

**Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington  
Academic Board  
Minutes of the meeting held at 1.00 pm on 11 June 2024**

The meeting was held in the VSLT1 lecture theatre in Vivian Street - Architecture Campus, and conducted face-to-face.

The meeting was convened by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Nic Smith who opened the meeting with a karakia and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**PART A**

**24.24 Apologies, acknowledgements and welcomes**

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

The Convenor gave the following acknowledgements:

- A farewell to Professor Karen McBride-Henry, Professor of Nursing.
- A welcome to Jian Liu, Acting head of the NZ School of Music.
- Appreciation was extended to Catherine Ritchie who attended the meeting to carry out the interactive survey in the meeting.

A survey was conducted on *Academic Freedom – Critic and Conscience*. Attendees completed the survey on their devices and a discussion took place. Many attendees felt there was value in this opportunity, and were supportive in general of taking the suggested feedback onboard. It was proposed that a survey or questions/polling of our community should address some of the points. A report with outcomes will be sent to people who requested a copy post the survey.

One point for discussion was the suggestion that the community could improve with allowing more of a voice for women.

Nic thanked everyone for their valued critique and input, and advised he will come back to the Academic Board before the survey is rolled-out to all staff.

**25.24 Part B of the agenda – items brought forward**

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

**26.24 Vice-Chancellor Oral Report**

AB24/32

The Vice-Chancellor's oral report was noted.

An unremarkable budget was received for universities. Discussions were held with Ministers' Penny Simmonds and Nicola Willils in relation to the budget with a 2.5% increase in SAC

funding, and a 6% increase in student fees. This shows a shift from government to individual responsibility and is well below what was expected. This was pointed out to the ministers as well as the shift in aggregate being well below the rate of inflation which has affected our sector for some time now.

Last week the University opened the Innovation Hub on the fifth floor of Rutherford House where nine start-ups are being co-housed with the University, with considerable positive feedback. This gives an opportunity of engaging with the University in providing opportunities for students creating work and integrated learning opportunities. We are now looking at the direction of how we engage materially, as well as academically and collaboratively, with the wider Wellington ecosystem. There are real opportunities to continue to grow in this space.

Positive and valuable feedback was received on the five questions that were proposed to the University as a whole, and were also exercised in focus groups, some of which were created around those questions, others which were standing committees in the University who were affected on either all or some of those questions. Staff forums will be run after feedback is reviewed.

The central ideas and framework are based around three words – connection, collaboration and community, and how we then use our differences, and particularly our strengths to work together as a community. There are different elements of the priorities to look at where the vision might take us based on those three themes. This will be discussed as part of the forums next week. We will be running a second set of forums the following day with staff survey results and people are encouraged to attend.

We will be talking about staff survey reports. There is a 79% dissipation rate which is high by any university sector, with the average being 63%.

There were issues identified around our promotions processes, and our workload allocation. The biggest mover of any of the questions was confidence in the senior leadership team, which was up 19 points from a very low base in the last survey. We need to reflect and reprioritise with appropriate actions, and this will be the key part of discussions next week.

A *Freedom of Speech* event was held on 28 May. There was a lot of engagement within the University and the event also generated a lot of press, particularly when the event was postponed. It was a success in the capacity to get different voices around a table bringing respect, but also highlighting deficiencies, particularly in evidence around what that looks like. There was a lot of agreement between panellists who came from very different views, but also disagreement on the need for universities to be regulated in this space, and how that might be done.

Data was presented on or postulated and suggested that academics are sometimes afraid to speak out on issues that are important to them, with relevant data being discussed in the media. Validity of the information was also questioned but considered appropriate in that environment. One of the intentions was to bring scrutiny and light to issues rather than pretend we don't need to engage, and it was questioned whether we really understand our own community. Out of that process, Rebecca Priestly was acknowledged.

