



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 4 May 2020
from 9.00 am to 3.15 pm via Zoom Videoconference*
(*due to Alert Level 3 at the time of the Covid-19 pandemic)**

PRESENT:

Mr John Allen
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Professor Grant Guilford (Vice-Chancellor)
Professor Kate Hunter
Mr Alan Judge
Mr Hugo Lawrence
Dr Dianne McCarthy
Ms Rhianna Morar
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith (Chancellor)
Ms Cath Nesus
Dr Farib Sos
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGY:

Dame Therese Walsh (Pro-Chancellor)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Professor Stuart Brock, Vice-Provost, Academic
Ms Annemarie de Castro, Director, Human Resources
Ms Katherine Edmond, Associate Director Communications
Professor Dave Harper, Dean of Science and SLT member
Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori
Professor Margaret Hyland, Vice-Provost, Research
Mr Simon Johnson, General Counsel
Professor Wendy Lerner, Provost
Mr Mark Loveard, Chief Operating Officer
Mr Blair McRae, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Engagement
Professor Ehsan Mesbhi, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Science, Engineering, Architecture and Design Innovation
Mr Les Montgomery, Chief Financial Officer
Mr Lincoln North, Senior Project Manager, Property Services
Ms Madeleine Setchell, Director, Communications, Marketing and Engagement
Professor Jennifer Windsor, Pro Vice-Chancellor Humanities and Education

20.62

KARAKIA

Noted:

that Council Member, Cath Nesus, led a Karakia.

20.63 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor welcomed everyone to the Council meeting. A meeting that for the first time in the University's history was held via Zoom video-conference with the public session live-streamed as per the amended requirements (due to the Covid-19 pandemic) under the Local Government and Official Information Act (LGOIMA).
 - 2 that the country had been in Alert Level 3 since 11.59 pm on Monday 27 April 2020 after four and a half weeks of Alert Level 4 lockdown.
 - 3 that a warm welcome was extended to new Council member Dr Dianne McCarthy who was attending her first formal meeting of the Council and Professor Ehsan Mesbhi, the new Pro Vice-Chancellor of Science, Engineering, Architecture and Design Innovation who was in attendance.
 - 4 that the enormous effort of the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Leadership Team and staff was acknowledged by Council as everyone adapted to the difficulties of Alert Level 4 lockdown and continued their work from home.
 - 5 that the Chancellor also recorded a special acknowledgement to the University's students who have adapted to on-line methods of learning including attending lectures and tutorials as well as taking tests on-line during these challenging times.
 - 6 that there was one apology from Dame Therese Walsh due to a scheduling clash that had been signalled earlier in the year. She had provided comments on papers to the Chancellor.

Resolved: that the apology from Dame Therese Walsh be sustained.

Paviour-Smith/Nesus
Carried
200054

20.64 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

- Noted:**
- 1 that new Council Member, Dr Dianne McCarthy, had provided her disclosures and the interests register had been updated.
 - 2 that there were no further 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.
 - 3 that the Disclosures of Interests Register was available at all times on the Resource Centre of Board books and circulated with material for all Council meetings.
 - 4 that the Chancellor reminded Council members to advise the Secretary to Council of any disclosures between meetings.

20.65 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2020

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 March 2020.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 March 2020 be approved.

Hunter/Lawrence
Carried
200055

20.66 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: an oral report from the Chancellor.

- Noted:**
- 1 that since the last meeting of Council held on 23 March 2020, due to the Covid-19 lockdown there have been no events to attend.
 - 2 that during this time the Chancellor worked with Council as follows:
 - hosted Zoom catch-ups with the full Council on 31 March, 8 April, 20 April and 28 April 2020
 - attended Finance Committee Workshops on 8 April 2020 and 30 April 2020
 - met with the Vice-Chancellor on a regular basis
 - met with the Secretary to Council
 - held virtual meetings and had conversations with individual members of Council.
 - 3 that the Chancellor attended a Zoom meeting with other University Chancellors on 29 April 2020.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

**Judge/Allen
Carried
200056**

20.67

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor dated 28 April 2020 (document VUWC 20/47).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the excellent performance of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in the 2020 QS Rankings by subject was commended.
 - 3 that the work of the Centre for Academic Development to support staff in the on-line delivery of teaching was acknowledged.
 - 4 that the Chancellor thanked the University's communications team for their impressive work in keeping staff, students and alumni informed throughout the time of lockdown.

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

**Paviour-Smith/Hunter
Carried
200057**

20.68

COVID-19 REPORT

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor on the Covid-19 situation dated 28 April 2020 (document VUWC 20/48).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that Council members had an in-depth and wide-ranging discussion on the impact of Covid-19 on the University including the impact on staff, students and the University's finances, operations and future planning.
 - 3 that Covid-19 was discussed further in the public-excluded session of this meeting with detailed discussion on financial impacts and resilience planning (see also Appendix 1 – Council communication to all staff sent on 6 May 2020).

