



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 27 March 2023
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building
from 10.30 am to 4.00 pm**

PRESENT:

Mr John Allen (Chancellor)
Professor Richard Arnold
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Mr Jaistone Finau
Ms Pania Gray
Mr Alan Judge
Mr David McLean *via Zoom*
Ms Kelly Mitchell
Ms Cath Nesus *via Zoom*
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr James Te Puni *until 1.30 pm*
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES: Nil

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jackie Anderson, Acting General Counsel
Mr Fergus Barrowman, Publisher, Te Herenga Waka University Press
Professor Stuart Brock, Vice-Provost (Academic)
Associate Professor Christina Barton, Director, Adam Art Gallery
Mr Mark Daldorf, Director, People & Capability
Mr Harris Devon, Ngāi Tahu Co-President
Ms Katherine Edmond, Director, Communications
Mr Simon Johnson, Acting Chief Operating Officer
Professor Wendy Lerner, Provost
Professor Sarah Leggott, Acting PVC FHSS
Mr Phil O'Connell, Director, Safety, Risk & Assurance
Ms Sue O'Donnell, Executive Director of Development & Alumni Relations
Mr Blair McRae, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Engagement
Mr Les Montgomery, Chief Financial Officer
Mr Lincoln North, Project Manager
Ms Jessica Ye, VUWSA President
Mr Zixuan Ye, V-ISA Member

23.30

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that Mr Allen warmly welcomed all to the meeting acknowledging Ms Pania Gray who was attending her first formal meeting of Council.
 - 2 that Professor Arnold led the Karakia.

23.31 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

- Received:** declarations and disclosure of interests by members of Council.
- Noted:** that there were no further disclosures of interest since the release of the meeting documentation.
- Noted:** that Council members were reminded to advise the Secretary to Council of any changes to their disclosure of interests listing between meetings.

23.32 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2023

- Received:** the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13 February 2023.
- Resolved:** that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 13 February 2023 be approved.

Street/Te Puni
Carried
230024

23.33 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

- Received:** a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 21 March 2023 (document VUWC 23/22).
- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that student numbers remain an area of significant concern and a reason for lower than expected enrolments could be attributed in part to the cost of living in Wellington.
 - 3 that work is underway to put the University in a position to return to growth and profitability in 2024 and the Chancellor stressed the importance of ensuring that any actions to ensure the sustainability of the University reflect our strategy.
 - 4 that the report's comments on academic freedom were highlighted and the Chancellor reinforced that academic freedom is one of the pillars upon which Universities stand and one that is protected by statute. He recognised the excellent work of the University's academic community speaking actively into various debates backed up by their research in areas of expertise.

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

Bönisch-Brednich/Mitchell
Carried
230025

23.34 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

- Received:** a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 21 March 2023 (document VUWC 23/23).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that Professor Smith commended and congratulated staff who through their public engagement continued to support the reputation of the institution.
 - 3 that an innovative initiative between the University and secondary schools in the region was discussed.

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

Judge/Mitchell
Carried
230026

23.35 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 28 FEBRUARY 2023

Received: the Financial report to 28 February 2023 from the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Les Montgomery (document VUWC 23/24).

Noted: that the report was taken as read.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 28 February 2023 be noted.

Judge/Street
Carried
230027

23.36 MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Received: a Council paper from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 17 March 2023, providing a Media and Social media report (document VUWC 23/25).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the Vice-Chancellor had recently hosted a function to meet with staff who are regularly engaging publicly with the media. The number of early-career staff at this occasion was encouraging and the Vice-Chancellor sees this as core to the University and an important part of the academic staff role.

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

Arnold/Finau
Carried
230028

23.37 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 21 March 2023 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 23/26).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
 - 2 that graduation will proceed in May with a full series of events now all COVID restrictions are lifted. Council members were encouraged to attend any of the parades, ceremonies or celebrations associated with Graduation and a formal invitation will be sent soon.

- 3 that the inaugural lecture of Professor Stephen Marshall was highlighted on the topic “a Public University for the 21st Century: Generational change and the common good”.
- 4 that the next meeting of Council will take place on Monday, 15 May 2023, 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 of the next Council meeting on Monday, 15 May 2023 be noted.

Gray/Mitchell
Carried
230029

the agenda was re-ordered to consider Item 11 prior to the Student President reports

23.38 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND ACADEMIC BOARD REPORT

Received: Reports from Committee Chairs and the Academic Board Chair:

- Audit & Risk Committee, 13 March 2023
- Finance Committee, 13 March 2023
- Academic Board report, 14 March 2023 (document VUWC 23/28).

Noted:

- 1 that the minutes of the Committee meetings and the report of the Academic Board were taken as read.
Audit & Risk Committee
- 2 that Ms Gray had highlighted her position as Deputy Chair of NZQA in relation to an item on the Pastoral Care Code. This role was declared at the time of Ms Gray’s appointment to Council and is listed on the Council’s Disclosure of Interests register. It was traversed at the Audit & Risk Committee meeting and the *potential* for conflict was discussed. In keeping with the Council’s standing orders, it was agreed to consider this on a case by case basis noting that on most matters there would be alignment. Where a clear conflict of interest was apparent, Ms Gray would recuse herself for the item.

Resolved: that the reports from Committee Chairs and the report of the Academic Board be noted.

