



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 25 March 2024
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building and via Zoom
from 9.00 am to 3.15 pm**

PRESENT: Mr John Allen (Chancellor)
Professor Richard Arnold *via Zoom*
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Mr William Bell-Purchas
Ms Pania Gray
Mr Alan Judge
Mr David McLean
Ms Kelly Mitchell
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr James Te Puni
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGY: Ms Cath Nesus

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Jackie Anderson, Acting General Counsel
Dr Leon Bakker, Director, Strategy & Planning
Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
Mr Mark Daldorf, Director, People & Capability
Mr Brendan Eckert, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Ms Katherine Edmond, Director, Communications
Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori and Engagement
Professor Bryony James, Provost
Mr Clinton Jenkins, Associate Director, Planning and Performance Management
Mr Simon Johnson, Acting Director, Campus Operations
Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Pasifika
Ms Te Waikamihī Lambert, Ngāi Taurira Co-President
Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Mr Aaron Nonoa, Manager, Pasifika Student Success
Ms Marcail Parkinson, VUWSA President
Mrs Rachel Scott, Risk & Assurance Lead
Ms Pelesa Semu, Senior Adviser to the Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Pasifika
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

INVITED GUESTS: TEC

24.27 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that Mr James Te Puni led the Karakia.
 - 2 that Mr Allen welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged Professor Richard Arnold who attended via Zoom.
 - 3 that Professor Robyn Longhurst, the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, was warmly welcomed to her first Council meeting.
 - 4 that an apology was received from Ms Cath Nesus.

Resolved: that the apology from Ms Cath Nesus be sustained.

Street/Gray
Carried
240026

24.28 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Received: declarations and disclosure of interests by members of Council.

- Noted:**
- 1 that there were no further disclosures of interest since the release of the meeting documentation.
 - 2 that Council members were reminded to advise the Secretary to Council of any changes to their disclosure of interests listing between meetings.
 - 3 that for item-specific disclosures, the Chancellor asked that Council members alert him at the time.

24.29 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 12 FEBRUARY 2024

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 12 February 2024.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12 February 2024 be approved.

McLean/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
240027

24.30 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 18 March 2024 (document VUWC 24/10).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the University appears to be in good spirits after the challenges of 2023 with a notable positive shift in mood. This is underpinned by the return of students to campus bringing an energy and vitality that has been sorely missed over recent years.
 - 3 that the positive enrolment picture the University has achieved for Trimester One and the work underway to make the University a compelling place to study was commended.
 - 4 that the Chancellor encouraged Council members to attend the Vice-Chancellor-hosted panel event on 29 April on free speech. More details will be available soon on this event which actively engages in a contemporary and complex issue in a University context in which we will truly embody our role of critic and conscience of society.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

Mitchell/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240028

24.31 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 18 March 2024 (document VUWC 24/20).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that the Vice-Chancellor commended the remarkable achievement and mahi of all involved in the 2024 enrolment result that shows an increase in EFTS as at the same time in 2023 and sets a platform for the University's future success. He particularly acknowledged Professor Rawinia Higgins and Dr Logan Bannister for their leadership in this turnaround.
- 3 that there is plenty of scope to build on the 2024 result and do even better in 2025. Engagement with secondary schools at the senior level is of priority.
- 4 that a number of staff events have been well supported including the recent Bowls tournament. There is a good number of staff registered for the upcoming screening of the documentary, Ms. Information and following this there will be another opportunity for staff to socialise.
- 5 that a recent Te Tiriti seminar had been well attended providing the chance for staff to discuss, listen and evolve their understanding.
- 6 that the Freedom of Speech Panel event on 29 April will provide an opportunity for a respectful discussion avoiding identity politics and embodying tolerance on this important topic, one which aims to offset the more extreme commentary and views on social media.

Resolved: that the report from the Vice-Chancellor be noted.

Te Puni/Judge
Carried
240029

24.32 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024

Received: the Financial report to 29 February 2024 from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Mr Brendan Eckert (document VUWC 24/21).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that expenditure was favourable to budget by \$7.3m mainly due to lower people costs.
- 3 that the Q1 forecast will be presented to the 22 April Finance Committee meeting to give a clearer picture of where FY24 will land.
- 4 that given the challenges of '2023', the Chancellor recorded his appreciation of the words 'favourable to budget' in the report on expenditure.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 29 February 2024 be noted.

McLean/Gray
Carried
240030

24.33 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 25 March 2024 (document VUWC 24/22).

Resolved:

- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 24/22, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 25 March 2024.
- 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

**Mitchell/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240031**

Noted: that a recent Salient article had covered concerns around students completing their study requirements in Trimester 3 not being eligible to attend graduation celebration events in May. Dr Logan Bannister, in the new position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students is looking into this.

24.34 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Received: a Council paper from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Mr Brendan Eckert, dated 18 March 2024, providing the 2023 Annual Report (document VUWC 24/23).

Noted:

- 1 that the Audit & Risk Committee considered the Annual report in detail at its meeting held on 11 March 2024.
- 2 that the Chancellor thanked all staff involved in producing the 2023 Annual report.
- 3 that Council was unanimous in its support as per the following recommendations.

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee, Council:

- 1 approve the 2023 Annual Report
- 2 approve the signing and release of the Representation Letter to EY;
- 3 approve the 2023 Annual Report for issue;
- 4 approve the online publication of the 2023 Annual Report as soon as practical.

