



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 21 October 2024
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building and via Zoom
from 9.00 am to 3.15 pm**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGIES:

- Ms Pania Gray

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Ms Jackie Anderson, General Counsel
- Dr Leon Bakker, Director, Strategy & Planning
- Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
- Mr William Barber, Associate Director, Commercial and Finance
- Ms Rachel Bruce, Chief Financial Officer
- AP Meegan Hall, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Mātauranga Māori
- Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori & Engagement
- Ms Susan Hockley, Group Financial Controller
- Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
- Professor Bryony James, Provost
- Mr Simon Johnson, Director, Campus Operations
- Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
- Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
- Mrs Rachel Scott, Director, Governance, Risk & Assurance
- Ms Kate Schollum, Associate Director, Engagement, Academic
- Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

24.164

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

Noted:

- 1 that Mr David McLean led the Karakia.
- 2 that the Chancellor warmly welcomed all to the meeting, including those watching the livestream.
- 3 that an apology was received from Ms Pania Gray.

Resolved: that the apology from Ms Pania Gray be sustained.

Judge/Arnold
Carried
240161

24.165 **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.

24.166 **COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 9 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 9 September 2024.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 9 September 2024 be approved.

Bell-Purchas/Te Puni
Carried
240162

24.167 **REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR**

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 14 October 2024 providing his Chancellor's report (document VUWC 24/126).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the inaugural lecture of Professor Wayne Patrick was highlighted. Professor Patrick's deep commitment to the success of his PhD students was acknowledged. His research on enzymes has enormous economic impact potential, and in order to release this the science system in New Zealand must be reformed and suitably funded to ensure that scientists of this calibre remain in the country.
 - 3 that the new Strategic Plan was launched at a series of staff forums and Te Hiwa (the Senior Leadership Team) and Te Ama (Deans and Directors) will begin work on the implementation plan over the coming month.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

Bönisch-Brednich/Smol
Carried
240163

24.168 **REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 14 October 2024 (document VUWC 24/127).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.

- 2 that inaugural lectures were recommended to Council members as an opportunity to see wonderful examples of the full spectrum of work across the University's academic disciplines.
- 3 that following the launch of the new Strategic Plan at a series of staff forums there had been a positive and interested response. As referred to by the Chancellor, Te Hiwa and Te Ama will progress work on the implementation plan starting with two offsite meetings this week.
- 4 that the Vice-Chancellor had travelled to China in the time since the last Council meeting, and as part of the programme the Wellington Institute of Zhengzhou University was launched.
- 5 that following the Minister of Education's approval of the Annual Maximum Fees Movement (AMFM), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Student's team have been busy processing approvals and enrolments. At this early stage, numbers look positive for 2025 with rises in new and retained students compared to this time last year, and international figures significantly up.
- 6 that the two Advisory Groups chaired by Sir Peter Gluckman have provided their reports to Cabinet and next steps are awaited.
- 7 that Council members congratulated Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori & Engagement, on receiving the Māori governance award at the 2024 Women in Governance Awards.

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

Mitchell/Smol
Carried
240164

24.169

FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

Received: the Financial report to 30 September 2024 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 24/128).

Noted:

1 that the report was taken as read.

2 that the Finance Team is mostly focussed on 2025 as results to 30 September continue to predict at the very least a break even full year result.

3 that the Finance team is also working on the 2025 budget setting process.

4 that the CFO had attended the inaugural meeting of the Universities New Zealand Funding Committee attended by CFOs and other Finance/Planning staff from NZ Universities.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 30 September 2024 be noted.

Judge/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240165

24.170

DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR MĀORI – UPDATE AND PRESENTATION

Received: a presentation from Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori, providing an update (document VUWC 24/129).

Noted:

1 that Professor Rawinia Higgins and Dr Meegan Hall spoke to the presentation circulated with the meeting documentation.

- 2 that their report provided an update on Te Tiriti o Waitangi Self Review and progress against the 32 recommendations in the report (which was released in March 2022). Nine recommendations have been fully implemented, and 21 recommendations are underway with good progress being made. Substantive work is yet to commence on two recommendations.
- 3 that Council expressed its support of the work being undertaken and recognised that some of it will take a long time to complete. Council also acknowledged that the Te Tiriti o Waitangi statute is overdue for review, and under the new Chair of the Te Aka Matua Committee, Ms Gray, this review would occur.
- 4 that the DVC Māori's team has been heavily involved in the final stages of the Living Pā project. Preparations are well underway for the opening of the new building and the reawakening of the marae at a dawn event on 6 December. All Council members have been invited to this momentous occasion.
- 5 that there was a brief update on Plan B in case the building is not ready in time for 6 December, however the team has advised that there is a low risk of this being needed.

