



## COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 15 February 2021  
from 9.00 am to 4.45 pm in the Wharenui, Te Herenga Waka Marae,  
46 Kelburn Parade, Kelburn, 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  
Ms Rhianna Morar  
Ms Cath Nesus  
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith (Chancellor)  
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

**APOLOGIES:**

Mr James Te Puni  
Dame Therese Walsh (Pro-Chancellor)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr Suri Bartlett, Chief Executive, Tenzing Limited  
Ms Natasha Caldwell, Senior Legal Counsel  
Associate Professor Meegan Hall, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Mātauranga Māori)  
Professor Wendy Lerner, Provost  
Mr Mark Loveard, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr Les Montgomery, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms Madeleine Setchell, Director, Communications, Marketing & Engagement  
Mr Tu Temara, Mata Awhinuke (Marae Operational Manager)  
Ms Laura Wiltshire, Stuff (Media)

**21.01**

**WHAKATAU AND KARAKIA**

**Noted:**

that Mr Tu Temara led the Whakatau and Karakia to formally welcome new Council member, Ms Tiana Jakicevich to the Marae.

**21.02**

**WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES**

**Noted:**

- 1 that the Chancellor thanked Mr Temara for the Whakatau and Karakia. He welcomed all Council members to the first formal meeting of 2021 in the Wharenui of Te Herenga Waka marae and acknowledged new Council member Ms Tiana Jakicevich attending her first meeting.

- 2 that the Chancellor acknowledged the urgent and immediate actions by the Marae staff and the Audio Visual team to set up the meeting under the requirements of alert level 2 which came into effect at 11.59 pm last night.
- 3 that the Vice-Chancellor confirmed that the Crisis Management Team had met late last night and would meet again this morning. The timing was particularly challenging as students from across the nation had travelled to Wellington to move into Halls of Residence over the weekend. There would be no complacency in the University's response and all public health directives would be stringently followed.
- 4 that the recent resignation of Dame Therese Walsh as Pro-Chancellor due to increasing and significant responsibilities in other governance roles was acknowledged. See also minute 21.15(2) for the formal vote of thanks recorded by Council.
- 5 that the Chancellor thanked Council members for their participation in and contribution to last Thursday's informal Workshop.

**Resolved:** that the apologies from Dame Therese Walsh and Mr James Te Puni be sustained.

Paviour-Smith/Allen  
Carried  
210001

**Received:** notice of an additional agenda item from the Chancellor.

- Noted:**
- 1 that due to the resignation of Dame Therese Walsh from Council effective 28 February 2021 an election for a replacement Pro-Chancellor was required. The resignation from Dame Therese was received after the notice of meeting for this meeting had gone out and delaying until the 1 April 2021 Council meeting would result in an undesirable vacancy in the office of Pro-Chancellor.
  - 2 that as a result an additional item 'Election of the Pro-Chancellor for remainder of 2021' needed to be added to the agenda for this meeting in order to ensure there was no vacancy from 1 March 2021 to 31 December 2021 in the office of Pro-Chancellor (see Minute 21.15).

**Resolved:** that in accordance with section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, agenda item 14b 'Election of the Pro-Chancellor for remainder of 2021' be added to the agenda and dealt with at this meeting of Council.

Paviour-Smith/Hunter  
Carried  
210002

## 21.03

## DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

**Received:** declarations and disclosure of interests by members of Council by way of a general notice under the Education Act 1989 Section 175 and the Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Disclosures of Interests register had been updated to include disclosures from new Council members Ms Tiana Jakicevich and Mr James Te Puni.
  - 2 that Professor Hunter had disclosed a related party interest in that her son was to commence study at the University in 2021.
  - 3 that the Disclosures of Interest register was attached to the Council documentation and was also available at all times on the Resource Centre of board books.

- 4 that there were no further declarations and disclosures of interest by members of Council, by way of a general notice under the Education Act 1989 Section 175 and the Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968.

## **21.04 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2020**

**Received:** the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 November 2020.

**Resolved:** that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 November 2020 be approved.

**Judge/Morar  
Carried  
210003**

## **21.05 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR**

**Received:** an oral report from the Chancellor.

**Noted:** that since the last meeting of Council held on 20 November 2020 the Chancellor:

- met/spoke with the Vice-Chancellor on several occasions
- attended a Chancellors' group meeting via Zoom
- hosted an honorary doctorate dinner for recipients Chris Finlayson, Elizabeth Knox and Lyn Provost
- presided over seven graduation ceremonies at the Michael Fowler Centre and two on Te Herenga Waka Marae
- led two graduation parades with the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellor and members of Council
- attended the Pasifika Graduation celebration in the Hub
- attended the State Services Commissioner's end of year function
- met / spoke individually with Council members.

