



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 10 May 2021
from 9.00 am to 4.50 pm in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building,
Kelburn Campus, Wellington**

PRESENT: Mr John Allen
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Professor Grant Guilford (Vice-Chancellor)
Professor Kate Hunter
Ms Tiana Jakicevich
Mr Alan Judge
Dr Dianne McCarthy (Pro Chancellor)
Ms Rhianna Morar
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith (Chancellor)
Mr James Te Puni
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGY: Ms Cath Nesus

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Katherine Edmond, Associate Director, Communications
Mr Simon Johnson, General Counsel
Professor Wendy Lerner, Provost
Mr Mark Loveard, Chief Operating Officer
Mr Les Montgomery, Chief Financial Officer
Ms Vanessa Pye, Director, Titoko Centre for Student Success
Associate Professor Christian Schott

21.59

KARAKIA

- Noted:**
- 1 that Ms Morar led the Karakia.
 - 2 that Council members will be encouraged to take a turn at upcoming meetings to lead the Karakia.

21.60

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor welcomed everyone to the meeting. He acknowledged those who might be watching remotely and requested that Council members use the microphones to ensure that sound was transmitted to the livestream.
 - 2 that an apology was received from Ms Cath Nesus. Council's best wishes were sent to acknowledge her bereavement.

Resolved: that the apology from Ms Nesus be sustained.

Allen/McCarthy
Carried
210057

21.61

OBITUARY – ELIZABETH ORR CNZM, CHANCELLOR 1991-1995

Received: comments from the Chancellor and Members of Council in acknowledgement and memory of Elizabeth Orr.

Noted: that Elizabeth Orr CNZM, the first female Chancellor of Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington had died at the age of 91.

Elizabeth began her involvement with the University as a student and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English and French in 1951, and a Master's in English in 1954.

She then worked as a junior lecturer and tutor in the English Department. She became a member of the University Council in 1986, served as Pro-Chancellor in 1990 and as the University's Chancellor from 1991 to 1995. Elizabeth was awarded an honorary Doctor of Literature by the University Council in 1997.

Elizabeth had a particular interest in equal opportunity issues, especially relating to women in the workplace, and made a significant, ongoing contribution to the campaign for pay equity for women in New Zealand.

She became a member of the National Advisory Council for the Employment of Women (NACEW) in 1967 and served as Chair of NACEW between 1971 and 1979. She also served as the Executive Secretary of the Association of University Teachers from 1967–1980.

Elizabeth was the author of a number of books. Her most recent book was a memoir, *Pay Packets & Stone Walls: A memoir of women's causes and love of the land*, which provided a personal take on many significant issues, including her ongoing campaign for equal pay.

Elizabeth was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 1997 for services to education and the community. She was a member of the Hunter Club and Victoria Legacy Club.

Resolved: that the obituary for Elizabeth Orr be noted and that the University Council recorded its appreciation for Elizabeth's life and contribution to Victoria University of Wellington.

Hunter/Paviour-Smith
Carried
210058

21.62

DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

Received: declarations and disclosure of interests by members of Council.

Noted: that there were no further declarations or disclosures of interest by members of Council since the circulation of the interests register with the meeting documentation.

21.63

COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2021

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 1 April 2021.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 1 April 2021 be approved.

McCarthy/Jakicevich
Carried
210059

21.64

REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: an oral report from the Chancellor.

Noted: that since the last meeting of Council held on 1 April 2021 the Chancellor:

- met / spoke with the Vice-Chancellor on several occasions
- met with the Associate Director Communications, Ms Katherine Edmond, to prepare a graduation speech for the upcoming May ceremonies
- spoke with Professor Mark Hickford in preparation for the Faculty of Law's Old Government Buildings 25-year commemoration event
- spoke at the Institute of Directors' National Conference about 'navigating the challenges of 2020' from the perspective of the University Council
- met / spoke with individual members of Council.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

McCarthy/Morar
Carried
210060

21.65

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor dated 4 May 2021 (document VUWC 21/41).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that 15 of the 22 PhD students nominated to return under the 250-cohort border exemption scheme are now back in Wellington.
- 3 that while a total of 1,000 undergraduate students are also allowed to return to New Zealand this year under a separate border exception, there are challenges in getting those students to Wellington including costs, visa restrictions, booking MIQ places, and changes to work rights for international students.
- 4 that the success of Dr Christopher Cornwall from the School of Biological Sciences in receiving the 2020 Prime Minister's MacDiarmid Emerging Scientist Prize was commended.
- 5 that a team of Law students had won the 19th annual Hong Kong Red Cross International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition for the Asia-Pacific region. Council extended its congratulations on this achievement.

