



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 16 June 2025
in the Wharenuī, Ngā Mokopuna, Kelburn Campus, Wellington
from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm**

PRESENT:

Mr Alan Judge (Chancellor) (Chair)
Professor Richard Arnold
Mr William Bell-Purchas
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich *via Zoom*
Ms Pania Gray
Ms Asifa Hanif
Mr David McLean *via Zoom*
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor) *via Zoom*
Mr David Smol
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr James Te Puni
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES:

Nil

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr Liban Ali, VUWSA President
Dr Leon Bakker, Director, Strategy and Planning
Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
Mr Graham Beever, Principal Legal Counsel
Ms Rachel Bruce, Chief Financial Officer
Professor Bryony James, Provost
Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori & Kaitiakitanga
Ms Kaea Hudson, Ngā Taura Co-President
Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
Mr Simon Johnson, Director, Campus Operations
Ms Simone Keough, Director, Communications
Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Mr Dan Mahony, Head of Health, Wellbeing, and Safety
Ms Kirsty McClure, Director, Student Experience and Wellbeing
Mr Sam MacKay, Principal Adviser, International
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Ms Amy Rutherford, Director, International
Ms Rachel Scott, Director, Governance, Risk, and Assurance
Mr Tu Temara, Mata Awhinuku - Marae Operational Manager
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

25.80

MIHI WHAKATAU

Noted:

that Mr Tu Temara gave a Mihi Whakatau which recognised Council's return to the marae for the first time since October 2018. The long break was due to the construction of Ngā Mokopuna, previously known as the Living Pā, which in 2018 was recorded in the minutes as a concept and which is

now completed and has been operating since opening in December 2024 with the associated re-awakening of the marae.

25.81

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor welcomed all present, with particular acknowledgement of those attending via Zoom, Professor Nic Smith, Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, and Mr David Mclean. Professor Smith's attendance via Zoom was due to him travelling with the Prime Minister's delegation to China (see also VC report).
 - 2 that there were no apologies.

25.82

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.

25.83

COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 5 MAY 2025

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 5 May 2025.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 5 May 2025 be approved.

**Street/Te-Puni
Carried
250077**

25.84

REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: an oral report from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge.

Noted: that the Chancellor outlined events and activities since the last meeting of Council on 5 May 2025 as follows:

- toured the Adam Art Collection with Curator, Sophie Thorn;
- met with Abby Cunnane, Director, Adam Art Gallery;
- attended the FRIC meeting for the Foundation Board of Trustees;
- presided over Graduation week from 12-16 May. Gave 10 speeches at various ceremonies and associated events. Extended thanks to the Pro-Chancellor, Hon Maryan Street for her support during the week;
- conferred an honorary doctorate in Literature on Dame Winnie Laban, a highlight of the graduation week;
- attended the Foundation Board of Trustees meeting;
- attended regular meetings with the Vice-Chancellor, and the Secretary to Council;
- attended the Audit and Risk Committee meeting, and the Finance Committee meeting;
- met with BECA and members of Te Hiwa regarding the National Music Centre.

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

Gray/Hanif
Carried
250078

25.85

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 5 June 2025 (document VUWC 25/61).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that Professor Smith, attending via Zoom, said that he would have loved to be in the Wharenuī for Council's return to the marae after 6.5 years, however later this day he would be travelling from Auckland with the Prime Minister as part of a business delegation to China.
- 3 that the recent death of Maurice Gee was acknowledged noting that Mr Gee's literary career had spanned many decades writing for both adults and children. In 1987 Mr Gee was awarded an honorary doctorate in literature.
- 4 that in late May both Te Pātaka Toi—Adam Art Gallery and Ngā Mokopuna won Architecture awards. The Gallery won the Enduring Architecture Award while Ngā Mokopuna won the Education category. More recently Ngā Mokopuna's design was celebrated again, this time winning the Property Council New Zealand's Excellence and Best in Category in the Resene Sustainable Building Property Awards.
- 5 that on 2 May 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the University's School of Government and Fudan University's Institute for Global Public Policy, in China. This MoU will be marked by the Vice-Chancellor while in Shanghai as part of the Prime Minister's delegation to China.
- 6 that the first cohort of students for the Applied Doctorates Scheme is expected to be in place late this year or early 2026. This follows formal signing of an agreement with MBIE last month, for the Applied Doctorates Scheme to be delivered by four universities – Auckland, Otago, Massey, and Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington.

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

Te Puni/Smol
Carried
250079

25.86

FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 APRIL 2025

Received: the Financial report to 30 April 2025 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 25/62).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that revenue was favourable to budget by \$2.8m, primarily due to receiving research and other revenue earlier in the year than budgeted, partially offset by lower tuition revenue.
- 3 that expenditure was favourable to budget by \$4.7m, mainly due to delayed spend of operating expenses across the University Group.
- 4 that the Consolidated Group Surplus of \$5.2m includes the Foundation.
- 5 that overall things remain on track to achieve the 2025 budget.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 30 April 2025 be noted.

Gray/Street

Carried
250080

25.87 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 16 June 2025 (document VUWC 25/63).