Attendees were invited to participate in a brief mentimeter-based survey by Reese Moors, the director in the office of Vice Chancellor, in what is considered to be a prelude to this broader project. This was preceded by an introductory audio-visual from Mark Wilson on behalf of Professors' Jack Vowles and Rebecca Priestly (who were unable to attend due to illness and prior commitments). Mark advised that he was invited to consult on the development of a survey instrument that can be used to gauge how our colleagues across the institution more widely feel about academic freedom, their comforts, speaking up, speaking against or speaking for both, received wisdom, or new ideas stands.

## **27.24 Written Reports**

AB24/33

The June 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**.

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Report**

Professor Robyn Longhurst spoke to her report taking it as read.

An award was received for the curriculum management system of an engraved crystal plaque but unfortunately the gift was broken when it arrived and is now being replaced.

A one-year update report was received that was worked on by members of the AQA team in relation to the Cycle 6 Academic Audit, and the draft was reviewed with some modifications being made. While we have achieved in some areas, we have been constrained by financial sustainability changes. Once the report has been approved by the AQA Board, it will go on the Te Herenga Waka website and be made public.

It has been a busy period in course administration and timetabling, and putting together proposals.

One change to note is that under the section *Quality and Policy*, Robert Stratford has suggested that we can learn from the academic program reviews. This will be discussed at the Learning and Teaching Committee before going to the Academic Board.

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Report**

Professor Margaret Hyland spoke to her report taking it as read. Two points were added.

1. Submissions have been made to both the Science System Advisory Group and the University Advisory Group, and are available on the University website <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/about/governance/university-publications>. Appreciation was given to everyone who contributed to the submissions, and it is hoped that this prompts a conversation between the advisory groups and the University to provide further nuance to the high-level comments in our submissions.
2. There is a new system for managing applications for human and animal ethics called Hōkai which will be launched in July. Information on this can be located at <https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/research/support/hokai-ethics-management> which also provides information on upcoming training sessions. This was prompted because

research master, which is the tool that we use for ethics and for postgraduate candidature management, has not been fit-for-purpose for quite some time.

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Report**

The report was taken as read.

Logan gave an update on scholarships. T2 scholarships are up to 22 in the admissions process, so there has not been as many as expected, although the 'noise' and feedback around this initiative has been positive for Wellington and demonstrates that the University can be agile.

John Haywood advised that we get told about student scholarships but there has been little information about past impact on success rates, and that it would be good to get a report on this in the future.

Logan advised that for scholarships, this would not be a problem as it is now part of the process to track scholarship students through their journey. A summary of those students will be bought back via a report to Academic Board.

The numbers of applications against faculty was queried.

Action: Logan to send out to Deans information around what T2 Public Sector Scholarship course selection belongs to what faculty and what are the numbers.

It was queried who gives course advice to international students. Logan passed this to Rawinia for comment.

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori and Engagement Report**

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

## **28.24 CUAP ROUND TWO PROPOSALS (1 AUGUST) 2024**

The Board was asked to approve the following submissions:

### **(APC 24/22) FADI MDT/1 – Amend the MDT Programme**

AB24/34

Student attendees gave their support. Marcail thanked everyone for taking comments onboard re the protection of the Maturanga Māori content and was excited to see the finalised paper.

The Board **approved** the request for FADI MDT/1 (APC24/22)– Amend the MDT Programme to go to CUAP.

### **(APC24/27) LLB/1 Introduction of compulsory Tikanga course**

AB24/35

The Board **approved** the (APC24/27) LLB/1 Introduction of compulsory Tikanga course *and* the (APC24/24) FHSS BA(Hons)1 – Introduce new 400-level SACS/SOSC courses proposals.

### **(APC24/24) FHSS BA(Hons)1 – Introduce new 400-level SACS/SOSC courses and amend Honours requirements for ANTH/SOSC/RELI**

AB24/36

The Board **approved** the request for (APC24/28) FHSS BA(Hons)1 – Introduce new 400-level SACS/SOSC courses and amend Honours requirements for ANTH/SOSC/RELI.

