



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 29 July 2024
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building and via Zoom
from 9.00 am to 3.30 pm**

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

APOLOGIES: Mr David Smol
Mr James Te Puni

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Jackie Anderson, Acting General Counsel
Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
Mr Graham Beever, Principal Legal Counsel
Ms Rachel Bruce, Chief Financial Officer
Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori and Engagement
Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
Mr Hugh Laursen, Administrator, Pasifika Student Success
Mr Simon Johnson, Director, Campus Operations
Associate Professor Hon Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant VC, Pasifika
Professor Bryony James, Provost
Ms Kristina Keogh, Associate Director, Communications
Mr Jie Liu, Pasifika Data Analyst
Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Mrs Rachel Scott, Risk & Assurance Lead
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer
Mr Andrew Wilks, Director, Sustainability

24.109 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

Noted:

- 1 that Professor Richard Arnold led the Karakia.
- 2 that the Chancellor welcomed all to the meeting including three Council members attending via Zoom.
- 3 that apologies had been received from Mr James Te Puni and Mr David Smol.

Resolved: that the apologies from Mr James Te Puni and Mr David Smol be sustained.

Street/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240105

24.110 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.

24.111 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 17 JUNE 2024

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 17 June 2024.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 June 2024.
Arnold/Gray
Carried
240106

Matter arising: the Chancellor confirmed that the Foundation Board of Trustees had agreed the following staggered term conclusions at its meeting held on 9 July 2024:

- Tricia Walbridge to conclude on 30 June 2024,
- Raphael Hilbron to conclude on 31 May 2027, and
- Souella Cummings to conclude on 30 April 2027.

24.112 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 22 July 2024 providing his Chancellor's report (document VUWC 24/79).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that a strong focus on Victoria's financial sustainability continues.
- 3 that the University of Otago's statement on free speech, and Te Herenga Waka's ongoing work on freedom of expression and academic freedom were acknowledged.
- 4 that the work of the Future Students team, including the recent Year 12 students' campus visits, was highly commended.
- 5 that the Chancellor highlighted his recent address at the Wellington Uni Professional NZELTO Africa graduation ceremony. He recognised the strong connections and relationships this programme builds between the University, our city, and with the students' home countries.
- 6 that the annual student election has launched with the successful candidate to be appointed to a two-year term from 1 January 2025 at the next Council meeting.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

Bönisch-Brednich/Mclean
Carried
240107

24.113

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 22 July 2024 (document VUWC 24/79).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that the Strategy Refresh work is close to completion with staff, student, and other stakeholder groups having the chance to provide feedback. The refreshed strategy will cover the period 2025-2027 and is aimed at three focus areas - creating time for staff and clarity of their work, financial sustainability, and connecting to our ecosystems. The Council will discuss a close to final version in the confidential session of the meeting, aiming to approve the Strategy in public at the 9 September Council meeting.
- 3 that a Process Improvement Suggestion inbox has been set up in the Vice-Chancellor's office in response to feedback in the YourVoice survey. To date 20 emails have been received covering a range of areas, some of which are quite technical. Staff will be kept informed as issues are worked on and resolved.
- 4 that the University Advisory Group (UAG), chaired by Sir Peter Gluckman, and on which Victoria's Chancellor sits, will visit on 12 August. The visit will provide members of the UAG with an understanding of the University's research capabilities. It will also provide an opportunity to hear from students, Māori and Pasifika leadership, and academic leaders and management staff, on their views and suggestions for the sector.
- 5 that the programme for the day is being finalised by Mr Reece Moors, and Council members will be invited to part of the day. The Chancellor noted that he will not be part of this visit but has been assigned to visit Waikato and Massey Universities in his UAG capacity.
- 6 that new students in University Halls will start one week earlier than prior years to assist them to engage with University life, including an introduction to academic expectations, opportunities to experience activities across the city, and to build cohorts of social connection which is known to be a challenge for some students.
- 7 that the judgement in the Siouxsie Wiles case was discussed. Management will take this as an opportunity to start a conversation on what the University can learn from what has happened and further enhance support for our own staff. The critical need for Academic staff to operate as critic and conscience in society is key to the role of Universities, and this an important issue for our university community.
- 8 that the Public Service Scholarship had resulted in 40 fully enrolled students who had met the criteria, along with a significant amount of good will from this initiative.
- 9 that the Women in Leadership Programme, Whaipua, has been well received with 54 applications for 20 places. Unsuccessful applicants have been directed to other leadership and mentoring opportunities.
- 10 that Council commended the Vice-Chancellor, and Te Hiwa, for what has become an ongoing sequence of good news and positive initiatives.

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

Mitchell/Judge

Carried
240108

24.114 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2024

Received: the Financial report to 30 June 2024 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 24/80).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that management continues to lead every effort to ensure the long term financial sustainability of the institution.
- 3 that the Q2 forecast will be presented to the 26 August Finance Committee meeting.
- 4 that the 2025 budget process is about to start using a robust and comprehensive approach.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 30 June 2024 be noted.