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

Hunter/Allen
Carried
210061

21.66

FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2021

Received: the Financial report to 31 March 2021 (document VUWC 21/41).

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that the University continues to be in a very good position to achieve or exceed the financial target set by the Council for 2021 thanks to better than expected student enrolments and good work on reducing or constraining costs.
- 3 that Council reiterated its position that management take a proportionate and measured approach to the finances, balancing the need to return to a surplus in 2022 with the need to support the core functions of the University with appropriate funding.
- 4 that the CFO explained the timing reasons for people costs tracking below budget as well as the question around which financial year to apply the large reduction of annual leave to.
Action:
- 5 that the CFO report back with clarification of numbers tracking below budget for occupancy and depreciation/amortisation.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 31 March 2021 be noted.

McCarthy/Morar
Carried
210062

21.67

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Received: the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 20 April 2021 (document VUWC 21/43).

- Noted:**
- 1 that apart from the Academic Board there had been no other Council Committee meetings since the 1 April 2021 Council meeting.
 - 2 that the report of the Academic Board was taken as read.
 - 3 that a question was raised regarding the Faculty of Graduate Research Annual Report noting that about one third of academic staff are not supervising post-graduate students and that 400 students were declined due to supervision not being available. This matter will be discussed further by the Senior Leadership Team and Council will be updated in due course.
Action:
 - 4 that it was requested that future Academic Board reports include information on the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Maori)'s section of the meeting.

Resolved: that the Academic Board report be noted.

Allen/Te Puni
Carried
210063

21.68

MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Received: a Council paper from the Vice-Chancellor dated 3 May 2021 providing a Media and Social Media report (document VUWC 21/44).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that there had been media coverage of an alleged kidnapping of a student from Te Puni Village Hall of Residence. This is a police matter and in their view the circumstances relate to an individual misdemeanour and are unrelated to management of the Hall of Residence. Council was assured that immediate safety mitigation and a review of access to the building had occurred and noted that a full update will be provided under the Safety, Health and Wellbeing report in the confidential session of the meeting, as well as an investigation into this matter being considered at the next Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

Resolved: that the Media and Social Media report be noted.

Te Puni/Allen
Carried
210064

21.69 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council dated 3 May 2021 listing Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 21/45).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read. It was highlighted that the next ten days will be particularly busy with the commemorative event to mark 25 years since the Law School moved to the Old Government Buildings on Thursday and the May graduation ceremonies, celebrations and parades next week. Council members were encouraged to attend at least one graduation event if at all possible.
 - 2 that the next meeting of Council will take place on Monday, 14 June 2021 at 9.00 am in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building, Kelburn Campus, Wellington.

Resolved: that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details for the next Council meeting on Monday, 14 June 2021 be noted.

Paviour-Smith/McCarthy
Carried
210065

21.70 FOUNDATION - 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Received: a Council paper from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Engagement regarding the Foundation's 2020 Annual Report (document VUWC 21/46).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
 - 2 that the Foundation was in good heart ably stewarded by a strong and long-serving group of Trustees. The Chair was working to increase the diversity of the Board in upcoming appointments (see minute 21.72).
 - 4 that the Council acknowledged the work of the Board of Trustees and agreed that a formal vote of thanks be recorded for their service to the University.

Resolved: 1 that a formal vote of thanks be recorded to the Foundation Trustees in appreciation of their service.

Paviour-Smith/McCarthy
Carried
210066

- 2 that the 2020 Foundation Annual report be noted.

