



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 2 December 2024
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building
from 11.30 am to 4.45 pm**

PRESENT:

- Mr John Allen (Chancellor)
- Professor Richard Arnold
- Mr William Bell-Purchas
- Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
- Ms Pania Gray
- Mr Alan Judge
- Mr David McLean
- Ms Kelly Mitchell
- Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)
- Mr David Smol *from 12.25 pm*
- Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor)
- Mr James Te Puni
- Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES: Nil

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Ms Jackie Anderson, General Counsel
- Dr Leon Bakker, Director, Strategy & Planning
- Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
- Ms Rachel Bruce, Chief Financial Officer
- Mr Mark Daldorf, Director, People & Capability
- Ms Fabie Filo, Senior Pasifika Engagement Adviser
- Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori & Engagement
- Mr Patrick Homan, Associate Director, Asset Management
- Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
- Professor Bryony James, Provost
- Mr Clinton Jenkins, Director, Planning & Performance Management
- Mr Simon Johnson, Director, Campus Operations
- Ms Kristina Keogh, Associate Director, Communications
- Ms Marianna Nicolaou, Associate Director, Financial Operations
- Mr Aaron Nonoa, Manager, Pasifika Student Success
- Mr Jay Liu, Data Analyst Pasifika
- Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
- Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
- Mrs Rachel Scott, Director, Governance, Risk & Assurance
- Ms Pelesa Semu, Senior Adviser to the Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Pasifika
- Mr David Stevenson, Director, Property Services
- Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer
- Mr Andrew Wilks, Director, Sustainability

STUDENT PRESIDENTS: Ms Marvail Parkinson, VUWSA President 2024
Ms Sterling Maxwell, Ngāi Tauira Co-President 2024
Ms Te Waikamihī Lambert, Ngāi Tauira Co-President 2024
Mr Liban Ali, VUWSA President elect, 2025
Ms Aria Ngarimu, Ngāi Tauira Co-President 2025

24.193 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

Noted:

- 1 that Mr James Te Puni led the Karakia and extended aroha to the Chancellor at his time of bereavement.
- 2 that Mr James Te Puni led the Karakia and extended a mihi, conveying Council's aroha and tautoko for the Chancellor at his time of bereavement.
- 3 that the Chancellor acknowledged the Karakia and strong support of the University Community.
- 4 that Mr Allen warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all members for attending in person.
that Student representative Ms Kelly Mitchell was acknowledged and recognised for her contribution to Council during her two year term. Ms Mitchell's term had coincided with the arrival of a new Vice-Chancellor, and the difficult work required to ensure the financial sustainability of the University. A farewell will take place after the meeting.

24.194 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.

24.195 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 21 OCTOBER 2024

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 21 October 2024.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 October 2024 be approved.

Street/McLean
Carried
240188

24.196 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: an oral report from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen.

Noted:

- 1 that this was the first time since Mr Allen became Chancellor in 2022 that he had not provided a written report.
- 2 that the excitement around this Friday's dawn opening of the Living Pā and the reawakening of the marae was highlighted. It will be an occasion that will reaffirm the importance of te ao Māori at Te Herenga Waka and

- showcase a place where Māori academics and students can flourish and engage, along with all other members of Te Herenga Waka’s community.
- 3 that Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori, Professor Rawinia Higgins, and members of her team were commended for their hard work over a long period of time in realising the vision of the Living Pā.
- 4 that energy is also building ahead of next week’s graduation ceremonies both at the Michael Fowler Centre, and back on the marae, during which 1,516 graduates will be celebrated and welcomed into the alumni community. The Pro-Chancellor, Hon Maryan Street, will share responsibilities with the Chancellor during this December’s graduation season.
- 5 that the Chancellor expressed his enthusiasm for the Pasifika celebration which kicks the week off.
- 6 that recent University events including Professor Bönisch-Brednich’s ‘Pakukore: Poverty, by Design— Addressing the systemic causes of poverty and options for change conference’, and the second the ‘Role of university leadership in supporting academic freedom’ were highlighted. In both cases these events demonstrated what a university can do offering quality insights while acting as both convenor and facilitator to hold difficult and challenging conversations.
- 7 that as the year draws to a close Mr Allen sees the University in good spirits. He expressed confidence in the strength of the Te Herenga Waka community and thanked Council members for their efforts during the year.

