COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 31 March 2025
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building
from 10.00 am to 2.05 pm

PRESENT:
Mr Alan Judge (Chancellor)
Professor Richard Arnold
Mr William Bell-Purchas
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Ms Pania Gray
Ms Asifa Hanif
Mr David McLean
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)
Mr David Smol
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor) *via Zoom until 1.05 pm*
Mr James Te Puni
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES: Nil

IN ATTENDANCE:
Ms Jackie Anderson, General Counsel
Ms Rachel Bruce, Chief Financial Officer
Professor Kim Cunio, Director, NZSM
Ms Fabie Filo, Acting Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Pasifika
Mr Simon Johnson, Director, Campus Operations
Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori & Kaitiakitanga
Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
Ms Simone Keough, Director, Communications
Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Mr Andy Newman, Director Strategic Development, Academic
Professor Sally Jane Norman, Denis Adam Chair in Music
Mrs Rachel Scott, Director, Governance, Risk & Assurance
Ms Pelesa Semu, Senior Advisor to the AVC, Pasifika
Mr David Stevenson, Director, Property Services
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

25.23 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

Noted:

1 that Mr Alan Judge, the new Chancellor, opened the meeting with a Karakia. He acknowledged the former Chancellor, Mr John Allen, who was farewelled at a special event at the Adam Art Gallery two weeks ago. At this event speeches of appreciation were given, the naming of the staff/student debate as 'the John Allen Staff/Student debate' was announced, and a taonga pounamu was presented. The atmosphere was greatly enhanced by a string quartet featuring NZSM musicians.

2 that Mr Judge welcomed everyone to the meeting and Hon Maryan Street was acknowledged for her attendance via Zoom from London which presented a particularly challenging time difference.

3 that Professor Bev Lawton was congratulated by members of Council on being named Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year for her contributions to women's health.

4 that there were no apologies.

25.24 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.

25.25 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 10 FEBRUARY 2025

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 10 February 2025.

Resolved: **that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 10 February 2025 be approved.**

Smol/McLean
Carried
250022

25.26 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

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

Noted:

1 that the Chancellor outlined events and activities since assuming the Chancellorship on 11 February 2025:

- Attended the Victoria Honours Committee
- Chaired the Finance Committee
- Attended the Audit & Risk Committee
- Completed a skills assessment review of current Council capability
- Attended the Foundation afternoon strategy session
- Attended the Foundation Finance & Investment Committee
- Attended the farewell for John Allen at the Adam Art Gallery
- Interviewed two candidates to recommend to the Minister for the Council vacancy as a result of John Allen's resignation
- Attended the inaugural lecture of Professor Susan Ballard
- Met with Tim Fowler, TEC CEO
- Attended the Victoria Benefactors' Circle event at Ngā Mokopuna
- Met with Karen Poutasi and John Milford at their request to be briefed on Wellington UniProfessional
- Attended the on-line meeting of University Chancellors followed by a combined meeting of Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors hosted by UniversitiesNZ.
- Various meetings and calls with the Vice-Chancellor, Council Members, Secretary to Council, and Te Hiwa.

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

Arnold/Smol
Carried
250023

25.27 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 24 March 2025 (document VUWC 25/18).

Noted:

1 that the report was taken as read.

2 that Professor Smith acknowledged the new Chancellor as he assumed the chair at his first formal Council meeting. He reinforced the Chancellor's opening comments recognising the success of Professor Bev Lawton being named Kiwibank New Zealander of the year.

3 that life on campus is increasingly back and in some measures above pre-COVID levels. This is confirmed by data showing a record number of devices connected to the wi-fi, a 41.7% increase in recreation centre attendance as well as record in-person library visits.

4 that enrolments post the March census show a 3.3% increase for domestic students and an increase in Māori and Pasifika enrolment. There is a similar size increase in the international cohort.

5 that activities around orientation were very successful and members of Te Hiwa had participated in various events. The focus was on both academic preparedness and community building. A new initiative for students in accommodation – Tau Mai week – gave first year students every opportunity to develop a sense of belonging and a social network. This initiative will be reviewed mid-year.

6 that UNI101, a new six-week programme aimed at assisting first year students transition to University has commenced.

7 that pastoral care scholarships have been expanded, and a new Pakohe sustainability scholarship will be launched in April.

8 that students are now completing a higher course load, and students completing a semester abroad are carrying an even higher load.