Allen/Jakicevich
Carried
210067

21.71

GRADUATES IN ABSENTIA

- Received:**
- 1 the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 10 May 2021 (document VUWC 21/47).
 - 2 a Council paper from the Vice-Chancellor dated 3 May 2021 in response to Council action item 21.15 regarding the conferment of degrees, diplomas and certificates (document VUWC 21/57).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the amendments to the conferment process will allow students to receive their qualification at various points throughout the year rather than just at graduation ceremony time (currently May and December).
 - 2 that a question was raised regarding the process and in the interests of simplification and workload reduction the following action point was agreed.
Action:
 - 3 that the Vice-Chancellor follow up the proposed process, i.e. do students need to formally apply to have the degree conferred versus an automatic process once they have met the requirements to be listed for conferment by Council?

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 21/47 and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 10 May 2021.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates in Absentia be recorded.
 - 3 that subject to point 3 above, the 2020 change to the conferment process, separating the conferment of a qualification from the graduation ceremony, be regularised and approved.

Morar/Jakicevich
Carried
210068

21.72

APPOINTMENT OF FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

- Received:**
- a Council paper from the Chancellor dated 3 May 2021 regarding the appointment of a Foundation Trustee (document VUWC 21/48).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council was unanimously supportive of the recommendation that Tricia Walbridge be appointed to the Board of Trustees particularly acknowledging her work in initially setting up the Development Office.
 - 2 that it was agreed to alter the term from that proposed in the Council paper to conclude on 30 June 2024 (rather than 9 May 2024). This will be in keeping with the recent tidy up of other Foundation Board of Trustee terms which all conclude at 30 June in the year the term is completed.

- Resolved:**
- that Ms Tricia Walbridge be appointed as a Trustee of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rule 2.4 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office from 10 May 2021 to 30 June 2024.

McCarthy/Hunter
Carried
210069

21.73

APPOINTMENT OF VICTORIA HONOURS COMMITTEE MEMBER

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor dated 3 May 2021 regarding the appointment of a member to the Victoria Honours Committee (document VUWC 21/49).

Noted: that Associate Professor Carwyn Jones was the successful candidate in an election conducted by the Academic Board Secretary.

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Chancellor:

- 1 that Associate Professor Carwyn Jones be appointed to the Victoria Honours Committee under clause 4.1(f) of the Victoria Honours Committee Terms of Reference.
- 2 that a vote of thanks be recorded to Professor Miriam Meyerhoff for her service on the Victoria Honours Committee.

Bönisch-Brednich/Hunter
Carried
210070

21.74

SPEAKER – ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHRISTIAN SCHOTT

Received: an oral presentation from Associate Professor Christian Schott of the Wellington School of Business and Government on his work using virtual reality to provide meaningful education for Sustainability.

- Noted:**
- 1 that Professor Schott uses gaming software and virtual reality technology to foster contextualised experiential learning about sustainability challenges and solutions as well as the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. He recently won the Gold Award in the highly competitive Sustainability Category at the 2020 QS-Wharton Reimagine Education Conference.
 - 2 that Council sought Associate Professor Schott's perspectives on addressing the challenge of how the very high-quality research produced by the University may be able to receive greater recognition globally.
 - 3 that Council congratulated Christian on his award and acknowledged the inter-disciplinary success he had achieved providing helpful insights for other academic staff.

Resolved: that the oral presentation from Associate Professor Christian Schott be noted.

Bönisch-Brednich/Hunter
Carried
210071

21.75

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 21/50).

- Resolved:**
- 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 17-26.

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
17. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 April 2021	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. Safety, Health & Wellbeing report	s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(b)(ii)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Chancellor's report	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Vice-Chancellor's report	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Financial report to 31 March 2021	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i) and s 9(2)(k)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Looking to the Future – a discussion	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Human Ethics Annual report	s 9(2)(b)(i), s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(g)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Animal Ethics Annual report	s 9(2)(b)(i), s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(g)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. Reports from Committee Chairs	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Council Only time	s 9(2)(a)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)

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.

Paviour-Smith/Allen
Carried
210072

At 10.20 am the meeting adjourned for morning tea

At 10.45 am the meeting reconvened