## **29.24 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**.*

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

## **PART B OF THE AGENDA**

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

**The minutes of the Academic Board meeting** held 16 April 2024 (Numbers 13.24 to 23.24) were **confirmed**. AB24/37

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

### **Report of the Academic Programmes Committee**

The Academic Programmes Committee report was **noted**. AB24/38

### **Update to Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Faculty Board of FADI** AB24/39

The Board **approved** the request for the ToR to be updated.

## **PART C MEMBERS ONLY** AB24/40

Discussion did not take place for Part C of the meeting as there were no items submitted to be discussed.

### *Attendance*

51 members attended; 19 non-members attended; 30 apologies were received (refer to Appendix 1 for detailed record).

The meeting closed: 2.28 pm.

The next meeting will be held on 16 July 2024.

## **Appendix 1: Academic Board attendance 11 June2024**

Professor Nic Smith (Convener)

Associate Professor Jenny Ritchie  
Associate Professor Kathy Holloway  
Associate Professor Meegan Hall  
Associate Professor Sue Cherrington  
Dr Caz Hales  
Dr Helen Rook  
Dr John Haywood  
Dr Linda Hogg  
Dr Logan Bannister  
Dr Luke Chu  
Dr Mike Ross  
Dr Monica Handler  
Dr Nicola Gilmour  
Dr Tim Corballis  
Professor Alberto Costi  
Professor Annemarie Jutel  
Professor Averil Coxhead  
Professor Bryony James  
Professor Carmen Dalli  
Professor Daniel Brown  
Professor Dave Harper  
Professor Graeme Austin  
Professor Hai Lin  
Professor Jane Bryson  
Professor Jim McAloon  
Professor Karen McBride-Henry  
Professor Karen Smith  
Professor Margaret Hyland  
Professor Neil Dodgson  
Professor Nicola Nelson  
Professor Nikki Hessel  
Professor Paul Teesdale-Spittle  
Professor Rawinia Higgins  
Professor Rebecca Priestley  
Professor Rewi Newnham  
Professor Robyn Longhurst  
Professor Robyn Phipps  
Professor Sarah Leggott  
Professor Sarah Ross  
Professor Simon Keller

Professor Simon Mackenzie  
Professor Stephen Cummings  
Professor Stephen Marshall  
Amandie Weerasundara  
Christine McCarthy  
Giacomo Lichtner  
Marcail Parkinson  
Monika Hanson  
Stella McIntosh  
Trish Wilson

**19 Non-members present**

Andrew Wilks  
Carol Morris  
Caroline Ward  
Cathy Powley  
Derek White  
Dr Jill Wilkinson  
Dr Michael Dudding  
Dr Robert Stratford  
Dr Stuart Marshall  
Jian Liu  
Joseph Habgood  
Linda Roberts  
Lynn Grindell  
Pierson Palmers  
Reece Moors  
Richard Neal  
Trish Knight  
Varsha Narasimhan  
Yang Liu

### **30 Apologies**

Associate Professor Winnie Laban  
Dr Barbara Allen  
Dr Ben Egerton  
Dr Ina Reichenberger  
Dr Nigel Isaacs  
Dr Noele Donnolly  
Professor Alejandro Frery  
Professor Catherine Iorns Magallanes  
Professor Dean Knight  
Professor Elizabeth Stanley  
Professor James Crampton  
Professor James Renwick  
Professor Joanne Crawford  
Professor John Randal  
Professor John Townend  
Professor Karl Lofgren  
Professor Marc Wilson  
Professor Marco Sonzogni  
Professor Michael Winikoff  
Professor Nan O'Sullivan  
Professor Nicholas Golledge  
Professor Richard Arnold  
Professor Sally Hill  
Professor Sally Jane Norman  
Professor Sara Kindon  
Professor Siah Hwee Ang  
Professor Susan Ballard  
Professor Ulrich Zuelicke  
Professor Urs Daellenbach  
Professor Vanessa Green