**Street/Te Puni
Carried
240032**

the agenda was re-ordered to consider Item 11 as the meeting was running ahead of time

24.35 COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

Received: the following minutes:

- Te Aka Matua Committee, 26 February 2024
- Academic Board, 27 February 2024
- Audit & Risk Committee, 11 March 2024
- Finance Committee, 11 March 2024

Noted:

- 1 *Academic Board, 27 February 2024*
that there was commentary on the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research’s oral report to the Academic Board on the coalition government’s approach to Research funding. There is particular focus on areas including STEM,

innovation and Biotech. There has been a move away from the Wellington Science city concept, and changes to the PBRF process are possible.

- 2 that the Board's discussion on date setting was raised, particularly regarding the possibility of a shortened Trimester 3. The Vice-Chancellor confirmed that this was an ongoing exercise involving a lot of discussion and the final dates would require some degree of compromise.

Resolved: that the Committee and Academic Board minutes be noted.

Bell-Purchas/Mitchell
Carried
240033

at 9.30 am Dame Winnie Laban, Ms Pelesa Semu, and Mr Aaron Nonoa joined the meeting

24.36 PASIFIKA QUARTERLY REPORT

Received: a Council paper dated 18 March 2024 from Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Pasifika, providing the Pasifika quarterly report (document VUWC 24/24).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that Pasifika enrolments have increased and are ahead of the University's 2024 target
 - 3 that small increases in the number of academic and professional Pasifika staff have been achieved since the last report.
 - 4 that a strong focus on engagement to take the University to the community was key to improving the Pasifika enrolment figure.
 - 5 that the need for ongoing support and intervention to improve the grade point average for Pasifika students, which are below those of other student cohorts, was discussed.
 - 6 that the University's involvement in the Fale Malae is on pause, however the other parties involved are keeping the project going with the resource consent process under way.
 - 7 that the Chancellor recorded his appreciation of the work the Pasifika team is undertaking and especially acknowledged the engagement with the National University of Samoa and the joint opportunities being developed through this.

Resolved: that the Pasifika report be noted.

Allen/Mitchell
Carried
240034

at 10.00 am Dame Winnie Laban, Ms Pelesa Semu, and Mr Aaron Nonoa left the meeting

at 10.00 am Ms Marcail Parkinson and Ms Te Waikamihi Lambert joined the meeting

24.37 STUDENT PRESIDENT REPORTS

Received: an oral report from Ms Te Waikamihi Lambert, Ngāi Tauria Co-President and Ms Marcail Parkinson, VUWSA President.

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor welcomed the 2024 Student Presidents to their first formal Council meeting.
 - 2 that Ms Lambert and Ms Parkinson provided oral reports that covered a range of activities to welcome and support new students, along with advocacy being carried out on behalf of students.

Resolved: that the Student President reports be noted.

Bönisch-Brednich/Bell-Purchas

**Carried
240035**

at 10.20 am Ms Marvail Parkinson and Ms Te Waikamihī Lambert left the meeting

24.38 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 8 March 2024 regarding Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting (document VUWC 24/25).

Noted:

- 1 that further to the release of the Council paper, an additional panel event on Freedom of Speech has been added to the University's calendar of events. Details of this event to be held on 29 April at 12.30 pm in the Hub will be sent shortly and the Vice-Chancellor is keen for all members of the University community to attend and participate.
- 2 that the next meeting of Council will take place on Monday, 6 May 2024 at 9 am in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building, Kelburn Campus, Wellington.

Resolved: that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting on Monday, 6 May 2024 be noted.

Mitchell/McLean

**Carried
240036**

24.39 SPEAKER : DR LOGAN BANNISTER, DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, STUDENTS

Received: an oral report from Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students.

Noted:

- 1 that the Chancellor welcomed Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Students, to the meeting.
- 2 that Dr Bannister gave her early impressions after four months in the role.
- 3 that she commented on the work that is underway to make Te Herenga Waka a compelling place to study and the considerable mahi to be done in areas such as improving access to the University's data, improving our enrolment system and processes, and initiatives to improve our relevance and attractiveness to students.
- 4 that considerable focus will continue with Wellington Schools using what has worked well already in achieving the 2024 result. Engagement will be with both school leadership and school careers' officers.
- 5 that the University's Pastoral Care Code compliance is highly regarded. The recognition of Kevin Rowlett who received a Te Whatu Ora innovation award for his work at Mauri Ora was commended.

Resolved: that the oral report from Dr Logan Bannister be noted.

Judge/Arnold

**Carried
240037**

24.40

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 24/08).

Resolved: 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 15-27.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter The public conduct of each item below would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under the sections of the OIA identified below.		Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
15. Minutes of previous meeting held 12 February 2024	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
16. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing dashboard report	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
17. Consent to Borrow	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. Honorary Degree recommendations	Privacy	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Donation to the Fale Malae Trust	Privacy	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. AQA Audit – follow up report	Privacy, confidential basis.	s9(2)(a), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Learner Success Plan, Financial prognosis update, TEC guests	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

22. Vice-Chancellor's report	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Financial report to 29 February 2024	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Quarterly report on Te Hiwa's 14 priority areas	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. Strategy Think piece and discussion	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Committee and Academic Board minutes	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
27. Council only time	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)

In relation to each of the above items, no public interest consideration has been identified favouring disclosure of the particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override the need to withhold the information.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are set out above.

- 2 that such members of the senior leadership as the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor request be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, with the exception of agenda item 27, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Judge/Street
Carried
240038

the meeting adjourned at 10.40 am