COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 28 July 2025
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building, Kelburn Campus, Wellington
from 11.00 am to 2.40 pm

PRESENT:
Mr Alan Judge (Chancellor) (Chair)
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)
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor)
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES: Mr David Smol, Mr James Te Puni

IN ATTENDANCE:
Ms Jackie Anderson, General Counsel
Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
Ms Rachel Bruce, Chief Financial Officer
Ms Fabiefara Filo, Acting Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Pasifika
Professor Bryony James, Provost
Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori & Kaitiakitanga
Mr Simon Johnson, Director, Campus Operations (Acting COO)
Mr David Lewis, Director, Communications & Marketing
Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Mr Sam Mackay, Principal Adviser, International
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Ms Amy Rutherford, Director, International
Mrs Rachel Scott, Director, Governance, Risk, and Assurance
Ms Kate Tibbitts, Chief People Officer

25.106 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

Noted:
1 that the Chancellor welcomed all present, particularly those who had attended via Zoom from overseas at the time of the June meeting.
2 that Ms Asifa Hanif led the Karakia.
3 that apologies were received from Mr David Smol, and Mr James Te Puni. Mr Smol provided comments via email to the Chancellor on receipt of the meeting documentation. These will be included in the discussion where relevant.

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

McLean/ Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
250099

25.107 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.

25.108 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 16 JUNE 2025

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 16 June 2025.

Resolved: **that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16 June 2025 be approved.**

Bell-Purchas/Arnold
Carried
250100

25.109 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

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

Noted: that the Chancellor outlined events and activities since his last update to Council:

- attended the 16 June Finance Committee;
- chaired the 16 June Council meeting;
- attended Professor Fiona McDonald's inaugural lecture on Health (in)justice – Examining structural dysfunction in health system law. Mr Judge highly recommended inaugural lectures to Council members and if unable to attend, recordings are made available shortly after the lecture, accessible via the following link: https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/about/our-story/news-events/public-lecture-series
- attended the Victoria Honours Committee on 30 June, however this meeting was not able to proceed due to lack of a quorum;
- attended the Foundation Board of Trustees meeting;
- attended regular meetings with the Vice-Chancellor, and the Secretary to Council;

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

Bell-Purchas/Hanif
Carried
250101

25.110 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 21 July 2025 (document VUWC 25/78).

Noted:
1 that the report was taken as read.
2 that the landmark decision to remove the heritage designation on 320 The Terrace was acknowledged. This will allow the University to move

forward with plans for large-scale, sustainable student accommodation, once the ongoing legislative process is final.

3 that the additional TEC funding for 2025/26, secured in response to enrolment growth beyond the 102 percent cap, was confirmed.

4 four further funding wins through the Smart Ideas scheme, with Te Herenga Waka projects receiving $1 million to support research in climate, quantum computing, resilience, and sustainability.

5 that the Vice-Chancellor's recent visit to China as part of the Prime Minister's delegation was highlighted. During this time he signed four MOUs with top Chinese universities and undertook significant media engagement, reaching over 3.2 million people. Council member, Professor Richard Arnold was curious as to how VUW could make an impact in such a large market. The Vice-Chancellor emphasised the University's unique position as a capital city institution and proposed owning the concept of "happy education" as a differentiator. He emphasised the importance of continued investment in China as a key international market, and noted that no other New Zealand universities were involved in the delegation.

6 that there was a discussion on city safety, with the Vice-Chancellor recently meeting WellingtonNZ and city officials to raise concerns around lighting, public transport, and student accommodation—emphasising the need for collaborative solutions to improve the student experience.

7 that He Kokonga Whare e Kitea, a TEC-funded initiative in partnership with the University of Canterbury to support student success through targeted interventions was discussed.

8 that the implications of AI on assessment and academic integrity was raised. Management described a two-track approach focusing on both the AI tools themselves and assessment design. The importance of a proactive institutional stance was reinforced by the Vice-Chancellor. AI forums, and an advisory committee will be established to guide the University's next steps.

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

Gray/Arnold
Carried
250102

25.111 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2025

Received: the Financial report to 30 June 2025 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 25/79).

Noted:

1 that the report was taken as read.

2 that $2.6m was received for 2025 growth, however this has not been baselined for future years. It will create an ongoing negative mis-match between revenue received and costs incurred.

3 that a prioritisation exercise is underway on where best to invest this additional revenue.