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

Mitchell/McLean
Carried
240166

24.171

2024 PASTORAL CARE CODE SELF-REVIEW REPORT

Received: 1 a Council paper dated 2 October 2024 from Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students, providing the 2024 Pastoral Care Code Self-review report (document VUWC 24/130).
2

Noted: 1 that the report was taken as read.
2 that Dr Bannister spoke to the report and confirmed that it represented the culmination of a process led by Te Pūrengi Student Experience and Wellbeing, of self-review against the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice focusing on Outcomes 1-4.
3 that the self-review process confirmed that over the last three years, since the introduction of the current Code, the University has closed gaps and strengthened working in partnership with students. This has resulted in meeting Code outcomes.
4 that an ongoing process of continuous improvement will remain a high priority for the team.
5 that the need to provide supervisors with more tools to detect when students might be having difficulty was discussed and the Provost confirmed that this is something that she is working on.
6 that Council thanked Dr Logan and her team for the work and care in this critical area.

that the 2024 Pastoral Care Code Self-review report be noted.

Resolved: Te Puni/Arnold
Carried
240167

24.172 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 7 October 2024 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 24/131).

Resolved: that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting to be held on Monday, 2 December 2024 be noted.

**Smol/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240168**

24.173 COMMITTEE AND ACADEMIC BOARD MINUTES

Received: the following Committee and Academic Board Minutes:

- Academic Board, 20 August 2024
- Audit & Risk Committee, 26 August 2024
- Finance Committee, 26 August 2024

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

**McLean/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
240169**

24.174 SPEAKER: STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE

Received: a presentation and oral report from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, Director, Stout Research Centre.

Noted:

- 1 that Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich provided an oral report about the Stout Research Centre, its history, vision and kaupapa.
- 2 that the Stout Research Centre's upcoming conference – Pakukore: Poverty, by design, taking place at Rutherford House, 21-23 November 2024 was discussed.
- 3 that the Chancellor thanked Brigitte for the presentation and recognised the many achievements of the Stout Research Centre under her leadership. He acknowledged the enormous impact of the Stout Research Centre and its important role to play in the future of the University.
- 4 that the presentation is filed under the folder for this meeting.

Resolved: that the oral report and presentation from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich be noted.

**Te Puni/Arnold
Carried
240170**

24.175 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 21 October 2024 (document VUWC 24/132).

Resolved:

- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 24/132, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 21 October 2024.

- 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.
Bell-Purchas/Mitchell
Carried
240171

24.176 FACULTY REALIGNMENT

Received: a Council paper dated 14 October 2024 from the Provost, Professor Bryony James, regarding the Faculty Realignment decision (document VUWC 24/133).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
 - 2 that an extensive consultation process on possible alignment of faculties was conducted and all input was considered by a decision-making panel on 4 September with a subsequent recommendation to the Vice-Chancellor.
 - 3 that Council was briefed on this recommendation at its 9 September meeting and sought advice from the Academic Board on the academic implications of the proposed structural change. Upon receiving this advice, captured by Professor Sally Hill following the Academic Board meeting, Council was comfortable with the proposal.
 - 4 that transition work to support changes in faculty structures was discussed, as well as the need to focus on the culture of the new faculties as they are established.
 - 5 that innovative ideas that emerged from the consultation period were acknowledged.
 - 6 that there was unanimous support from Council members for the following recommendations.

Resolved: that Council:

- 1 note the discussion of Academic Board;
- 2 approve the recommendation of the panel to move forward with the following combination: Te Kawa a Māui moving into the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori portfolio as the nucleus of Iho; a Faculty bringing together Health, Education and Psychology; and a Faculty bringing together Science and Engineering.

Allen/Street
Carried
240172

24.177 HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELLBEING POLICY TO BE RECLASSIFIED AS A STATUTE

Received: a Council paper dated 1 October 2024 from Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer, regarding the reclassification of the Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Policy as a Statute (document VUWC 24/134).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
 - 2 that the Audit & Risk Committee had requested that the Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Policy be elevated to Statute level, to ensure increased visibility at Council level. It also requested that consideration be given to extending the scope of the Statute to include Council members. The following changes have been actioned to fulfil this request:
 - replaced the term "Policy" with "Statute" throughout the document;

- revised the purpose section of the document to note the University’s Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy will support and enable the implementation of this Statute;
 - added a new clause stating that the document will be reviewed under the oversight of the Audit & Risk Committee;
 - changed the approver from Vice-Chancellor to Council; and
 - revised the definition of “Members of the University Community” to broaden the application scope to include members of the Council.
- 3 that the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor confirmed their strong support for these changes due to Council’s obligations in law, and because of the profound importance of Health, Safety & Wellbeing at this University.

Resolved:

that on the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee:

the reclassification of the Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Policy as a Statute be approved.

**Street/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
240173**

24.178

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received:

a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 24/136).

Resolved:

- 1 **that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 16-29.**

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
16. Minutes of previous meeting held 9 September 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)
17. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing	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.		
18. 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)
19. Vice-Chancellor 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)
20. Te Hiwa areas of Mahi 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)
21. Freedom of Expression/Academic Freedom policy	Confidential basis	s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Financial report to 30 September 2024	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Refinance of the Debt facility	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii) , s9(2)(i) and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. \$U.S. Cash surety	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii) , s9(2)(i) and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. Lease approval – 222 Willis Street	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. Living Pā update	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)

27. National Music Centre quarterly report	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)
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.

McLean/Te Puni
Carried
240174

the meeting adjourned at 10.45 am