



## COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 6 May 2024  
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building and via Zoom  
from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Mr John Allen (Chancellor)  
Professor Richard Arnold  
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich  
Mr William Bell-Purchas  
Ms Pania Gray  
Mr Alan Judge  
Ms Cath Nesus  
Ms Kelly Mitchell *until 10.30 am and from 1.30 pm*  
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)  
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor)  
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr David McLean  
Mr James Te Puni  
Ms Kelly Michell (*from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm*)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms Jackie Anderson, Acting General Counsel  
Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students  
Mr Brendan Eckert, Acting Chief Financial Officer  
Ms Katherine Edmond, Director, Communications  
Professor Meegan Hall, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Mātauranga Māori)  
Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori and Engagement  
Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research  
Professor Bryony James, Provost  
Mr Clinton Jenkins, Associate Director, Planning and Performance Management  
Mr Simon Johnson, Acting Director, Campus Operations  
Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic  
Ms Margot Lyons, Legal Counsel  
Ms Kirsty McClure, Director, Student Experience and Wellbeing  
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor  
Professor Sally Jane Norman, Director, NZ School of Music  
Mr Lincoln North, Kaimataora *via Zoom*  
Mrs Rachel Scott, Risk & Assurance Lead  
Mr David Stevenson, Director, Campus Services  
Ms Rhonda Thomson, Co-project manager, Living Pā  
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

**INVITED GUESTS:**

Ms Barbara McKerrow, WCC Chief Executive  
Mr James Roberts, WCC Chief Operating Officer

**24.53 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES**

- Noted:**
- 1 that Ms Cath Nesus led the Karakia.
  - 2 that Mr Allen welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged those watching the meeting via livestream.
  - 3 that apologies were received from Mr David McLean and Mr James Te Puni.
  - 4 that Ms Kelly Mitchell advised that she would be absent from the meeting from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm due to teaching commitments.

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Mr David McLean, Mr James Te Puni, and Ms Kelly Mitchell be sustained.

Allen/Gray  
Carried  
240052

**24.54 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, and he confirmed that he would make a disclosure at the time of the National Music Centre item.

**24.55 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 25 MARCH 2024**

**Received:** the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 25 March 2024.

**Resolved:** that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 March 2024.

Bönisch-Brednich/Street  
Carried  
240053

**24.56 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR**

**Received:** a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 29 April 2024 (document VUWC 24/39).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
  - 2 that the Chancellor thanked staff for their efforts in halting the decline in student numbers in recent years and welcomed confirmation that Te Herenga Waka has a sound platform to build on further.
  - 3 that Mr Allen's recent appointment as a Member of the Government's University Advisory Group (UAG) was discussed. He outlined the broad scope of the work which is to determine the effectiveness of the current university system. The UAG will look at the structure of the sector, funding mechanisms, the regulatory framework, and strategies to achieve equity for disadvantaged groups.

- 4 that the Chancellor expressed his strong support for the University hosting the 28 May discussion on the role of universities in freedom of speech, saying respectful debate, reflecting an appreciation of context and evidence, and allowing questioning and disagreement, are critical elements of academic research and teaching.
- 5 that next week's graduation ceremonies are keenly anticipated and the Chancellor expressed his enthusiasm for what will be a series of uplifting ceremonies and parades to celebrate the success and achievements of the University's students.

**Resolved:** that the Chancellor's report be noted.

**Street/Bell-Purchas  
Carried  
240054**

## 24.56

### REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

**Received:** a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 29 April 2024 (document VUWC 24/41).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
  - 2 that Te Hiwa has started consultation with staff using a set of four guiding questions as part of the Strategy Refresh. There will be opportunities following staff consultation for the wider University community to be involved in the refresh process.
  - 3 that congratulations were extended to six staff who have been announced as Royal Society Te Apārangi fellows, recognising their contribution to distinction in research or for advancing science, technology and the humanities.
  - 4 that a significant grant of \$1.49m was awarded to Wellington UniVentures, funded by the PreSeed Accelerator Fund managed by KiwiNet for a new project with the Robinson Research Institute (RRI).
  - 5 that a Trimester Two Postgraduate Fees Scholarship has been developed to assist those whose jobs have been impacted by changes taking place in the public service.
  - 6 that subject-specific student recruitment days are planned for later in the month.
  - 7 that in early April a number of events were held for year 13 Māori and Pasifika students.
  - 8 that an innovation hub is being set up at Rutherford House with interest from approximately 10 start up technology companies.
  - 9 that Professor Kim Cunio has been appointed Head of the New Zealand School of Music and takes up the position in October.
  - 10 that the Panel event on Freedom of Speech that was postponed from 29 April has been rescheduled to 28 May in a revised format under the topic *the University's role in Freedom of Speech*. The Vice-Chancellor encouraged all to attend.