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

**Guilford/Hunter  
Carried  
210004**

## **21.06 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**Received:** a report from the Vice-Chancellor dated 9 February 2021 (document VUWC 21/01).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
  - 2 that Associate Professor Maria Bargh (Te Arawa, Ngāti Awa) was acknowledged for her success in receiving the Te Puāwaitanga Research Excellence Award from the Royal Society Te Apārangi. She also led research that received \$2.95 million from the Government's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge.
  - 3 that the appointment of Professor Markus Melloh as the new Dean of Health was recently announced. Professor Melloh was previously Associate Dean Research & Development at Zurich University of Applied Sciences' School of Health Professions and Foundation Director of the university's Institute of Health Sciences.
  - 4 that Associate Professor Christian Schott received the Gold Award in the highly competitive Sustainability Category at the 2020 QS-Wharton

Reimagine Education Conference for a virtual reality experiential education project that uses gaming software and virtual reality technology to foster contextualised experiential learning about sustainability challenges and solutions.

*Action:*

- 5 that it was suggested that Associate Professor Bargh and Associate Professor Schott be invited to speak at upcoming Council meetings on their recent successes and particular fields.
- 6 that the programme of seismic assessments across the University's buildings, including halls of residences was discussed. This programme led to the recent closure of one wing of Weir House after the University was informed late last week of concerns about some structural aspects of the wing. The Council commended the efforts of Student and Campus Living to relocate students in a short period of time.

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

Nesus/McCarthy  
Carried  
210005

21.07

## FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

**Received:** the Full Year Financial report to 31 December 2020 (document VUWC 21/02).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
  - 2 that the University's deficit for 2020 had been reduced to an unaudited loss of approximately \$9.6 million due to the efforts of staff across the University to reduce costs. This was approximately \$12 million better than had been forecast in mid-2020 when the initial pre-intervention re-forecasting post-Covid was undertaken.
  - 3 that as a result of the generous support of the University Foundation by alumni, staff, and friends, the University group loss will be approximately \$3 million.
  - 4 that Council acknowledged the sacrifices and efforts made by staff to achieve this better than forecast result.

**Resolved:** that the Financial Report to 31 December 2020 be noted.

Judge/Allen  
Carried  
210006

21.08

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT RESPONSE POLICY – FOLLOWING FIRST FULL YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION

**Received:** a Council paper from the Provost dated 9 February 2021 regarding the Sexual Harassment Response Policy following the first full year of implementation (document VUWC 21/03).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
  - 2 that the genesis of this policy, at Council's instigation, was to encourage people to come forward and to create an environment in which disclosures would be more likely.
  - 3 that Council discussed the policy following its first full year of implementation. As expected, the policy has led to more disclosures and

complaints of sexually harmful behaviour and while the reported numbers are a concern, Council members were encouraged that more staff and students were willing to come forward enabling the University to better respond to the problem.

- 4 that consultation on the policy was underway and feedback will be reviewed by Council during the year.

**Resolved:** that the Council paper on the Sexual Harassment Response Policy following the first full year of implementation be noted.

**Morar/Jakicevich**

**Carried**

**210007**

## 21.09

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Received:** reports from Committee Chairs and minutes as follows:

- Report of the Academic Board, meeting held on 10 November 2020 (document VUWC 21/04)
- Finance Committee, 11 November 2020
- Audit & Risk Committee, 16 November 2020

**Noted:** 1 that the minutes of the 11 November 2020 Finance Committee and the 16 November 2020 Audit & Risk Committee meeting were included with the Council documentation for this meeting as they were not available at the time of the 20 November 2020 Council meeting. Committee Chairs had provided oral reports at the November 2020 Council meeting.

- 2 that the Academic Board report from the meeting held on 10 November 2020 was taken as read and there were no further comments or questions.

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

**Bönisch-Brednich/Nesus**

**Carried**

**210008**

## 21.10

### MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

**Received:** a Council paper from the Vice-Chancellor dated 8 February 2021 providing a Media and Social Media report (document VUWC 21/05).

**Noted:** 1 that the report was taken as read.  
2 that there were no additional comments or questions.

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

**Paviour-Smith/Hunter**

**Carried**

**210009**

## 21.11

### NEW YEAR HONOURS

**Received:** a Council paper from the Secretary to Council dated 9 February 2021 regarding the 2021 New Year Honours (document VUWC 21/06).

**Noted:** that Council acknowledged the recognition received by former Council member and current member of the Council's Nominations Panel, Brenda

Pilott, who was awarded an ONZM for services to the social and public service sectors.

**Resolved:** that Council conveys its congratulations to all Victoria University of Wellington graduates, friends and stakeholders honoured in the 2021 New Year Honours.

Paviour-Smith/Hunter  
Carried  
210010

## 21.12 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Received:** a Council paper from the Secretary to Council dated 9 February 2021 listing Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 21/07).

**Noted:**

- 1 that due to the recent detection of COVID-19 in the community the launch of Wellington Uni-Professional will be toned down to an internal low-key event prior to a more public launch when circumstances allow.
- 2 that all events will be reviewed to ensure changing alert level public health requirements are met. Orientation events involving more than 100 people planned for students this week have been cancelled up until the government's update on Wednesday when more information about the extent of the community transmission will be known.
- 3 that the next meeting of Council will take place on Thursday, 1 April 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 Thursday, 1 April 2021 be noted.

