

Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington Academic Board

Minutes of the meeting held at 1.00 pm on 16 April 2024

The meeting was held in the Hunter Council Chamber and convened by Professor Bryony James (Provost Vice-Chancellor's Office), on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith (an apology).

The meeting was conducted face-to-face and opened with a karakia.

Provost Bryony James, acting Convenor, opened the meeting.

13.24 Apologies, acknowledgements and welcomes

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

The Convenor gave welcomes and acknowledgements, in particular:

- A welcome was given to Professor Robyn Longhurst who started as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic in March.
- Appreciation was given to Professor Stephen Marshall for chairing the February Academic Board meeting, and for acting as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic in the time between Stuart Brock leaving and Robyn Longhurst starting.
- Appreciation was given to Caroline Ward who was acknowledged for covering the Academic Board for seven months from September 2023 to March 2024.
- Pam Green was farewelled and her contribution acknowledged, and best wishes were extended to her.
- A welcome was given to Carol Morris who is replacing Pam Green in Academic Programmes.

It was **noted** that the meeting was being recorded.

14.24 Part B of the agenda – items brought forward

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

15.24 Intellectual Property Policy (Margaret Hyland)

AB24/19

The Intellectual Property Policy was **received**.

Professor Margaret Hyland spoke to the paper taking it as read and the following points noted:

- The Intellectual Property Policy has been under development for several years. It has been reviewed and improved by feedback from staff across the University, at Faculty committees and at Academic Board. It will be presented to Te Hiwa for discussion and decision-making.
- The primary feedback from consultation has been the new licensing clause which allows the University to use Instructional Material developed by staff. Concerns were noted about the use of Instructional Material where a staff member leaves the University. The principles framework set out in appendix one of the document addresses this and other situations.
- The section on moral rights is more appropriate in the body of the policy rather than the procedure which will be actioned.
- A question was raised regarding the involvement of the Learning and Teaching Committee in relation to the use of Instructional Material and the development of guidance. Confirmation was provided that LTC had been engaged in the discussion but did not take up the development of guidance - a working group was formed which developed the principles framework to operationalise the licensing clause.

16.24 Responsible Research Policy

AB24/20

The Responsible Research Policy was **received**.

Professor Margaret Hyland spoke to the paper taking it as read and the following points noted:

- The Responsible Research Policy has been developed to replace the Research Policy which is not fit for purpose and out of date. The new policy aims to define and promote responsible research at the university, based on its values and the principles of the Royal Society Te Apārangi, and think about what those values might look like in the context of responsible research. It has been reviewed and improved by feedback from staff across the University, at Faculty committees and at Academic Board. It will be presented to Te Hiwa for discussion and decision-making.
- There was a rich discussion among members of the Academic Board. The main areas that were discussed included concerns that the policy could be used to shut down research, potential duplication of the ethics policy, the need to provide guidance for staff on the wider obligations to society and environmental consequence, ensuring that the policy upholds the Education and Training Act 2020 and supports academic freedom. Points were also made regarding the policy intent which is to enable and support people to undertake research, being able to use the policy to defend our research, acknowledgement that sometimes research may upset 'society' and can be a way of stimulating productive responses and the policy isn't intended to prevent people from undertaking controversial research, and noting the current review of the University sector that is underway. Further work on guidance on different aspects of the policy will need to be developed.
- Minor edits were also identified; a small typo on p.29, inclusion of the expectation to behave ethically which will be actioned.

17.24 Vice-Chancellor Oral Report

The Convenor advised that there was no oral report from the Vice-Chancellor as he was an apology for the meeting.

18.24 Written Reports

AB24/21

The March 2024 reports from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Engagement), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students were **received**.

Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic spoke to her report which was taken as read.

A work integrated learning conference was held on 9-10 April and was very successful, with positive feedback.

Usefulness to students of course outlines was discussed. The VUWSA President confirmed that the outlines are very useful when they contain all of the required information but did not always serve well as a recruitment aid if key information was missing. There was consensus that all courses need a thorough course outline as it serves as a critical tool for students as they consider what courses to take. This shouldn't be rushed as there is value-creation required through many of the university's channels. There is also the need to provide clear expectations on baseline assessments as part of course outlines. The intention is for the information is to be provided via Nuku which is the forum most students use, and staff are also asked to use.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Report

Professor Margaret Hyland spoke to her report taking it as read. She noted that both the University Advisory Group and Science System Review Advisory Panels have been established now.

