Jen and his colleagues on the first Maple Leaf University School in Australia.

• And indeed the very first independent bilingual Chinese school in Australia.
• As I remarked when we met last year, while Australia’s economic, cultural and educational ties with China grow stronger, the number of students studying Chinese in our schools seem to be going backwards.

• In 2016 only 400 Year 12 students studied Chinese as a second language – 20 per cent fewer than in 2008.

• I think it’s time we turned these numbers around, and through this partnership we are together well positioned to be leaders in the promotion of Chinese language education in Australia.

• As well as giving many talented Chinese students the opportunity to study in Adelaide.

• I am confident that the Maple Leaf School – University of South Australia will further strengthen UniSA as a globally connected and engaged university.
• And bring that greater connectivity to the State of South Australia, too.

• Sherman – you have made an amazing achievement in building from a single school founded in Dalian in 1995 to almost 40,000 students across many cities in China and now in Canada and – soon – Australia and Singapore.

• You have developed a unique educational model which blends the best of what China and the West have to offer.

• Australians need to understand more about China and young Australians in particular need access to high quality bilingual education.

• I am convinced that the excellent Maple Leaf “East-West” educational model offers the best opportunity and that there will in the future be a big demand for what you have to offer.
• We are proud to be associated with you.

• I hope you feel UniSA is a partner you can be proud of as well.

• UniSA was ranked 26th in the Times Higher Top 50 Under 50 World Rankings

• and 25th in the World in the QS Top 50 Under 50 rankings

• So we’re not bad company to keep.

• Sherman - thank you for putting your trust in us – we will certainly not let you down.

END