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

**Judge/Gray  
Carried  
240055**

**24.57 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2024**

**Received:** the Financial report to 31 March 2024 from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Mr Brendan Eckert (document VUWC 24/41).

**Noted:**

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that it was confirmed in the March census that the decline in EFTS has been arrested.
- 3 that tuition fees are moderately favourable to budget.
- 4 that strong discipline remains and will continue around reporting. Te Hiwa is now receiving regular FTE updates.
- 5 that instability in investment markets is a factor in the current fiscal environment.

**Resolved:** that the Financial report to 31 March 2024 be noted.

Street/ Bönisch-Brednich  
Carried  
240056

**24.58 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS**

**Received:** the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 6 May 2024 (document VUWC 24/42).

**Resolved:**

- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 24/42, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 6 May 2024.
- 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Bell-Purchas/Mitchell  
Carried  
240057

**24.59 KI TE RĀ - STUDENT WELLBEING OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK (2024-2030)**

**Received:** a Council paper from Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students, dated 29 April 2024 regarding Ki te rā: Student Wellbeing Outcomes Framework (2024-2030) (document VUWC 24/24).

**Noted:**

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that Ms Kirsty McClure, Director, Student Experience and Wellbeing spoke to the Framework. She confirmed that Ki te rā builds on the extensive work already done at the University to enhance student wellbeing and empower students to thrive while reaching their academic and personal potential.
- 3 that an action plan details how and when the various initiatives within the framework will be delivered and the outcomes they aim to achieve.
- 4 that it was confirmed that the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Statute had been embedded as part of the Framework’s development.
- 5 that a communications plan is ready to roll out to increase awareness of Ki te rā, and Ms McClure will reconnect with the Student Assembly as well.
- 6 that it was confirmed that responsibility for the Framework rests with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students.

**Resolved:** that Council approve Ki te rā: Student Wellbeing Outcomes Framework (2024-2030) for implementation.

Gray/Nesus  
Carried  
240058

24.60

## HUNTER FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORARY DEGREES STATUTE

**Received:** a Council paper dated 30 April 2024 from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, regarding the major review and proposed amendments to the Hunter Fellowships and Honorary Degrees Statute (document VUWC 24/44).

**Noted:**

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that the Statute has undergone extensive consultation and is submitted today for approval with the unanimous support of the Academic Board, and the Victoria Honours Committee.
- 3 that as part of the major review it is proposed to rename the Statute to the Honorary Doctorates, Hunter Fellowships and Distinguished Alumni Awards Statute.
- 4 that the Statute now includes the addition of a review process (clauses 7.1-7.7). Council discussed and agreed that clauses 7.4 and 7.5 be extended beyond the Vice-Chancellor having sole authority on whether or not to progress a review.
- 5 that Council agreed to the following minor amendments:
  - 7.4 The ~~Vice-Chancellor~~ Committee will assess whether there is a case for review in accordance with this Statute. Where the ~~Vice-Chancellor~~ Committee considers that a request for a review warrants further enquiry, further investigation and due diligence will be undertaken as appropriate. This may include identifying any other institutions with a relationship with the award holder.
  - 7.5 If the ~~Vice-Chancellor~~ Committee (or its nominee) decides that a review is necessary, they will ~~send~~ consider the case, and all gathered information ~~to the Committee (or their nominee)~~ for further examination. Afterwards, the Secretary to Council will inform the original requesters whether or not ~~the case has been referred to~~ the Committee (or its nominee) is considering the case.

**Resolved:** that on the recommendation of the Victoria Honours Committee, and as amended under point 5 above, Council:

approve the Honorary Doctorates, Hunter Fellowships and Distinguished Alumni Awards Statute.

