

**Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington
Academic Board
Minutes of the meeting held at 1.00pm on 20 August 2024**

The meeting was opened with a karakia and everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

The meeting was held face-to-face in GBLT 1 at the Pipitea Campus and was convened by Professor Bryony James until 1.20pm, and then by the Vice-Chancellor Nic Smith.

PART A

40.24 Apologies, acknowledgements and welcomes

The apologies were taken as read (see appendix 1).

The Convenor advised there were no new members to welcome.

41.24 Part B of the agenda – items brought forward

No items were brought forward to Part A from Part B.

42.24 Vice-Chancellor Oral Report

The Vice-Chancellor's oral report was noted.

43.24 Written Report

AB24/61

The August 2024 report was received from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Engagement), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students.

It was advised that individual DVC reports have now reverted to being combined into one report as they were becoming lengthy. The Report was taken as read.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Report

Professor Robyn Longhurst spoke to her report.

The Academic Quality Agency (AQA) approved our One-Year Update Report for Cycle 6, available [here](#).

The Convenor advised the following.

We continue to be on budget but this is being watched carefully. Other areas are very solid and we are looking to grow back student numbers which are increasing. Starting to see students and staff back on campus which is positive for not only the university but for businesses as well.

Open Day is on Friday 23 August and is an important day and it is encouraging to see more than 4.5k registrations. People are encouraged to engage with prospective students as this makes a significant difference in showcasing the university.

Ongoing university review group work is being carried out with Sir Peter Gluckman who advised that a subset of that group talked to a whole range of different people across the institution, broadly falling into questions around governance of universities and roles of council, academic boards and senates and appointments of chancellors and council members.

Sir Peter advised they are interested in the structure of funding. The wider acknowledgment, from leadership and other universities is that the bums on seats model is not serving us well as a whole, and there is a desire to create incentives that produce collaboration, particularly in bespoke offerings and institutions in areas where there was genuine excellence, and also in areas where there was big infrastructural investment. They are interested in incentive structures have requested a written paper. These are recommendations that they will provide to the minister when the report is finalised.

Sir Peter advised the report was near being finalised but was waiting for the University Advisory report and is then going to provide both at the same time, ideally towards the end of September. There were 14 questions which were answered, and another 17 questions to come.

Finalised wording for the University strategy is pending approval at the next Council meeting in September. Focussed forums are being run a week later. Implementation plans are at all levels of the organisation and we are looking at how we are going to know if we are getting traction and are successful in that space.

In relation to the refresh draft it was noted that the value Rangatiratanga had been dropped. It was advised that because there are so many values it got confusing so needed to be condensed and that Rangatiratanga is in the University's Te Tiriti Statute rather than one area/being one value.

Timing of school visits at other universities have been earlier than Te Herenga Waka | Victoria University, but it was noted that this is work in progress.

A query was made in relation to student numbers pre-COVID. To be advised.

Action: Vice-Chancellor Nic Smith.

In the University News there are approximately 100 submissions for the consultation on the Faculty Realignment. The decision-making panel members are meeting on 4 December. There is a theme emerging from submissions, details of which will be in the Wednesday comms.

It was noted that at the end of last year's meetings there was strategic discussion time at the end of each Academic Board meeting and it would be ideal to include this in meetings going forward. The discussions are more of a framing and an attempt to combine aspects that might be missing.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Report

Professor Margaret Hyland spoke to her report taking it as read.

A new research mobilisation fund is live on the internet and open for application, with a panel discussion taking place on 28 August.

Research mobilisation is about engaged research which positions research to be used and have impact.

In addition is the Revised Research Excellence Awards, which includes a team award, a collaboration award, a team/collaboration award as well as a research mobilisation award.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Report

The report was taken as read.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori and Engagement Report

The report was taken as read.

It was suggested that while it is good to have a reflection of what has been taking place, it would be useful to add goals and strategic initiatives for the portfolio rather than a list or tasks.