There was a brief discussion on chairing oral PhD exams and the workload this requires. Year to date there have been 97 and there are a further 97 under examination over the next three months.

Action item: Professor Neil Dodgson to consider the impact of PhD oral exams on Academic staff, and report back to the next meeting.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Report

The report was taken as read.

Doctor Logan Bannister spoke to her report. There is still a lot of work to be done to reach year-end targets, noting this is still on-track. She encouraged staff to get involved with recruitment efforts for 2025 as activity ramps up.

The pipeline is not fixed yet and will show the effects of '2023' for several years. A push is underway for T2 2024 enrolments to attract people who have been made redundant in the public sector as the coalition government makes significant cuts to the public service.

Māori and Engagement Report

The report was taken as read and there were no further questions or comments.

19.24 CUAP ROUND TWO PROPOSALS (1 MAY) 2024

AB24/22

The Board was asked to approve 1) the Bachelor of Popular Music submission and 2) the Bachelor of Environment and Society submission (below).

FHSS (APC24/13) Bachelor of Popular Music

AB24/22a

There was discussion on the merits of having a Bachelor of Popular Music.

Associate Professor Dugal McKinnon noted that the Bachelor of Popular Music should prove to be a good vehicle to attract students and ensure sustainability especially as popular music is already part of our professional practice. Public perception is that the Bachelor of Music is perceived as an elite degree and is not easy to get into. The Bachelor of Popular music gives accessibility, does not include music theory, and students can take majors outside or within BPM which provides more options.

The team was complimented on the work put into the proposal.

Professor Longhurst added that the letters from external partners and supporters are important, and she is looking forward to a great proposal.

It was queried whether this incorporates student capability to move within the industry and whether there are any music business type courses. AP McKinnon explained that Massey University is doing commercial music explicitly, but they are narrower in scope. Victoria is offering a range of courses that would position them well, not just in popular music but in a whole number of areas in the music industry. He noted that it is a relatively small industry.

It was asked whether this could be limiting the vision to students staying local and Dugal advised his ambitions are to expand in time and that it is better to scope what we already have on the table and expand from there.

The Board **approved** the request for FHSS (APC24/13) Bachelor of Popular Music will now go to CUAP.

Bryony James (majority)

(APC24/14) Bachelor of Environment and Society

AB24/22b

Dean, Professor Nicky Nelson and Professor Monica Handler presented the paper noting there are 12 majors with potential for more. This is a specific investment by five faculties and 150 courses which have an environmental flavour so this degree will be a showcase to new students. Professor Nelson thanked everyone, particularly Professor Paul Teesdale-Spittle.

The proposed degree provides an opportunity for individual disciplines to integrate and look at the environment and its impacts, and to provide specific opportunities to study climate change. The degree is focussed on real issues in the environment and society, and the intention is for students to graduate with skills to tackle these issues.

There was discussion on the non-inclusion of STAT 193, or a similar under-pinning research methods course. On balance it had been decided to proceed with the proposal as submitted acknowledging that many students are put off degree programmes that have a mandatory statistics requirement. Members of the board expressed their concern that this critical area of understanding was off the table, particularly in science disciplines.

Professor Longhurst conveyed appreciation to everyone across the university who had contributed to the development of the Bachelor of Environment and Science.

The Board **approved** the request for (APC24/14) Bachelor of Environment and Society AB24/22b.

Bryony James (majority)

20.24 Academic Year Dates

AB24/23

The approved 2026 and 2027 academic year dates were noted by the Board. The decision on these dates followed the same 'balance of wellbeing' considerations used for the decision on 2025 Academic Year Dates. The continuation of the same '10-week T3' approach that is being used for 2025 was also noted.

There was discussion on the T1 2024 GED (grade entry deadline) with one request to make it later (i.e. 1 July rather than 26 June) and an equally strong request to leave it where it is set. A suggestion was made to look at a solution that included moving assessment activity for large courses earlier as one approach. It was acknowledged there is no perfect solution and Professor Longhurst agreed to take advice and come back on this.

Academic year dates were **noted**.

21.24 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**.*

S. Marshall

Part B of the agenda

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

- **The minutes of the Academic Board meeting** held 27 February 2024 (Numbers 10.24 to 12.24) were **confirmed**. *AB24/24*

Note: Part C of the 27 February 2024 meeting was excluded for reasons of confidentiality

- **Report of the Academic Programmes Committee**

The Academic Programmes Committee report was **noted**.