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

**Gray/Judge
Carried
240189**

24.197

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 25 November 2024 (document VUWC 24/146).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that positive results in the prestigious Marsden Fund round were commended. Of the 20 projects submitted, 11 received standard grants which provide funding of up to \$960,000 over three years. The remaining nine projects received fast-start grants of \$360,000 each which is encouraging particularly as many of these have been awarded to early-career academics.
- 3 that three senior appointments were discussed. The new Director of People and Capability, Kate Tibbits, starts in mid-January, and two new Dean appointments have been announced recently – Professor Averil Coxhead as Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Professor Geoff McLay as Dean of Law.
- 4 that early indications on enrolments for 2025 look positive.
- 5 that work led by Professor Bryony James and Professor Robyn Longhurst is progressing well to detect and remove unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Action:*
- 6 that Council expressed interest in an update on the University’s international activity and landscape at a meeting in early 2025. The Vice-Chancellor agreed that he was happy to come back with a report as requested.

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

McLean/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
240190

24.198 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2024

Received: the Financial report to 31 October 2024 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 24/147).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that the financial situation remains on track and nothing unexpected has emerged as at 31 October.
- 3 that the Finance Team had been focussed on closing out the 2025 Budget which is on the confidential agenda of this meeting as an approval item.
- 4 that the decrease in the statement of financial position is due to the property revaluation.

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

Judge/Te Puni
Carried
240191

24.199 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 2 December 2024 (document VUWC 24/148).

Resolved:

- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 24/148, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 2 December 2024.
- 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Mitchell/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240192

24.200 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS FOR 2025

Received: a Council paper dated 25 November 2024 from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, regarding the appointment of Committee Chairs and Committee members for 2025 (document VUWC 24/149).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that in the absence of any objections to the proposed Committee set up, the Chancellor was comfortable making the recommendation as per the resolution below.
- 3 that as an aside to this item, the matter of Council succession was raised. The Chancellor confirmed that there is a skills framework and that this topic is at the top of his mind. He had discussed it with the Vice-Chancellor before this meeting, and it would be raised again in the new year.

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Chancellor:

the Committee Chairs and Committee membership as set out in document VUWC 24/149 be approved.

**Allen/Street
Carried
240193**

24.201 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER – JAMES TE PUNI

Received: a Council paper dated 25 November 2024 from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, regarding the appointment of Mr James Te Puni to a further four-year term on Council (document VUWC 24/150).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that Mr James Te Puni had confirmed his availability and willingness to serve a further term on Council. The Chancellor thanked Mr Te Puni for agreeing to reappointment and recognised that this would be helpful as the Council membership has several long-serving members reaching the end of their terms in 2025.
- 3 that in making this appointment it does not achieve the intention of the Council membership statute to have at least five women on Council (there will be four). Efforts will take place in 2025 to ensure that this intention is met.

that on the recommendation of the Chancellor:

in accordance with clause 6.1 of the Council Membership Statute, Mr Te Puni be appointed to Council for a further four year term from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028.