9 that the Research Office is closely monitoring the US situation under the new President. The impact in New Zealand, to date, is minor.

10 that Work Integrated Learning (WIL), a key part of the University's new strategy, is progressing well led by Professor Robyn Longhurst. A new WIL hub has been set up, as well as a software system to support end-to-end processes aimed at efficiency and maximising opportunities for students.

11 that the 2024 financial statements audit is complete with no adjustments required and no material deficiencies in the internal control environment.

12 that the Vice-Chancellor will wait until after the government's May budget and release of the University Advisory Group report before further analysis on areas of priority funding.

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

Arnold/Gray
Carried
250024

25.28 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2025

Received: the Financial report to 28 February 2025 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 25/19).

Noted:

1 that the report was taken as read.

2 that the Finance team remains focussed on discipline around financial sustainability with a particular emphasis on permanent cost drivers.

3 that while ahead of budget at this stage, mainly due to timing variances, it is very early in the year.

Resolved: **that the Financial report to 28 February 2025 be noted.**

Bell-Purchas/Te Puni
Carried
250025

25.29 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 31 March 2025 (document VUWC 25/20).

Noted: that Kahurangi Gray, son of Council member Pania Gray, was graduating at today's Council meeting with a B.Com.

Resolved:

1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 25/20, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 31 March 2025.

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

Bell-Purchas/Hanif
Carried
250026

25.30 FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENT

Received: a tabled Council paper dated 26 March 2025 from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge, regarding a Foundation Board of Trustees appointment (document VUWC 25/21).

Noted:

1 that a vacancy for a Council member to be appointed to the Foundation Board of Trustees had occurred due to Mr Judge, the former Council member appointed in this capacity, assuming the Chancellorship.

2 that Ms Gray had attended the Tuesday evening Foundation Board of Trustees meeting as an observer and following this had confirmed her agreement and availability to be appointed to the Board of Trustees until the end of this year.

3 that Mr Judge remains on the Board of Trustees ex officio as Chancellor. He will also remain on the FRIC Committee.

Resolved: **that Pania Gray, being a member of the Council, be appointed 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 from 31 March 2025 to 31 December 2025.**

Bönisch-Brednich/Smol
Carried
250027

25.31 COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENT

Received: a Council paper dated 24 March 2025 from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge, regarding the appointment of Mr David McLean as Chair of the Finance Committee (document VUWC 25/22).

Noted:

1 that the Council paper was taken as read.

2 that the Chancellor had asked Mr McLean to consider taking on the role of Chair of the Finance Committee and Mr McLean had kindly confirmed his availability.

3 that the Finance Committee will take place before the Council meeting, effective from 5 May 2025.

Resolved: **that on the recommendation of the Chancellor:**
Mr David McLean be appointed Chair of the Finance Committee effective 31 March 2025.

Smol/Te Puni
Carried
250028

25.32 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Received: a Council paper dated 18 March 2025 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce, providing the 2024 Annual Report (document VUWC 25/23).

Noted:

1 that the Council paper was taken as read.

2 that the 2024 financial statements audit is complete. No adjustments were required and no material deficiencies in the internal control environment were found.

3 that the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee confirmed that the Annual Report had been thoroughly scrutinised by the Committee, and a subsequent page turn with the CFO and Chancellor had occurred on the financials.

Resolved:

that on the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee,
1 Council:
2 approve the 2024 Annual Report;
3 approve the signing and release of the Representation Letter to
4 EY;
authorise the 2024 Annual Report for issue;
approve the online publication of the 2024 Annual Report as soon as practical.

Street/McLean
Carried
250029

25.33 FACULTY NAMING

Received:

a Council paper dated 24 March 2025 from the Provost, Professor Bryony James, regarding Faculty Naming (document VUWC 25/24).

Noted:

1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
2 that two new Faculties were approved in 2024 as a result of the Faculty realignment project.
3 that each new Faculty has carried out a staff consultation exercise resulting in the names proposed in the resolution.
4 that in addition, a choice of te reo Māori names was developed by Professor Rawinia Higgins and Associate Professor Meegan Hall and gifted to the Faculties for their final selection, as set out in the resolution.

Resolved:

1 that Council approve the name of each of these faculties:

- **Te Wāhanga a Manaia - Faculty of Science and Engineering**
- **Te Pukenga Wai - Faculty of Education, Health, and Psychological Sciences**

2 that Council approve the change of name for the School of Psychology to the School of Psychological Sciences.