McLean/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240109

24.115 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 29 July 2024 (document VUWC 24/81).

Resolved:

- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 24/81, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 29 July 2024.
- 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Bell-Purchas/Mitchell
Carried
240110

24.116 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Received: a Council paper dated 22 July 2024 from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, regarding Committee appointments (document VUWC 24/82).

Resolved:

- 1 that Mr James Te Puni be appointed to the People & Culture Committee;
- 2 that Mr Selwyn Katene be appointed to a four year term on the Te Aka Matua Committee from 22 July 2024 to 21 July 2028 under clause 4.1(h) of the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Gray/Arnold
Carried
240111

24.117 PASIFIKA QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT

Received: a Council paper dated 16 July 2024 from Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) providing a Pasifika update report (document VUWC 24/83).

Noted:

1 that the team was welcomed to the meeting, and Luamanuvao Dame
Winnie Laban introduced the two new members of her team, Mr Hugh
Laurenson, Pasifika Administrator, and Mr Jay Liu, Pasifika Data Analyst.
2 that the above-target result in Pasifika student EFTS was highlighted and
Council congratulated the team on this result.
3 that the substantial amount of engagement work with Pasifika families and
wider relevant communities was outlined.
4 that the intention to increase Pasifika students' Grade Point Average (GPA)
across all Faculties is a key focus of the Pasifika team. A key part of this
mahi is using data to develop a deeper understanding of where the most
effective interventions can be applied.
5 that Council acknowledged and expressed its support for the
comprehensive and exciting impact this small team is making, as well as
their vision and heartfelt commitment to the retention and recruitment of
Pasifika students.

Resolved: that the Pasifika update report be noted.

Street/Arnold
Carried
240112

24.118 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Received: a Council paper dated 22 July 2024 from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, regarding 2024 King's Birthday Honours (document VUWC 24/84).

Resolved: that Council convey its congratulations to all Victoria University of Wellington graduates, friends and stakeholders honoured in the 2024 King's Birthday Honours.

Allen/Street
Carried
2400113

24.119 COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

Received: the following minutes:

- Academic Board, 11 June 2024
- Te Aka Matua Committee, 24 June 2024
- Victoria Honours Committee, 24 June 2024
- Finance Committee, 8 July 2024

Resolved: that the Committee minutes be noted.

Bönisch-Brednich/Gray
Carried
240114

24.120 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 5 July 2024 regarding Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting (document VUWC 24/85).

Resolved: that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting to be held on Monday, 9 September 2024 be noted.

Mitchell/McLean
Carried
240115

24.121 **SPEAKER : MR ANDREW WILKS, DIRECTOR, SUSTAINABILITY**

Received: an oral report and presentation from Mr Andrew Wilks, Director, Sustainability.

Noted:

- 1 that Director of Sustainability, Mr Andrew Wilks, gave an update and presentation to Council about the work of the Sustainability Office.
- 2 that he challenged Council members and all present in the Council Chamber to consider where they stand on a continuum of Sustainability, #1 There's nothing I can do to #4, I've got some sway, but should do more, to #5 Follow me, we've got this. The majority of those present selected #4.
- 3 that all those involved in the weekend's tree planting initiative were thanked, as 2,500 trees were planted in land the University leases behind Churton Park. Staff, students, and alumni, participated - for some international students it was the first time in their life they had planted anything.
- 4 that *Te Parahia: the Sustainability Outcomes Framework (2023-2030)*, which is the University's collective guide to applying its core ethical values to achieve its sustainability goals was circulated with the Council documentaiton.
- 5 that the Sustainability Office plans to use the Sustainability Tracking, Assesment and Rating System (STARS)—a transparent, self-reporting framework used by other universities across the world—to measure its sustainability performance.
- 6 that the Climate Risk card will be discussed at an upcoming Audit & Risk Committee meeting.
- 7 that Mr Wilks was thanked for his presentation, and wished every success in this critical part of the University's work.

Resolved: that the presentation and oral report on Sustainability from Mr Andrew Wilks, Director Sustainability be noted.

Bönisch-Brednich/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240116

24.122 **RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 24/87).

Resolved: 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 15-31.

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 17 June 2024	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
16. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing	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. 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)
18. Financial report to 30 June 2024	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Risk appetite and strategic risk overview	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii) , s9(2)(i) and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Everton Hall Trust	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii) , s9(2)(i) and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. 2025 International (full fee) tuition fees	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Honorary doctorate recommendations	Privacy	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Hunter Fellowship recommendation	Privacy	S9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Foundation quarterly report to 30 June 2024	Privacy, commercial	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii),	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

	prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	
25. Te Hiwa Areas of Mahi	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Student Accommodation strategy	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
27. Halls of Residence Seismic ratings	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii) , s9(2)(i) and s9(2)(ba)(i)	
28. Digital Roadmap quarterly report	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
29. Letter from the Free Speech Union	Confidential basis	s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
30. Committee reports and 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)
31. 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 31, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Street/Judge
Carried
240117

the meeting adjourned at 10.45 am