The meeting was opened up for an opportunity for discussion and input. It was noted that the Academic Board is in a state of transition and that the Convenor is trying to include topics in the agenda each meeting where the group can add value to a piece of work. It is useful to think about how Academic Board operates and how we could make the most of the time together, and the DVC Reports could be part of that.

Suggestions included:

- To have a format of a commentary and highlight one or two areas.
- Level of detail can assist or constrain, if not enough detail, it is hard to see meaning so is a matter of balance.
- With people being busy they often don't read the papers entirely. This is considered the role of the Academic Board and members' responsibility. Note that papers are sent one week ahead of the meeting to allow sufficient time for reviewing.
- To include good-intention sessions like what was included at the end of last year's meetings.
- It would be good to have comparative statistics, so we know whether we are moving positively or otherwise.
- Discussions within reports on any problematic data so this can be dealt with, and not just the mention of data details but initiatives going forward.
- Have time for conversation in order to share information.
- Reporting on topics that prompt conversation, rather than addressing everything.
- Encourage everyone to ask questions to inspire discussion.

The Vice-Chancellor Nic Smith arrived at 1.19pm to convene.

In relation to offering scholarships again, it was advised that it was a funding issue so will continue to grow in that space and branch out to wider regions, as well as retain local shares, and consider a strategy going forward.

The strategy on the local market was queried and being open to international students. Logan is looking at marketing ways to cover those fees in attempt to appeal to students who want to experience international education.

After a robust discussion, a majority approval was given for the current paper *Item 6. Course Constraints Regulations (AB24-63)*. To revisit in 12 months' time in order to address issues from today, with discussions continuing in the meantime.

44.24 Media and Communication and Film Studies

AB24/62

An update on the implementation plan presentation and paper.

The Board endorsed the paper.

Sarah advised she is currently working on proposal to change the name of the school into something more concise. She thanked the two panels for the thoughtful and considered work undertaken that received positive responses and included challenging feedback on staff culture. Stephen Marshall was also acknowledged for his hard work.

45.24 Academic Year Dates and Scheduling Regulations

AB24/63

Dr Rob Stratford gave an update on the new Academic Year Dates and Scheduling Regulations. He advised this is an update of the existing Course Constraints and Scheduling Policy and Procedures and is not seeking to set academic dates for 2026, but acknowledges changes made to the policy.

After going out to consultation, feedback was worked through. It was acknowledged that the point of the grade entry deadline was too short as it currently stands at 3 days, but is proposed to be extended to 5 days.

Other point noted was holidays and putting 5 trimester points into 5 weeks. There is flexibility in T3 timetable, but a problem with closedown and holiday dates. Concern was raised that with new regulations the impact puts pressure on students.

Concern was raised that 65 hours a week is too much, and doing 40-pts in half trimester is 80 hours a week. This is asking students to do more work in a lesser time so is a student welfare issue. Points values needs further discussion.

The Board approved the paper.

There were no papers moved to Part A from Part B for this meeting.

Part C of the agenda

It was resolved that non-members be excluded from this meeting for consideration of agenda items 14, 15, and 16 in accordance with s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i) of the Official Information Act.

*The Resolution concerning exclusion of non-members was **resolved**.*

Resolution concerning exclusion of non-members (standing item).

PART B OF THE AGENDA

The following items, not having been brought forward, were confirmed.

46.24 Amendments to Delegations Statute and Delegations Schedule AB24/64

The Board noted the paper on amendments to Delegations Statute and Schedule.

47.24 Assessment Handbook Update AB24/65

The Board endorsed the paper on update on minor updates to the Assessment Handbook.

48.24 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held 16 July 2024 (Numbers 32.24 to 37.24) were confirmed. AB24/66

Note: Part C of meetings are excluded for reasons of confidentiality where applicable.