Bell-Purchas/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
250030

25.34 EMERITUS PROFESSOR PROCESS – DELEGATION REQUEST

Received:

a Council paper dated 17 March 2025 from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, seeking a delegation from Council to amend the criteria for the award of Emeritus Professor (document VUWC 25/26).

Noted:

1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
2 that the Emeritus Professor process is currently under review led by Professor Robyn Longhurst and Professor Bryony James. A new policy is under development and as part of this Council was asked to delegate the authority *to amend the criteria* for the award of Emeritus Professor to the Vice-Chancellor (the criteria were last reviewed in 1998).
3 that Council was supportive of delegating this authority to the Vice-Chancellor.
4 that concern was expressed that it is over a year since new Emeritus Professor nominations were put on hold whilst the overall review is underway.

5 that management agreed that this was not acceptable and had advised Deans last week that a new form could be used that retains the existing criteria pending finalisation of the current review.

Resolved: **that Council approve:**
that the authority to amend the criteria for awarding the title of 'Emeritus Professor' be delegated to the Vice-Chancellor.

Arnold/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
250031

25.35 STUDENT PRESIDENT REPORTS

Received:
1 a report from Mr Liban Ali, VUWSA President (document VUWC 25/26a).
2 a report from Ms Aria Ngarimu and Ms Kaea Hudson, Ngāi Tauira Co-Presidents (document VUWC 25/26b)

Noted:
1 that the written reports from the Student Presidents were taken as read and the Chancellor invited the Presidents to introduce themselves and speak to their key strategic focus areas.
2 that reports from both VUWSA and Ngāi Tauira reflected a positive start to the year with strong student engagement. Among its top priorities this year, Mr Ali highlighted VUWSA's campaign to take over the University's clubs and societies advocating that student-led governance would provide better support for the clubs. He also drew attention to VUWSA's campaign on public transport price increases and the difficult impact this will have on students.
3 that Ms Hudson and Ms Ngarimu highlighted the positive impact moving into Ngā Mokopuna has had for Māori students and additionally how it has provided a point of whakawhānaungatanga for staff and students as the trimester began.

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

Hanif/Bell-Purchas
Carried
250032

25.36 PASIFIKA REPORT

Received:
1 a Council paper dated 20 March 2025 from the Office of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) providing a Pasifika report (document VUWC 25/27).

Noted:
1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
2 that Ms Fabie Filo was welcomed to the meeting and congratulated on her recent appointment as Acting Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Pasifika following the resignation of Dame Luamanuvao Winnie Laban at the end of last year.
3 that the success of Tautai—a new pre-orientation and transition initiative for Pasifika students, and the subsequent Pasifika Orientation were highlighted. It was agreed that these initiatives laid the groundwork to strengthen Pasifika students' sense of belonging and ensure as far as possible a successful and empowering university experience.
Action:
4 that the Pasifika Pathways programme was raised and it was agreed that an update on this would be provided in the next Pasifika report to Council.
5 that the new Pasifika room in the Hub appears to be under utilised and not overly welcoming. It was confirmed that this is primarily a study space and

it is student led in terms of what the students would like included (and not included).

6 that Council congratulated the team on the positive trends in the report for EFTS and completion rates.

Resolved: **that the Pasifika report be noted.**

Bönisch-Brednich/Te Puni
Carried
250033

25.37 COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

Received: the public Minutes of the:

- Academic Board meeting held 25 February 2025
- Audit & Risk Committee meeting held 10 March 2025
- Finance Committee meeting held 10 March 2025.

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

Smol/McLean
Carried
250034

25.38 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 17 March 2025 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 25/28).

Resolved: **that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting to be held on Monday, 5 May 2025 at 11 am in the Council Chamber be noted.**

Te Puni/Gray
Carried
250035

25.39 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 25/29).

Resolved: **1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 18-29.**

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**
18. Minutes of previous meeting held 10 February 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)
19. Speaker: Professor Kim Cunio, NZSM	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)
20. National Music Centre quarterly report	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing – oral 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)
22. 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)
23. Managed Pathways presentation	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Financial report to 28 February 2025	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. Strategy Topic – Iho project	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Honorary Doctorate recommendations	Privacy	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

27. Waiteata Apartments reinstatement business case	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
28. 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)
29. 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 29, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Hanif/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
250036