Judge/McCarthy  
Carried  
210011

## 21.13 GRADUATES IN ABSENTIA

**Received:** the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 15 February 2021 (document VUWC 21/08).

**Noted:** *Action:*  
that the Vice-Chancellor will provide a paper to an upcoming Council meeting to formalise changes to procedure regarding Graduates in Absentia.

**Resolved:**

- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 21/08 and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 15 February 2021.
- 2 that Council invites all those entered on the Roll of Graduates on 15 February 2021 to attend a graduation ceremony this year.
- 3 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates in Absentia be recorded.

Morar/Jakicevich  
Carried  
210012

**21.14**

**APPOINTMENT OF FOUNDATION TRUSTEES**

**Received:** a Council paper from the Chancellor dated 9 February 2021 regarding the Appointment of Foundation Trustees (document VUWC 21/09).

**Resolved:** 1 that Mr Alan Judge be appointed as a Trustee of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rule 2.2 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office on one year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Paviour-Smith/McCarthy  
Carried  
210013

2 that Mr Michael Turnbull, having been nominated by the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association, be appointed as a Trustee of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rule 2.3 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office of one year from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.

Jakicevich/Morar  
Carried  
210014

**21.15**

**ELECTION OF THE 2021 PRO-CHANCELLOR FOLLOWING THE RESIGNATION OF DAME THERESE WALSH FROM COUNCIL**

**Noted:** 1 that Minute 21.02(2) refers to the authority to add this agenda item subsequent to the Order paper and documentation for this meeting being released.  
2 that the Secretary to Council conducted an election for Pro-Chancellor calling for nominations by email on Friday, 12 February 2021. By the due date and time of 8.00 am on Monday, 15 February 2021 there was one nomination for Dr Dianne McCarthy as Pro-Chancellor.  
3 that as there was only one nomination Dr McCarthy can be declared elected unopposed. The Council was unanimously supportive of this nomination.

**Resolved:** 1 that Dr Dianne McCarthy be declared duly elected unopposed to the office of Pro-Chancellor for the period from 1 March 2021 to 31 December 2021.  
2 that a vote of thanks and appreciation was recorded to Dame Therese Walsh for her outstanding service as a member of Council from 1 January 2016 to 28 February 2021 and to acknowledge her time as Pro-Chancellor from 1 January 2018 to 28 February 2021.

**Resolved:** Paviour-Smith/Hunter  
Carried  
210015

**21.16**

**APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND MEMBERS FOR 2021**

**Received:** a Council paper from the Chancellor dated 9 February 2021 regarding 2021 Committee Chairs and membership (document VUWC 21/10).

**Noted:**

- 1 that due to the resignation of Dame Therese Walsh as at 28 February 2021 and the subsequent election of Dr Dianne McCarthy to Pro-Chancellor with effect from 1 March 2021, Dr McCarthy was added to all Committees in her new capacity.
- 2 that it was noted a replacement new Council member would be able to be appointed to Committees in due course.
- 3 that Council agreed that Committee Chairs and membership for 2021 be as follows:

***Finance Committee***

Mr Alan Judge – Chair  
Professor Bönisch-Brednich  
Professor Grant Guilford  
Dr Dianne McCarthy  
Ms Rhianna Morar  
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith

***Audit and Risk Committee***

Mr John Allen - Chair  
Professor Kate Hunter  
Ms Tiana Jakicevich  
Dr Dianne McCarthy  
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith  
Mr James Te Puni

Professor Grant Guilford (*the VC is not an official member but will attend ARC meetings as required*).

***Victoria Honours Committee***

Mr Neil Paviour-Smith – Chair  
Professor Grant Guilford  
Dr Dianne McCarthy  
Ms Cath Nesus

***Te Aka Matua Committee***

Ms Cath Nesus – Chair  
Professor Grant Guilford  
Ms Rhianna Morar  
Ms Tiana Jakicevich  
Dr Dianne McCarthy  
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith

***Human Resources Committee***

Mr Neil Paviour-Smith – Chair  
Mr John Allen  
Dr Dianne McCarthy

**Resolved:**

that the recommendations regarding Council Committee membership and Chairs for 2021 as detailed in noting point 3 above be approved.

**Paviour-Smith/Hunter  
Carried  
210016**



21.17

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**Received:** a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 21/11).

**Resolved:** 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 16-25.  
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 the previous meeting held on 20 November 2020	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
17. Safety, Health & Wellbeing report	s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(b)(ii)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. Speaker, Mr Suri Bartlett, regarding the Student Success Programme	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 December 2020	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i) and s 9(2)(k)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Covid-19 Deficit Reduction Programme	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Report on Appeal Committee Hearings	s 9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Reports from Committee Chairs	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. 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 25, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Allen/Jakicevich  
Carried  
210017