Bönisch-Brednich/Arnold  
Carried  
240059

24.61

## PROPOSAL TO REPEAL THE LIBRARY STATUTE

**Received:** a Council paper dated 29 April 2024 from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Professor Robyn Longhurst proposing the Repeal of the Library Statute (document VUWC 24/45).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
  - 2 that the Statute had not been reviewed since 2014. The Library and Legal Services review established that relevant parts of the Statute, such as code of conduct matters, are already included in other policies or can be conveyed to the University community through the Library's website or by other means.
  - 3 that there had been supportive feedback from the community that the Statute be repealed.

**Resolved:** that the proposal to Repeal the Library Statute be approved.

Street/Gray  
Carried  
240060

## 24.62 DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR, MĀORI – UPDATE TO COUNCIL

**Received:** a Council paper with attached presentation dated 29 April 2024 from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori, Professor Rawinia Higgins, providing an update to Council (document VUWC 24/46).

- Noted:**
- 1 that Professor Higgins presented to Council on the ongoing work of her Office to support the University's Māori strategy and implement various plans and initiatives.
  - 2 that discussion focussed on recruitment and retention and the challenges associated with improving Māori course and qualification completion rates.
  - 3 that the Taihonoa partnership programme, which connects iwi with the University and vice-versa, was highlighted.
  - 4 that key areas of focus for the DVC Māori Office this year include developing Māori student and staff recruitment plans and a Māori research resource, and preparing for the Living Pā opening on 6 December 2024.
  - 5 that it was agreed that this update return at regular intervals.

**Resolved:** that the update from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori, be noted.

Nesus/Bell-Purchas  
Carried  
240061

*at 10.30 am Ms Kelly Mitchell left the meeting*

## 24.63 FOUNDATION ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

**Received:** a Council paper dated 29 April 2024 from Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori & Engagement, providing the Foundation Annual Accounts (document VUWC 24/47).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
  - 2 that the Foundation's Financial result for 2023 was positive.

**Resolved:** that the Foundation Annual Accounts be noted.

Judge/Street  
Carried  
240062

24.64

### RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORTS – 2023

**Received:** a Council paper dated 17 April 2024 from Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, providing the Annual Reports for the University Research Committee, and the Animal Ethics Committee (document VUWC 24/48).

**Noted:**

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that Council commended Professor Hyland on the quality of the reports and the remarkable research they represent.
- 3 that it was confirmed that a new Responsible Research policy was approved by Te Hiwa last week.
- 4 that the role of the Animal Ethics Committee in supporting other organisations, eg Zealandia and Wellington Zoo was recognised. The open and transparent approach by this dedicated team was acknowledged.
- 5 that due to time constraints Council agreed that the reports be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

**Resolved:** that the 2023 Annual reports for the University Research Committee, and the Animal Ethnics Committee be noted.

Street/Gray  
Carried  
240063

24.65

### COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

**Received:** the following minutes:

- Academic Board, 16 April 2024
- Finance Committee, 22 April 2024

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

Arnold/ Bönisch-Brednich  
Carried  
240064

24.66

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Received:** a Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 22 April 2024 regarding Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting (document VUWC 24/49).

**Noted:** that Council members were encouraged to attend the Freedom of Speech event on *The Role of Universities in Freedom of Speech* on 28 May 2024.

**Resolved:** that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting on Monday, 17 June 2024 be noted.

Allen/Judge  
Carried  
240065

24.67

### SPEAKER : PROFESSOR BRYONY JAMES, PROVOST

**Noted:** that due to time constraints, this item was re-scheduled to the 17 June Council meeting. The Chancellor thanked Professor James for this accommodation.

24.68

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**Received:** a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 24/50).

**Resolved:** 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 18-28.

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:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b> 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.		<b>Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
<b>18. Minutes of previous meeting held 25 March 2024</b>	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
<b>19. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing dashboard report</b>	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)
<b>20. Vice-Chancellor’s report</b>	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)
<b>21. Strategy Refresh update</b>	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
<b>22. Financial report to 31 March 2024</b>	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
<b>23. National Music Centre</b>	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
<b>24. Living Pā update</b>	Commercial prejudice,	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)



	commercial activities.		
<b>25. Foundation quarterly report to 31 March 2024</b>	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)
<b>26. Digital Roadmap Quarterly report</b>	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)
<b>27. Committee and Academic Board minutes</b>	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)
<b>28. Council only time</b>	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 28, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Nesus/Bell-Purchas  
Carried  
240066

*the meeting adjourned at 10.55 am*