AB24/25

- **2024 Academic Programme Review Schedule** *AB24/26*

The Academic Programme Review Schedule (covering programme reviews and implementation plans for Asian Languages and Cultures, and European and Latin American Languages and Cultures; and Cultural Anthropology; and the Deans' updates on Implementation Plans for a range of Programmes including: Te Kawa a Māui, History, Music, Linguistics and Applied Language Studies, Political Studies and International Relations, Sociology, Marketing & International Business) was **noted**.
- **University Research Committee Annual Report 2023**

The University Research Committee Annual Report was **noted**. *AB24/27*
- **CAD Annual Report**

The CAD Annual Report was **noted**. *AB24/28*
- **Library Developments Annual Report 2023**

The Library Developments Annual Report 2023 was **noted**. *AB24/29*
- **Faculty of Graduate Research Annual Report 2023**

The Faculty of Graduate Research Annual Report 2023 was **noted**. *AB24/30*

22.24 Part C members only

At 2.28 pm, non-members, except Carol Morris (minute taker), left the meeting to allow members to discuss confidential items.

Attendance

68 members attended; 19 non-members attended; 26 apologies were received (refer to Appendix 1 for the detailed record).

The meeting closed: 2.29 pm.

The next meeting will be held on 11 June 2024.

Appendix 1: Academic Board attendance 16 April 2024

Members

Professor Bryony James
Dr Barbara Allen
Professor Richard Arnold
Professor Susan Ballard
Dr Logan Bannister
Professor Brigitte Bonisch-Brednich
Professor Todd Bridgman
Professor Daniel Brown
Associate Professor Diana Burton
Professor Juan Canales
Professor Averil Coxhead
Professor James Crampton
Professor Joanne Crawford
Professor Carmen Dalli
Professor Kevin Dew
Dr Ben Egerton
Professor Alejandro Frery
Dr Nicola Gilmour
Professor Lee Godden
Professor Nicholas Golledge
Professor Anne Goulding
Dr Caz Hales
Associate Professor Meegan Hall
Dr Monica Handler
Monica Hanson
Dr John Haywood
Professor Sally Hill
Dr Linda Hogg
Associate Professor Val Hooper
Professor Kate Hunter
Professor Margaret Hyland
Dr Nigel Isaacs
Professor Bryony James
Professor Annemarie Jutel
Marshall
Professor Simon Keller
Associate Professor Dame Hon. Winnie Laban
Professor Sarah Leggott
Giacomo Lichtner
Professor Hai Lin
Professor Karl Lofgren
Professor Robyn Longhurst
Professor Simon Mackenzie

Professor Lisa Marriott
Professor Stephen Marshall
Professor Karen McBride-Henry
Professor Nicola Nelson
Professor Rewi Newnham
Professor Sally-Jane Norman
Professor Nan O'Sullivan
Marcail Parkinson
Professor Robyn Phipps
Associate Professor Janet Pitman
Professor John Randal
Associate Professor Jenny Ritchie
Dr Helen Rook
Dr Mike Ross
Associate Professor Benjamin Ruck
Colin Simpson
Professor Karen Smith
Professor Paul Teesdale-Spittle
Professor Jack Vowles
Amandie Weerasundara
Trish Wilson
Professor Marc Wilson

Non-Members

Brendon Blue
Kimberly Cannady
Porita Fruean
Amber Flynn
Lynn Grindell
Joseph Habgood
Grace Leask
Carol Morris
Robert Stratford
Derek White
Andrew Wilks
Cathy Powley
Dan Sinclair
Payoshani Shugroo
Andrew Wilks
Varsha Narasimhan
Caroline Ward
Derek White

Apologies

Andrew Lensen
Catherine Iorns Magallanes
Claire Freeman
Dean Knight
Elizabeth Stanley
Graeme Austin
Karin Lasthuizen
Jane Bryson
Joanna Merwood-Salisbury
John Townend
Marco Sonzogni
Michael Winikoff
Nathaniel Davis
Natalie Lindsay
Neil Dodgson
Nic Smith
Pierson Palmer
Rebecca Priestley
Sara Kindon
Sarah Ross
Siah Hwee Ang
Sue Cherrington
Tim Corballis
Urs Daellenbach
Vanessa Green