4 that the June forecast is underway and this will be presented to the 8 September Finance Committee, and Council meetings.

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

McLean/Street
Carried
250103

25.112 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 28 July 2025 (document VUWC 25/80).

Resolved:

1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 25/80, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 28 July 2025.

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

Bell-Purchas/Hanif
Carried
250104

25.113 APPOINTMENTS TO TE AKA MATUA COMMITTEE

Received: a Council paper dated 21 July 2025 from Ms Pania Gray, Chair, Te Aka Matua Committee, regarding appointments to the Te Aka Matua Committee (document VUWC 25/81).

Noted:

1 that the Council paper was taken as read.

2 that the proposed appointments are required as a result of Council approving amendments to the Terms of Reference for Te Aka Matua at its June meeting.

3 that Council was supportive of the appointments and agreed unanimously to the following resolutions.

Resolved: **that on the recommendation of the Chair of the Te Aka Matua Committee:**

1 under Clause 14.1(b) Mr William Bell-Purchas, Council member, be appointed to the Te Aka Matua Committee from 28 July 2025 to 31 December 2025;

2 under Clause 14.1(d), Ms Kaea Hudson be appointed to the Te Aka Matua Committee from 28 July 2025 to 31 December 2025.

McLean/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
250105

25.114 RE-APPOINTMENT OF FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

Received: a Council paper dated 21 July 2025 from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge, regarding the re-appointment of a Foundation Trustee (document VUWC 25/82).

Noted:

1 that the Council paper was taken as read.

2 that the re-appointment of Emeritus Professor Gregor Coster to a further term on the Foundation Board of Trustees was supported by all members of Council.

Resolved: **that Emeritus Professor Gregor Coster be appointed as a Trustee of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rules 2.4 and 7.2 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office commencing on 1 July 2025 and concluding on 30 June 2027.**

Gray/Street
Carried
250106

25.115 PASIFIKA QUARTERLY REPORT

Received: a Council paper dated 21 July 2025 from the Acting Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika), Ms Fabiefara Filo, providing a Pasifika report (document VUWC 25/83).

Noted:

1. that the Council paper was taken as read.
2. that recruitment for the AVC Pasifika is underway with an announcement expected soon.
3. that in response to Council action item 25.36(4) an update was provided on the Pasifika pathways programme. This pre-degree programme is designed to support Pasifika students in their transition to university life.
4. that 182 Pasifika students celebrated their graduation in May this year.
5. that support is in place to ensure Pasifika students have every opportunity to complete their qualifications.
6. that Ms Filo was thanked for her report, and for acting as AVC Pasifika as recruitment for the position continued.

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

Bönisch-Brednich/Street
Carried
250107

25.116 KING'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Received: a Council paper dated 14 July 2025 from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge, regarding graduates and staff honoured in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours (document VUWC 25/84).

Resolved: **that Council conveys its congratulations to all Victoria University of Wellington graduates and staff honoured in the 2025 King's Birthday Honours.**

Smith/McLean
Carried
250108

25.117 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 21 July 2025 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 25/85).

Noted:

1. that the Council paper was taken as read.
2. that Council members were encouraged to participate in the upcoming Open Day on 22 August.
3. that the Vice-Chancellor reinforced the Chancellor's earlier enthusiasm for the University's series of inaugural lectures.

Resolved: **that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting to be held on Monday, 8 September 2025 at 11 am in Room RH1210, Level 12, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus be noted.**

Gray/Hanif
Carried
250109

25.118 FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Received: the public Minutes of the 16 June 2025 Finance Committee.

Resolved: **that the public Minutes of the 16 June 2025 Finance Committee be noted.**

McLean/Arnold
Carried
250110

25.119 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 25/86).

Resolved: **1** **that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 15-26.**

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 16 June 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 – Q2 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)
17. Vice-Chancellor's report, including Q2	Privacy, commercial prejudice,	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii),	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

dashboard and Te Hiwa areas of mahi	commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	
18. Financial report to 30 June 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 – Marketing and Branding ***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. Hunter Fellowship recommendations	Privacy	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Campus Master plan	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. International Tuition fees	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Digital Roadmap 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. Foundation quarterly report to 30 June 2025	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. Finance Committee 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)
26. Council only time	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)

	confidential basis.		

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

Gray/Arnold
Carried
250111