- Resolved:**
- 1** that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 25/63, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 16 June 2025.
 - 2** that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Bell-Purchas/Hanif
Carried
250081

25.88 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER

Received: a Council paper dated 4 June 2025 from Hon Maryan Street, Pro-Chancellor, regarding proposed amendments to the Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference, and Internal Audit Charter (document VUWC 25/64).

- Noted:**
- 1** that the Council paper was taken as read.
 - 2** that the proposed changes had been considered and agreed to by the Audit & Risk Committee and mainly reflected the inclusion of the new position, Director Governance Risk and Assurance.

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee:

Council approve the revised Audit & Risk Committee Terms of Reference and the Internal Audit Charter.

Smol/Arnold
Carried
250082

25.89 TE AKA MATUA KOMITI TERMS OF REFERENCE

Received: a Council paper dated 29 May 2025 from Ms Pania Gray, Chair Te Aka Matua Komiti, regarding proposed amendments to the Te Aka Matua Komiti Terms of Reference (document VUWC 25/65).

- Noted:**
- 1** that the Council paper was taken as read.
 - 2** that the revisions had been discussed at length with Council Members, Members of the Committee and had received broad agreement.
 - 3** that the changes will result in no staff management on the Komiti and revert to the way other Council Committees operate, with management reporting or providing advice on particular topics and issues.
 - 4** that the Chancellor thanked Ms Gray for her comprehensive review of the Terms of Reference.

- Resolved:**
- 1** that Council:
 - 2** approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Te Aka Matua Komiti.
 - 2** that the 2025/2026 work-plan for Te Aka Matua be noted.

**Te Puni/Street
Carried
250083**

25.90

DVC MĀORI AND KAITIAKITANGA UPDATE

Received: a presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori and Kaitiakitanga, Professor Rawinia Higgins, providing a Māori and Kaitiakitanga update (document VUWC 25/66).

Noted:

- 1 that the presentation was pre-circulated with the meeting documentation and taken as read.
- 2 that Professor Higgins acknowledged Council's return to the Marae following a long break whilst Ngā Mokopuna was constructed. She also highlighted the number of awards the building has received (see also minute 25.85(4)).
- 3 that a change proposal for the DVC Māori and Kaitiakitanga portfolio has been completed with the new structure coming into effect on 26 May.
- 4 that Te Hiwa endorsed the concept of faculty-based Associate Dean Māori roles at Te Herenga Waka.
- 5 that Māori student enrolments continue to grow with Māori EFTS up 71 on the same time last year to 711 and the percentage of Māori students sitting at 13.5%.
- 6 that the marae has hosted a number of significant events over recent months and a full report on benefit realisation will be made later in the year.
- 7 that the launch of a recent payroll giving programme for staff to support a number of causes was highlighted. Council members were also invited to participate in this initiative if they wished by contributing part of their fees.

Resolved: that the presentation from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori and Kaitiakitanga be noted.

**Gray/Bell-Purchas
Carried
250084**

25.91

STUDENT PRESIDENT REPORTS

Received:

- 1 a report from Mr Liban Ali, VUWSA President (document VUWC 25/67).
- 2 a report from Ms Aria Ngarimu and Ms Kaea Hudson, Ngāi Tauira Co-Presidents (document VUWC 25/67).

Noted:

- 1 that the reports were taken as read and the Student Presidents were welcomed to the meeting.
- 2 that the VUWSA President detailed work underway to engage with students, particularly around cost of living challenges, and upcoming local body elections. On-campus debates including a Mayoral debate are planned.
- 3 that Ngāi Tauira will also be encouraging students to vote, focusing particularly on the Māori Wards which are up for referendum in the Wellington region this year.
- 4 that Council members commended the Student Presidents on the quality and detail of their written reports and acknowledged the enormous contribution of Ngāi Tauira during graduation week.

Resolved:

- 1 that the report from the VUWSA President be noted.
- 2 that the report from the Ngāi Tauira Co-Presidents be noted.

Te Puni/Hanif

Carried
250085

25.92 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 23 May 2025 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 25/68).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that Council members were encouraged to participate in the annual 'Growing our Future' tree planting event in Ohariu Valley on 25 and 26 July.

Resolved: that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting to be held on Monday, 28 July 2025 at 11 am in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building, Kelburn Campus be noted.

McLean/Bell-Purchas
Carried
250086

25.93 COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

Received: the following Minutes:

- Academic Board, 15 April 2025
- Victoria Honours Committee, 28 April 2025
- Finance Committee, 5 May 2025

Noted: that the Committee and Academic Board minutes were taken as read.

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

Te Puni/Street
Carried
250087

25.94 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 25/69).

Resolved:

- 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 15-25.

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 5 May 2025	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 – Critical risk verification update	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 April 2025	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, Confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Strategy Topic – International activity Presentation	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Learning Success plan and Disability Inclusion action plan update	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Consolidation of VUW Wellington hospital operations to Kelburn Campus (Easterfield Level 2)	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Ngā Mokopuna (formerly Living Pā) update	Commercial prejudice, commercial	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

	activities, confidential basis		
23. National Music Centre quarterly report	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Committee and Academic Board 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)
25. 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 25, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Gray/McLean
Carried
250088