Resolved:

**Allen/Street
Carried
240194**

at 12.25 pm Mr Smol joined the meeting

24.202 PASIFIKA QUARTERLY REPORT

Received: a Council paper and presentation dated 25 November 2024 from Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) providing a Pasifika update report (document VUWC 24/151).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that an apology from Dame Winnie was received. The team – Ms Pelesa Semu, Ms Fabie Filo, Mr Jay Liu, and Mr Aaron Nonoa – presented on Dame Winnie’s behalf.
- 3 that Tautai was introduced – a new pre-orientation and transition initiative for Pasifika students in 2025. This aims to ease the arrival of and support first-year students who are arriving on campus for their first look at tertiary level study. New initiatives including involving parents as far as possible in attending a mock lecture will be part of this programme, as well as ensuring Pasifika students have increased comfort around asking questions and thinking critically.
- 4 that the Chancellor thanked the team for their presentation and on behalf of Council conveyed best wishes to Associate Professor Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban.

Resolved: that the Pasifika report be noted.

**Smol/McLean
Carried
240195**

24.203

STUDENT PRESIDENT REPORTS

Received: 1 a report from Ms Te Waikamihī Lambert and Ms Sterling Maxwell, Ngāi
Tauira Co-Presidents (document VUWC 24/152a);
2 a report from Ms Marcail Parkinson, VUWSA President (document VUWC
24/152b).

Noted: 1 that the Student President reports were taken as read.
VUWSA
2 that Ms Parkinson introduced Mr Liban Ali who has been elected VUWSA
President for 2025.
3 that the establishment of the Aotearoa Tertiary Students’ Association
(ATSA) was a major highlight of the year with VUWSA playing an active
part in it being able to provide a unified national voice for students.
4 that students continued to raise their concerns about the environment and
climate change, and the need for the University to be true to its values in any
investment decisions.
5 that VUWSA has advocated strongly with the University Advisory Group
although there was a perception that student advice is being overlooked.
Ngāi Tauira
6 that Ms Lambert and Ms Maxwell introduced Ms Aria Ngarimu, one of the
two 2025 Co-Presidents.
7 that the year was a positive one for Ngāi Tauira with a significant increase
in the number of students engaging in events, for example the AGM had
more than 60 people in attendance.
8 that the team has put a massive effort into the opening of the Living Pā which
takes place on Friday, and the following week’s graduation ceremonies on
the re-awakened marae. The release of the professional waiata recordings
for the Living Pā will show one aspect of the mahi involved.
9 that the acceptance of Ngāi Tauira’s remuneration proposal was a highlight
of the year, and thanks were expressed for this.
10 that there was a strong sense of Kotahitanga and manaakitanga with this
year’s cohort of students.
Summary
11 that students had attended the Hikoi mō te Tiriti on 19 November and it was
an incredible event cloaked in Kotahitanga and aroha.
12 that the seat and voice at the Council table had been greatly valued by both
student bodies throughout 2024. The Chancellor conveyed best wishes to
the outgoing presidents and a warm welcome to the incoming ones.

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

Resolved:

**Te Puni/Mitchell
Carried
240196**

24.204 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 25 November 2024 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 24/153).

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

Bönisch-Brednich/Arnold
Carried
240197

24.205 COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

Received: the following Committee and Academic Board Minutes:

- Academic Board, 24 September 2024
- Academic Board, 5 November 2024
- Audit & Risk Committee, 18 November 2024
- Finance Committee, 18 November 2024
- Te Aka Matua Committee, 18 November 2024

Noted: that the Pro-Chancellor drew attention to the vote of thanks to Ms Pania Gray for her two years of service on the Audit & Risk Committee. Ms Gray has now assumed the Chair of the Te Aka Matua Committee.

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

Street/Gray
Carried
240198

24.206 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 24/154).

Resolved: 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 15-29.

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
15. Minutes of previous meeting held 21 October 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)
16. 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)
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. Your Voice Survey 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)
19. Financial report to 31 October 2024	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Budget 2025 – for approval	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i) and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Insurance Renewal mandate	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i) and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Electricity contract renewal	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

23. Amending a qualification conferred	Privacy	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Investment Plan 2025-2027	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. 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)
26. Draft 2025-2029 Digital roadmap	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
27. Foundation quarterly report to 30 September 2024	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	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.

**Bell-Purchas/Smol
Carried
240199**