



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 5 May 2025
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building
from 11.00 am to 3.15 pm**

- PRESENT:** Mr Alan Judge (Chancellor) (Chair)
Professor Richard Arnold
Mr William Bell-Purchas
Ms Pania Gray
Ms Asifa Hanif
Mr David McLean
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)
Mr David Smol
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr James Te Puni
Ms Vicki Faint (acting Secretary to Council)
- APOLOGIES:** Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Ms Jackie Anderson, General Counsel
Dr Leon Bakker, Director, Strategy and Planning
Ms Rachel Bruce, Chief Financial Officer
Ms Rochelle Gribble, Manager, Strategic Projects
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
Ms Bryony James, Provost
Ms Logan Bannister, DVC (Students)
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

25.52

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor opened the meeting and welcomed all present, in particular Ms Vicki Faint who is acting Secretary to Council for the next month.
 - 2 that Hon Maryan Street gave a Karakia and paid tribute to former Pro-Chancellor, Dr Dianne McCarthy who died in early April.
 - 3 that apologies were received from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, and Ms Caroline Ward.

Resolved: that the apologies from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, and Ms Caroline Ward be sustained.

McLean/Arnold
Carried
250050

25.53 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.

25.54 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 31 MARCH 2025

- Received:** the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 31 March 2025.
- Resolved:** **that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 31 March 2025 be approved.**

**Te Puni/Gray
Carried
250051**

25.55 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 31 March 2025:
- Interviewed a potential candidate for the current Ministerial vacancy on Council.
 - Attended a briefing on graduation preparation with the Secretary to Council.
 - Attended a meeting of the Foundation Trustees via Zoom (17 April 2025).
 - Chaired the Victoria Honours Committee meeting (28 April 2025)
 - 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 / Bell-Purchas
Carried
250052**

25.56 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

- Received:** a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 28 April 2025 (document VUWC 25/40).
- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that Professor Smith acknowledged the proposed amendments to the education and training act bill, emphasising the importance of freedom of expression and the university's commitment to fostering diversity of voices and our position of neutrality at the level of the institution.
 - 3 that several international student exchange agreements have been signed, facilitating academic collaboration and cultural exchange between institutions.

- 4 that these partnerships are crucial for enhancing the global reach and reputation of the university, providing students with valuable international experiences.
- 5 that the Robinson Research Institute has received \$71m in funding, a substantial investment aimed at advancing automation technologies. This funding is significant for the university, as it will support cutting-edge research and development in automation, positioning the institution as a leader in this field.
- 6 that we are moving our marketing and branding from traditional to experiential marketing.
- 7 that the Drawing Board TV Series is worth a watch for those that have not yet seen it.
- 8 that Ngā Mokopuna is a finalist in the Bluestar Green Gold Awards (being held on 2 July 2025)
- 9 that Provost, Bryony James has joined the Board of the Samoa National University.
- 10 that Bev Lawton was awarded the KiwiBank New Zealander of the Year.

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

**Gray/Arnold
Carried
250053**

25.57 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2025

Received: the Financial report to 31 March 2025 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 25/41).

Noted: that the report was taken as read.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 31 March 2025 be noted.

**McLean/ Hanif
Carried
250054**

25.58 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 5 May 2025 (document VUWC 25/42).

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 25/42, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 5 May 2025.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

**Bell-Purchas/Hanif
Carried
250055**

25.59 COUNCIL DATES FOR 2026

Received: a Council paper dated 28 April 2025 from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge, regarding proposed Council dates for 2026 (document VUWC 25/43).

Noted: 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.

- 2 that the proposed dates had been considered by Council members in advance of this meeting and had suited people well given the early notice.
- 3 that there was agreement to confirm the dates as set out in the paper with the exception to move the 7 September date to 14 September 2026.

Resolved: that with the amendment under point 3 above, the proposed dates set out in document VUWC 25/43 be approved.

**Street/Te Puni
Carried
250056**

25.60 PROPOSAL TO MERGE THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY, AND HEALTH PRACTICE

Received: a Council paper dated 17 April 2025 from the Provost, Professor Bryony James, regarding a proposal to Merge the School of Health and School of Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Practice (document VUWC 25/44).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that the proposal was discussed and endorsed by Academic Board.

Resolved: that Council:

- 1 approve the formation of a single new school from the School of Health and School of Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Practice;
- 2 approve the new school being named, The School of Health*
**to be used as a transitional name until fully reviewed by end of 2025*

**Gray/Arnold
Carried
250057**

25.61 2024 FOUNDATION ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Received: a Council paper dated 28 April 2025 from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori and Kaitiakitanga, Professor Rawinia Higgins, providing the 2024 Foundation Annual Accounts (document VUWC 25/45).

Noted: that the Council paper was taken as read.

Resolved: that the 2024 Foundation Annual accounts be noted.

**Judge/ Smol
Carried
250058**

25.62 2024 RESEARCH ANNUAL REPORTS

Received: a Council paper dated 3 April 2025 from Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, providing the 2024 Research Annual reports (document VUWC 25/46).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that the university's research strategy focuses on diversifying research income and securing future external funding to support ongoing projects.
- 3 that the impact of research is crucial, with a focus on academic citations, recognition, and the practical application of research findings.

- 4 that supporting initiatives that secure future external funding is essential for the sustainability and growth of the university's research programs.
- 5 the challenges faced in the research environment, and the need for adaptive strategies to overcome these obstacles.

Resolved: that the 2024 Annual reports for the University Research Committee, and the Animal Ethics Committee be noted.

Te Puni/Arnold
Carried
250059

25.63

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 4 April 2025 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 25/47).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that Council members were encouraged to attend graduation events in the week of 12 May.

Resolved: that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting to be held on Monday, 16 June 2025 at 11 am in the Wharenui, Ngā Mokopuna, be noted.

Judge/Smol
Carried
250060

25.64

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 25/48).

Resolved:

- 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 14-27.

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		Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
	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.		
14. Confidential HR payment	Legal privilege To carry on without	s9(2)(h), and s9(2)(j)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

	prejudice negotiations		
15. Council fees review	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. VC KPIs	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. Minutes of previous meeting held 31 March 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)
18. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing – Q1 dashboard 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)
19. Vice-Chancellor's report including Q1 dashboard	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)
20. Te Hiwa Areas of Mahi Q1 report	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Financial report to 31 March 2025 and Q1 forecast	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, Confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Strategy Topic – Commercial structure of the University – Presentation	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Campus Master plan - updated	Commercial prejudice, commercial	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

	activities, confidential basis		
24. Everton Hall Seismic business case	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. Honorary Doctorate recommendations	Privacy	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Digital Roadmap quarterly report	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i),and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
27. Foundation quarterly 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)

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 items 14, 15, and 16, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Hanif /Street
Carried
250061