49.24 Report of the Academic Programmes Committee

The Academic Programmes Committee report was noted. AB24/67

The following 7 non-CUAP proposals were approved:

Faculty	Faculty Reference	Proposal Title	AB Reference
FADI	FADI 24/5 - BDI/1	Amend the BDI regulations (APC24/46)	AB24/67a
FHSS	MFA(CP)/1	Amend the General and Subject requirements for Design in the Master of Fine Arts (Creative Practice) (APC24/47)	AB24/67b
FHSS	BA/19	Make Special Topic ANTH 215 permanent as ANTH 216 (APC24/48)	AB24/67c
FENG		Amend the Data Science major (APC24/49)	AB24/67d
FENG		Update of AIML courses (APC24/50)	AB24/67e
FOS		Amend the PGDip ClinPsyc (APC24/51)	AB24/67f
FOH	FOH/24/1- BHlth/1	Amend the BHlth Regulations (APC24/52)	AB24/67g

The remaining items in the report were discussed/approved by the Academic Programmes Committee at its 23 July 2024 meeting.

50.24 General Business

No general business.

PART C MEMBERS ONLY

The minutes of 16 July 2024 were confirmed/approved.

AB24/68

Attendance

5 members attended; 12 non-members attended; 26 apologies were received (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed record).

The meeting closed: 2.40 pm.

The next meeting will be held on 28 October 2024.

Appendix 1: Academic Board attendance 20 August 2023

Professor Nic Smith (Convener)

Professor Graeme Austin	Professor Alejandro Frery	Christine McCarthy
Professor Ema Maria Bargh	Dr Nicola Gilmour	Professor Geoff McLay
Associate Professor Diana Burton	Dr Caz Hales	Professor Robert Mckay
Professor Jane Bryson	Dr Monica Handler	Stella McIntosh
Associate Professor Sasha Calhoun	Monika Hanson	Professor Nicola Nelson
Mairangi Campbell	Dr John Hayward	Professor Rewi Newnham
Associate Professor Sue Cherrington	Professor Sally Hill	Nan O'Sullivan
Dr Luke Chu	Dr Linda Hogg	Marcail Parkinson
Dr Tim Corballis	Associated Professor Val Hooper	Professor John Randal
Professor Alberto Costi	Professor Margaret Hyland	Dr Helen Rook
Professor Averil Coxhead	Dr Nigel Isaacs	Dr Mike Ross
Professor Joanne Crawford	Professor Bryony James	Professor Marco Sonzogni
Associate Professor Sue Cherrington	Sarah Leggott	Professor Paul Teesdale-Spittle
Professor Urs Daellenbach	Dr Andrew Lensen	Amandie Weerasundara
Professor Neil Dodgson	Associate Professor Spencer Lilley	
Dr Noelle Donnelly	Dr Jian Liu	
	Professor Robyn Longhurst	
	Professor Stephen Marshall	

12 Non-members present

Anita Brady
Lynn Grindell
Joseph Habgood
Dr Stuart Marshall
Kirsty McClure
Carol Morris
Dr Robert Stratford
Derek White
Linda Roberts
Varsha Narasimhan
Derek White
Okan

26 Apologies

Dr Logan Bannister
Professor Daniel Brown
Prof Professor James Crampton
Carmen Dalli
Dr Ben Egerton
Professor Nicholas Golledge
Professor Anne Goulding
Professor Nikki Hessel
Associate Professor Kathy Holloway
Professor Kate Hunter
Professor Annemarie Jutel
Professor Sara Kindon
Professor Dean Knight
Associate Professor Winnie Laban
Professor Karl Lofgren
Professor Catherine Iorns Magallanes
Dr Bruno Marques
Professor Joanna Mossop
Professor Sally Jane Norman
Professor Robyn Phipps
Cathy Powley
Professor James Renwick
Associate Professor Jenny Ritchie
Professor Elizabeth Stanley
Professor John Townend
Trish Wilson