COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 10 February 2025
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building
from 10.00 am to 2.50 pm

PRESENT:
Mr John Allen (Chancellor)
Professor Richard Arnold *via Zoom until 12.45 pm*
Mr William Bell-Purchas
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Ms Pania Gray
Ms Asifa Hanif
Mr Alan Judge
Mr David McLean
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)
Mr David Smol *until 2.30 pm*
Mr James Te Puni *from 12.15 pm*
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES:
Hon Maryan Street, Pro-Chancellor
Professor Richard Arnold *from 12.45 pm to 2.50 pm*
James Te Puni *from 10 am to 12.15 pm*
Mr David Smol *from 2.30 pm to 2.45 pm*

IN ATTENDANCE:
Ms Jackie Anderson, General Counsel
Dr Leon Bakker, Director, Strategy & Planning
Ms Rachel Bruce, Chief Financial Officer
Mr Glenn Horsefall, Wellington Schools Partnerships Manager
Professor Bryony James, Provost
Mr Clinton Jenkins, Director, Planning & Performance Management
Mr Simon Johnson, Director, Campus Operations
Ms Simone Keough, Director, Communications
Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Mr Dan Mahoney, Head of Health, Wellbeing, and Safety
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Mrs Rachel Scott, Director, Governance, Risk & Assurance
Ms Kate Tibbitts, Director, People & Capability
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer
Ms Monique Warder, Principal Advisor, Strategic Projects

25.01 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

Noted:

1 that Professor Nic Smith led the Karakia acknowledging that this was the Chancellor's final Council meeting following confirmation of his appointment as Chief Ombudsman, a role Mr Allen takes up on 31 March.

2 that Mr Allen acknowledged the Karakia and conveyed his appreciation of the privilege it has been to be on Council for over seven years and to be elected Chancellor for the past three years.

3 that Mr Allen warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Asifa Hanif attending her first formal Council meeting, and Ms Kate Tibbitts, the new Director of People & Capability, also attending her first formal meeting.

4 that apologies were recorded from Hon Maryan Street, Mr James Te Puni, Professor Richard Arnold, and Mr David Smol as set out above.

Resolved: **that the apologies from Hon Maryan Street, Mr James Te Puni, Professor Richard Arnold, and Mr David Smol be sustained.**

Allen/Gray
Carried
250001

25.02 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Received: declarations and disclosure of interests by members of Council.

Noted:

1 that there were no additional 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.

25.03 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 2 DECEMBER 2024

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 2 December 2024.

Resolved: **that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 2 December 2024 be approved.**

Bell-Purchas/McLean
Carried
250002

25.04 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 3 February 2025 (document VUWC 25/01).

Noted:

1 that the report was taken as read.

2 that since the last Council meeting Mr Allen has been appointed Chief Ombudsman, taking up the position on 31 March. As a consequence of this he is legally required to resign from all boards and will finish on the University Council on 21 March 2025.

3 that Mr Allen reiterated his earlier comments on what an honour it has been to serve in the role of Chancellor and a privilege to be a member of the Council over slightly more than seven years. He acknowledged the significant progress that has been made during this time, particularly under Professor Smith's leadership since 2023 to ensure the future success of Victoria University.

4 that he recognised the role of Universities in New Zealand and the critically important role they play both here and globally as a place to hold and encourage debate and dialogue across a range of issues, whilst respectfully listening to all points of view. He sees Te Herenga Waka as a model for the future in terms of moving forward in this area.

5 that the opening of Ngā Mokopuna (the Living Pā) and the reawakening of the marae in early December was a significant occasion. The following week the return of two Te Hui Whakapūmau celebrations to the marae acknowleding the achievement of graduates, many of whom had waited for the reawakening, will be looked back on as a key moment in the University's history.

6 that Mr Allen offered his thanks to fellow Council members and the Te Hiwa team. He reflected on the important role Te Herenga Waka plays in Wellington and in New Zealand. He encouraged students to make the most of the opportunities at this great university with extraordinary academic leadership in a wonderful location.

7 that in closing the Chancellor observed that looking at the talent of those graduating, it is encouraging to know that society is in good hands for the future.

8 that members of Council thanked Mr Allen for his service saying he would be a hard act to follow. He had ensured a good base upon which to continue building. A farewell will take place before the end of March.

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

Judge/Smol
Carried
250003

25.05 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 3 February 2025 (document VUWC 25/02).

Noted:

1 that the report was taken as read.

2 that Professor Smith sincerely acknowledged the Chancellor's service to Te Herenga Waka saying John Allen has been the embodiment of both the spirit and intention of the University.

3 that further to the Chancellor's comments on the opening of the Living Pā, the commissioning of Ngā Mokopuna is ongoing, including the year-long Living Building Challenge certification process.

4 that enrolments and admissions are strong across the board with the caveat that while actual numbers are still expected to fluctuate, the general positive trend is likely to remain. All staff who have contributed to the positive results were thanked.