Resolved: that the Vice-Chancellor's report on Covid-19 be noted.

**Paviour-Smith/Hunter
Carried
200058**

20.69 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 MARCH 2020

Received: the Financial report to 31 March 2020 (document VUWC 20/49).

Noted: that the report was taken as read and there were no questions.

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

**Sos/Judge
Carried
200059**

20.70 FOUNDATION ANNUAL ACCOUNTS TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

Received: a Council paper dated 28 April 2020 from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Engagement regarding the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation annual accounts to 31 December 2019 (document VUWC 20/50)

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read and it was acknowledged that the excellent results had been achieved at a time in which Covid-19 was yet to appear.
- 2 that the Chancellor recorded a vote of thanks to members of the Foundation Board of Trustees for their excellent stewardship.

Resolved: that the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation annual accounts be noted.

**Bönisch-Brednich/Sos
Carried
200060**

20.71 REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

Received: the report of the Academic Board meeting held on 17 March 2020 (document VUWC 20/51).

Noted:

- 1 that there was robust discussion at the Academic Board meeting during the Provost's forum on next steps for the University's Academic Career Framework and the proposal for new academic career pathways. This work was currently paused pending a return to Alert Level 2.
- 2 that there had been no other formal Council Committee meetings since the Council meeting held on 23 March 2020.

Resolved: that the reports from Committee Chairs be noted.

**Hunter/Nesus
Carried
200061**

20.72 MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Received: a Council paper from the Vice-Chancellor dated 28 April 2020 providing a Media and Social Media report (document VUWC 20/52).

Noted: 1 that the report was taken as read.

- 2 that the impacts of Covid-19 continued to be covered extensively by media.
3 that there had been a high number of University staff called upon as trusted
4 experts to assist the government in making decisions and to provide a
5 critique of those decisions during the pandemic.
that the traditional role of a University as a critic and conscience had been
increasingly valued by the public and it was encouraging to see more
respect for expert advice and opinion.
that the Chancellor recorded Council's appreciation for the outstanding
engagement of staff in assisting the government and appearances in media
during the lockdown.

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

**Paviour-Smith/Sos
Carried
200062**

20.73

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council dated 28 April 2020 listing
Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 20/53).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the University's in-person events programme had remained on hold
whilst the Country was at Alert Level 3 however some events were able to
be delivered online such as staff forums, a legal lowdown series from the
Faculty of Law, and a spotlight lecture series on COVID-19 and the
economy which was moderated by Alan Bollard.
 - 2 that when the country moves to Alert Level 2, events not suitable for solely
online delivery will be able to be rescheduled with strict number limits,
contact tracing and physical distancing measures in place.
 - 3 that postponed graduation ceremonies cannot take place until New
Zealand is at Alert Level one. International events remain on hold and will
be rescheduled as appropriate to the situation in each location.
 - 4 that the next meeting of Council will take place on Friday, 12 June 2020 at
9.00 am in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building, Kelburn
Campus, Wellington and/or by Zoom Videoconference.

Resolved: that the Council Paper on postponed events and the date and details for
the next Council meeting on Friday, 12 June 2020 be noted.

**Hunter/Paviour-Smith
Carried
200063**

20.74

GRADUATES IN ABSENTIA

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 4 May 2020
(document VUWC 20/54).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the conferment list included 2,578 graduands who were scheduled to
graduate at the May 2020 ceremonies which, considering
announcements by the Government and the evolving situation with Covid-
19, had to be postponed.
 - 2 that the affected graduands are included in this conferment list so their
qualifications are granted without delay and to ensure that graduands are
not unduly disadvantaged by the postponement of ceremonies.

3 that Council acknowledged this was an unprecedented moment reflecting current circumstances and that it was determined to ensure that graduation ceremonies would still occur for these students when possible so as to celebrate their achievements in the normal manner.

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on those persons listed in document VUWC 20/54 and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 4 May 2020.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates in Absentia was recorded.

Lawrence/Morar
Carried
200064

20.75

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

To receive: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 20/55).

To resolve:

- 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 14-23.
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
14. Minutes of previous meeting held on 23 March 2020	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i) 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.	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
15. Chancellor's report	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
16. Vice-Chancellor's report	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
17. Covid-19 report including financial impacts	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), s 9(2)(j), and s 9(2)(k)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. Financial report to 31.3.20	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i) and s 9(2)(k)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Reports from Committee Chairs	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Student Success Programme update	S 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)

21. Human Ethics and Animal Ethics Committee reports	s 9(2)(b)(i), s 9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(g)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Quarterly report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Music Centre 	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Safety, Health & Wellbeing report	s 9(2)(a) and s 9(2)(b)(ii)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. 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 24, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Paviour-Smith/Sos
 Carried
 200065

the meeting adjourned at 10.10 am