



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 12 February 2024
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building and via Zoom
from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm**

PRESENT:

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

APOLOGY: Professor Richard Arnold

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Ms Jackie Anderson, Acting General Counsel
- Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
- Mr Brendan Eckert, Acting Chief Financial Officer
- Ms Katherine Edmond, Director, Communications
- Professor Bryony James, Provost
- Mr Simon Johnson, Acting Director, Campus Operations
- Ms Kristina Keogh, Principal Adviser, Strategic Communications
- Professor Ali Knott, Professor in Artificial Intelligence
- Mr Mike Knowles, Programme Manager
- Mr Harrison Lahman, Communications Adviser
- Professor Sally Jane Norman, Director NZSM
- Mrs Rachel Scott, Risk & Assurance Lead
- Mr David Stevenson, Director, Property Services
- Mr Craig Sutton, Project Delivery Manager, Campus Development
- Ms Nicola Vibert, Health & Safety Consultant
- Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

24.01 WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor led the Karakia.
 - 2 that Mr Allen warmly welcomed all to the first formal meeting of the year and extended a special welcome to William Bell-Purchas, the new student representative on Council. He commended William for his engagement so far, especially for attending the public session of Council meetings and a Te Tiriti Workshop in late 2023.

- 3 that the Chancellor acknowledged the members of Te Hiwa who will now sit at the table with Council, Professor Bryony James, Provost; Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students; and Mr Brendan Eckert in his capacity as Acting CFO.
- 4 that the Honourable Maryan Street was congratulated on her New Year honour, appointing her as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services as a Member of Parliament and to human and democratic rights.
- 5 that Ms Pania Gray was thanked for stepping in to cover December graduation ceremonies at short notice due to the Pro-Chancellor being unwell.
- 6 that an apology had been received from Professor Richard Arnold.

Resolved: that the apology from Professor Richard Arnold be sustained.
Gray/ Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
240001

24.02 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

Noted:

- 1 that there were no further 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. The Chancellor will make a specific disclosure regarding item 22, National Music Centre, at the time this discussion is reached.

24.03 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 4 DECEMBER 2023

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 4 December 2023.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 4 December 2023 be approved.

Judge/Nesus
Carried
240002

24.04 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 7 February 2024 (document VUWC 24/01).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that the Chancellor reflected on the impact of the significant changes made at the University in 2023 while also stating that the focus is now firmly on the future and how to build a confident, distinctive university that is an institution of choice for students.
- 3 that a strategy refresh will take place this year and it will be critical to develop a vision that people can aspire to and believe in.

- 4 that there will be ongoing efforts to ensure Council members have as many opportunities as possible to engage with the University community.
- 5 that the pressure the university sector is under was discussed as well as the importance of the role that universities play in equipping students for the challenges of the 21st century.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

**Te Puni/Street
Carried
240003**

24.05

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 2 February 2024 (document VUWC 24/02).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that there is cautious optimism that a positive enrolment result is likely to be achieved for both domestic and international students. The work of all staff to achieve this was acknowledged.
- 3 that the University's self-catered accommodation is expected to be fully subscribed by the start of Trimester 1. The return of students next week and the life and energy they bring is eagerly anticipated and a full programme of orientation activities has been planned for new students.
- 4 that a programme of staff engagement will kick off next week with a lawn bowls tournament on the Boyd Wilson Field. Upcoming events include a quiz night run by the Provost, and a screening of the documentary *Ms Information* about Dr Siouxsie Wiles of the University of Auckland and her experience as a spokesperson on COVID-19.
- 5 that appreciation was expressed following a generous gift of \$13m to the School of Biological Sciences to support research in entomology.
Action:
- 6 that the one-year follow up to the 2022 Academic Quality Agency Audit Report had occurred and this will be provided to the 11 March Audit & Risk Committee meeting.
Action:
- 7 that the Vice-Chancellor will provide final numbers on international student enrolment and how we compare against other Universities when this information is known around late April/early May.

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

**Bönisch-Brednich/Gray
Carried
240004**

24.06

FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

Received: the Financial report to 31 December 2023 from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Mr Brendan Eckert (document VUWC 24/03).

- Noted:**
- 1 that Mr Eckert was welcomed to the meeting in the position of Acting Chief Financial Officer following the recent resignation of Mr Les Montgomery.
- 2 that the report was taken as read and it was emphasised that the result is provisional and the auditors are working their way through their usual process.