5 that a number of Te Hiwa initiatives were highlighted including changes to the faculty structure resulting in 6 faculties. The names of the two new faculties as a result of this work will come to Council for approval in March. The academic promotion process review, and the academic workload consultation process review are both progressing.

6 that a consortium led by Auckland and Victoria Universities had secured the MBIE Applied Doctorates Scheme, valued at $20M over five years. This scheme will fund up to 30 PhD students annually to conduct research while embedded in external organisations. Massey and Otago Universities are also part of the consortium.

7 that Council sought the Vice-Chancellor's view on how Universities have reacted to the government's recent announcement that it will cease all research funding in disciplines that are not science based.

8 that Professor Smith expressed his profound disappointment that there does not appear to be an appreciation of how the humanities give context and meaning to the enormous speed at which the sciences and technology are changing the world we live in, particularly when there are existential questions in society that humanities inform. He emphasised the vital need to value the full spectrum of thought in order to bring ideas together with humanities front and centre – in the absence of this there are enormous risks in the short and medium term.

9 that the Chancellor thanked Professor Smith for his statement and confirmed his full support for the views expressed.

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

Bönisch-Brednich/Hanif
Carried
250004

25.06 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

Received: the Financial report to 31 December 2024 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 25/03).

Noted:

1 that the report was taken as read.

2 that the draft final results show a small surplus of $5m. This was mainly due to strong investment returns in the Foundation, and continuing discipline around financial sustainability.

3 that for 2025 EFTS and the pipeline look positive, while Capex spend and debt are under control. Permanent staff numbers are where they should be.

4 that the 2025 budget is set with the intention of achieving another small surplus this year.

5 that looking to 2026, with an expectation of government funding reductions, work is underway to mitigate the impact of this.

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

Judge/Gray
Carried
250005

25.07 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 10 February 2025 (document VUWC 25/04).

Resolved:

1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 25/04, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 10 February 2025.

2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Bell-Purchas/Hanif
Carried
250006

25.08 FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENTS

Received: a Council paper dated 29 January 2025 from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, regarding Foundation Board of Trustees appointments (document VUWC 25/05).

Noted: that the Council paper was taken as read and there was unanimous support from Council for the recommendations.

Resolved:

1 **that Alan Judge, being a member of the Council, be reappointed as a Trustee of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rule 2.2 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office of one year from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.**

2 **that Liban Ali, being a student of the University nominated by the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association, be appointed as a Trustee of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rule 2.3 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office of one year from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.**

Allen/Smol
Carried
250007

25.09 2025 NEW YEAR HONOURS

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council dated 29 January 2025 regarding the 2025 New Year Honours (document VUWC 25/06).

Noted:

1 that the Council paper was taken as read.

2 that the Chancellor highlighted two current staff members who received New Year Honours - Professor Rawinia Higgins, and Professor Carmen Dalli, both of whom were appointed to the New Zealand Order of Merit.

Resolved: **that Council conveys its congratulations to all Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington staff, former staff, graduates, and friends honoured in the 2025 New Year Honours.**

Allen/McLean
Carried
250008

25.10 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 21 January 2025 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 25/07).

Resolved: **that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting to be held on Monday, 31 March 2025 at 10 am in the Council Chamber be noted.**

Allen/Hanif
Carried
250009

25.11 ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR AND PRO-CHANCELLOR FOR 2025

Received: a tabled Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 5 February 2025 regarding the election of the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor for 2025 (document VUWC 25/08).

Noted: that there was one nomination for Chancellor, and one nomination for Pro-Chancellor therefore as per the recommendations the nominees can be declared duly elected.

Resolved

1 **that Alan Judge be declared duly elected and appointed to the office of Chancellor for the period from 11 February 2025 to 31 December 2025;**

2 **that Hon Maryan Street be declared duly elected and appointed to the office of Pro-Chancellor for the period from 11 February 2025 to 31 December 2025.**

Judge/Bell-Purchas
Carried
250010

Noted:

1 that Council members congratulated Mr Alan Judge on his appointment as Chancellor, and Hon Maryan Street on her reappointment as Pro-Chancellor.

2 that as a result of the change in Chancellor, Mr Allen had agreed to Committee appointments and a Chair appointment in his remaining time on Council as per the following resolution.

Resolved: **that until 21 March 2025, Council appoint Mr Allen:**

- **as a member and Chair of the Victoria Honours Committee**
- **as a member of the Audit & Risk Committee**
- **as a member of the Finance Committee**
- **as a Member of the People & Culture Committee**

Arnold/Bell-Purchas
Carried
250011

25.12 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 25/09).

Resolved:

1 **that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 13-22.**

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**
13. Wellington Schools' Partnership	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)
14. Minutes of previous meeting held 2 December 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)
15. 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)
16. Vice-Chancellor's report including	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. Te Hiwa Areas of Mahi	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. Financial report to 31 December 2024	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Amending a qualification conferred	Privacy	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Malaghan Lease	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Report on Appeal Committee Hearings	Privacy	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

22. 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 22, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Hanif/ Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
250012