Finau/Mitchell
Carried
230030

at 11.00 am Ms Jessica Ye joined the meeting

23.39 VUWSA PRESIDENT REPORT

Received: a report from the VUWSA President, Ms Jessica Ye, dated 16 March 2023 (document VUWC 23/27).

Noted:

- 1 that Ms Ye was warmly welcomed to the meeting.
- 2 that VUWSA’s vision is to connect and engage with the student body and student communities more strongly. This will be assisted greatly by VUWSA taking Clubs back under their wing.
- 3 that priorities for VUWSA in 2023 include renegotiation of the Study Levy Agreement, upcoming campaigns on cost-related issues for students, and

- the need for remuneration for the work student leaders do in contributing to University processes.
- 4 that the inherent value of education with its ability to create opportunities and realise potential was of critical concern to VUWSA. With a former VUWSA President now the Prime Minister it was hoped to gain traction in this area, particularly as the current generation had experienced the impact of long term privatisation of education.
- 5 that the VUWSA constitution had been amended to allow for co-presidents. This recognised the differing strengths two people can bring to the leadership of VUWSA.
- 6 that ChatGPT was discussed and how VUWSA can best advocate for students on this rapidly advancing technology.
- 7 that the Chancellor confirmed Council's appreciation and ongoing support of VUWSA's efforts.

Resolved: that the VUWSA President report be noted.

Street/Allen
Carried
230031

at 11.25 am Mr Harris Devon joined the meeting

23.40 NGĀI TAUIRA CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Received: an oral report from Ngāi Tauria Co-President, Mr Harris Devon.

Noted:

1 that Mr Devon was warmly welcomed to the meeting.

2 that he discussed the disproportionate impact Cyclone Gabrielle and the steep costs of living are having on Māori communities, including students.

3 that further to the VUWSA President's comments, Mr Devon reiterated that Ngāi Tauria support the need for payment to students for the representative and community work they do for the University.

4 that the Chancellor thanked Mr Devon for speaking to Council acknowledging the challenges faced as a community and how these are disproportionately faced by Māori students.

Resolved: that the Ngāi Tauria Co-President's report be noted.

Street/Allen
Carried
230032

at 11.40 am Mr Harris Devon and Ms Jessica Ye left the meeting

*at 11.40 am Associate Professor Christina Barton and Mr Fergus Barrowman joined the meeting
the agenda was re-ordered to move straight to Item 14*

23.41 SPEAKERS: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CHRISTINA BARTON MR FERGUS BARROWMAN

Welcomed: Associate Professor Christina Barton, Director, Adam Art Gallery and Mr Fergus Barrowman, Publisher, Te Herenga Waka University Press

- Noted:**
- 1 that Associate Professor Barton outlined the history of the Adam Art Gallery, its role and purpose and its oversight of the University Art Collection.
 - 2 that the Gallery is keen on greater engagement with staff and students and to contribute to learning, teaching and research while also maintaining its independence and international reputation.
 - 3 that Mr Barrowman detailed the history of Te Herenga Waka University Press and discussed its publishing model, successes and challenges.
 - 4 that the Chancellor thanked Associate Professor Barton and Mr Barrowman for their addresses and on behalf of Council.

*at 12.10 pm Associate Professor Barton and Mr Barrowman left the meeting
the agenda returned to items 12-14*

23.42 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 27 March 2023 (document VUWC 23/29).

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 23/29, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 27 March 2023.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Finau/Mitchell
Carried
230033

23.43 ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Received: a Council paper dated 21 March 2023 from the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Les Montgomery, regarding the 2022 Annual report (document VUWC 23/30).

- 1 that the Audit & Risk Committee had considered the 2022 Annual Report and associated representation letters at its meeting on 13 March 2023.
- 2 that it was confirmed that questions regarding the representation letters at the Committee meeting had been addressed.
- 3 that the Auditors had raised no material concerns.

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee, Council:

- 1 approve the 2022 Annual Report;
- 2 approve the signing and release of the Representation Letter to EY;
- 3 authorise the 2022 Annual Report for issue;
- 4 approve the online publication of the 2022 Annual Report as soon as practical.

Street/Judge
Carried
230034

23.44

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE IN SOCIETY IN THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Received: a Council paper from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 16 March 2023, regarding the Establishment of the School of Science in Society in the Faculty of Science (document VUWC 23/31).

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Academic Board, Council:

- 1 approve the disestablishment of the Centre for Science in Society, and
- 2 approve the establishment of the School of Science in Society in the Faculty of Science.

Gray/Finau
Carried
230035

23.45

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 23/31).

Resolved: 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 17-31.

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
17. Minutes of previous meeting held on 13 February 2023	s9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii), and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. Safety, Health & Wellbeing report	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i), and s9(2)(g)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Chancellor's report	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i), and s9(2)(g)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Vice-Chancellor's report	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i), and s9(2)(g)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Financial update	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Admissions and Enrolment report	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)

23. Q4 report against 2022 Annual Management Plan	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. 2024 International (full fee) recommendations	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. National Music Centre – stage 1	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Finance Committee Workshop, 13 March 2023	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
27. AQA Academic audit report, Cycle 6	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
28. Exit survey report	s 9(2)(a)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
29. Foundation Quarterly report to 31 December 2022	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
30. Committee reports and Academic Board minutes	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
31. Council only time	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i), and s9(2)(g)(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 31, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Bönisch-Brednich/Te Puni
Carried
230036