- 3 that revenue was favourable to budget by \$14.1m mainly due to one-off proceeds received in relation to the settlement of the Kaikoura insurance claim (\$40.8m) offset by fewer EFTS enrolled.
- 4 that the Consolidated Group surplus of \$30.6m includes the Foundation which has a full year surplus of \$22.5m which was favourable to budget by \$21.9m, mainly due to \$17.3m higher donation revenue and \$6.1m higher investment gains.
- 5 that the University Group result excluding the Kaikoura insurance claim settlement was a deficit of \$32.7m.
- 6 that the Financial Sustainability programme of work carried out in 2023 was aimed at increasing revenue and reducing costs. This will improve the underlying result in future years.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 31 December 2023 be noted.

Judge/Nesus
Carried
240005

24.07

CONFIRMATION OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 12 February 2024 (document VUWC 24/04).

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 24/04, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 12 February 2024.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Mitchell/Bell-Purchas
Carried
240006

24.08

FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTMENTS

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 30 January 2024, regarding Foundation Board of Trustees appointments (document VUWC 24/05).

- Noted:**
- 1 that it was suggested with six Foundation Trustees reaching the conclusion of their term on 30 June 2024 it would be wise to stagger appointments in future to avoid such a large number finishing at the same time.
 - 2 that the Chancellor thanked and acknowledged all those willing to put themselves forward for Foundation Board of Trustee appointment and re-appointment.

Resolved: on the recommendation of the Chancellor:

- 1 that Dame Kerry Prendergast be re-appointed as Chair of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rule 5 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office commencing on 1 January 2024 and concluding on 1 January 2026.
- 2 that Alan Judge, being a member of the Council, be reappointed 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 of one year from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

3 that Brooke Roberts be appointed as 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 commencing on 1 March 2024 and concluding on 30 June 2026.

4 that Marcail Parkinson, being a student of the University 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 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Street/Nesus
Carried
240007

24.09 NEW YEAR HONOURS - 2024

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council dated 29 January 2024 regarding New Year Honours (document VUWC 24/06).

Noted: that the report was taken as read. See also minute 24.01(4) acknowledging the Pro-Chancellor, Hon Maryan Street.

Resolved: that Council conveys its congratulations to all Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington graduates honoured in the 2024 New Year Honours.

Gray/Mitchell
Carried
240008

24.10 COMMITTEE REPORT

Received: the Minutes of the Te Aka Matua Committee meeting held on 27 November 2023.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Te Aka Matua Committee meeting held on 27 November 2023 be noted.

McLean/Mitchell
Carried
240009

24.11 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 15 January 2024 regarding Forthcoming Events and the next Council meeting (document VUWC 24/06).

Noted:

- 1 that the VUWSA Welcome Back Barbeque takes place tomorrow and all Council members are invited to attend.
- 2 that the next meeting of Council will take place on Monday, 25 March 2024 at 9 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, 25 March 2024 be noted.

Allen/Street
Carried
240010

24.12

SPEAKER : PROFESSOR ALI KNOTT, PROFESSOR IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Received: an oral report from Professor Ali Knott, Professor in Artificial Intelligence in the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor warmly welcomed Professor Knott who gave a presentation on Artificial Intelligence.
 - 2 that some of the trends and activities in the field of artificial intelligence globally and in New Zealand were summarised. Professor Knott also outlined how AI is being used by staff and students at the University including in research. His presentation emphasised that AI is a fast moving field with significant opportunities and challenges.
 - 3 that Council members were advised of various ways in which to engage with AI work at the University. The slides with links to further information will be circulated after the meeting.
 - 4 that the Chancellor thanked Professor Knott for his presentation and extended an invitation for an update later in the year, especially given the speed with which things are moving.

Resolved: that the oral report from Professor Ali Knott, Professor in Artificial Intelligence, be noted.

Judge/Gray
Carried
240011

24.13

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 24/08).

Resolved: 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 14-26.

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		Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
14. Minutes of previous meeting held 4 December 2023	Privacy, commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
15. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing	Privacy, commercial prejudice,	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii),	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

dashboard report	commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	
16. Draft Health, Safety and Wellbeing Strategy	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)
17. Health, Safety and Wellbeing Roles and Responsibilities	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)
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. Financial report to 31 December	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Operating Model briefing	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Haining Street Naming	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. National Music Centre decision paper	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Report on Appeal Committee Hearings	Privacy.	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Digital Roadmap 2023, end of year status report	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities.	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. Committee reports	Privacy, commercial prejudice, legal privilege,	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(h), and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)

	commercial activities.		
26. 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 26, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Judge/Street
Carried
240012