



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 15 June 2026
in the Wharenui, Ngā Mokopuna, Kelburn Campus, Wellington
from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm**

PRESENT:

Mr Alan Judge (Chancellor) (Chair)
Professor Richard Arnold
Mr William Bell-Purchas
Ms Megan Evans
Ms Pania Gray (Pro-Chancellor)
Professor Bryony James (Vice-Chancellor)
Ms Mei Fern Johnson
Mr David McLean *via Zoom*
Mr David Smol *until 1.15 pm*
Mr James Te Puni *from 12 noon*
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES:

Ms Asifa Hanif
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Mr David Smol *for early departure*
Mr James Te Puni *for late arrival*

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jackie Anderson, General Counsel
Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
Mr Graham Beever, Acting General Counsel
Mr Peter Borich, Associate Director, Digital Transformation
Ms Fiona Clarkson, Head of Strategic Communications
Ms Leanne Gibson, Chief Information Officer
Ms Susan Hockley, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Professor Rawinia Higgins, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori & Kaitiakitanga
Mr Clinton Jenkins, Associate Director, Planning and Performance Management
Mr Simon Johnson, Director, Campus Operations
Professor Robyn Longhurst, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic
Mr Dan Mahoney, Head of Health, Safety, and Wellbeing
Professor Sally McArthur, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
Ms Megan McPherson, Director of Communications, Marketing, and Digital Engagement
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Mrs Rachel Scott, Director, Governance, Risk, and Assurance
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

26.79

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

Noted:

- 1 that Ms Megan Evans led the Karakia.
- 2 that the Chancellor acknowledged Professor James in her first meeting as Vice-Chancellor after taking up the role on 12 June 2026.

- 3 that a note of appreciation was recorded to the Pro-Chancellor, Ms Pania Gray, for presiding over the 8th graduation ceremony of the week, held on the marae, on behalf of the Chancellor.
- 4 that apologies were received from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, Ms Asifa Hanif, Mr James Te Puni for lateness, and Mr David Smol for early departure from the meeting.

Resolved that the apologies from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, Ms Asifa Hanif, Mr James Te Puni for lateness, and Mr David Smol for early departure from the meeting be sustained.

260073

26.80 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER, NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR BRYONY JAMES

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge, dated 8 June 2026 regarding the appointment of a Council member, the new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bryony James.

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that Professor James was congratulated and there was a round of applause following her appointment to Council.

Resolved: that under section 5.1 (a) of the Council Membership Statute, Professor Bryony James be appointed to Council as and from 12 June 2026, until Professor James ceases to hold the Office of Vice-Chancellor.

260074

26.81 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

Noted:

- 1 that Council members were reminded to advise the Secretary to Council of any changes to their disclosure of interests listing between meetings.
- 2 that the interests register had been updated to include the new Vice-Chancellor's disclosures.
- 3 that for item-specific disclosures, the Chancellor asked that Council members alert him at the time.

26.82 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 4 MAY 2026

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held 4 May 2026.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 4 May 2026 be approved.

260075

26.83 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: an oral report from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge.

- Noted:** that the Chancellor outlined events and activities since his last update to Council as follows:
- attended regular meetings with the outgoing and incoming Vice-Chancellors
 - attended regular meetings with the Secretary to Council
 - chaired the University Council meeting on 4 May 2026
 - finalised the VC appointment negotiations and Public Service Commission obligations
 - presided over seven graduation ceremonies and led two parades during graduation week.
 - attended the Audit & Risk Committee meeting on 18 May 2026
 - offered a Hunter Fellowship to a recipient approved by Council at its 4 May meeting. This was accepted and an event will be held to present this honour
 - hosted a Stakeholders/Council farewell event for the Vice-Chancellor
 - hosted a Council dinner to farewell Professor Nic Smith.

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

260076

26.84

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bryony James, dated 15 June 2026 (document VUWC 26/56).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the Chancellor acknowledged that most of the reporting period was under the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith.
 - 3 that Professor James shared hot off the press news regarding the economic impact of the Taiawa Wellington Tech Hub, an initiative which is jointly supported by the University and Wellington City Council. The annual assessment of the Hub showed that in the 12 months to March 2026, the 14 businesses involved had contributed \$14.4m in GDP and supported 148 FTE jobs.
 - 4 that the University is working to maximise its engagement with the new research funding system following recent Government announcements, which include the release of the priority pillars as well as funding allocations for the research sector.
 - 5 that there was discussion on the research sector overall and possibilities for further collaboration across the country's 8 universities.
- Action:*
- 6 that the current action item on IP scheduled for report back at the September meeting, be extended to include tech transfer.
 - 7 that two successful applications by Professor Bev Lawton, and Dr Tania Slater in the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) grants round were highlighted. Over \$2 million in funding from the HRC to lead projects that advance the wellbeing of Pasifika and Māori communities was awarded.
 - 8 that the Three Minute Thesis competition is back for PhD students and Professor James encouraged Councillors to attend the final on 27 August.
 - 9 that concern was expressed regarding a possible change in the rules for international PhD students. This is an evolving issue, and the Vice-Chancellor will keep Council informed once more is known.
 - 10 that lessons learned from the recent world-wide cyber-attack are on the work plan for the Digital Solutions team. This will be covered in more detail under the Deep Dive in the confidential session of this meeting.

- 11 that a new union is being formed out of this university, to represent academic staff exclusively. They are currently working through the registration process and until this is complete, they cannot enter into bargaining negotiations. It is understood that it is intended for this Union to eventually go nationwide.

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

260077

26.85 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 APRIL 2026

Received: the Financial report to 30 April 2026 from the Chief Financial Officer, Ms Rachel Bruce (document VUWC 26/57).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that revenue was unfavourable to budget by \$4.8m, primarily due to the timing of discounts for full fee students and timing of other revenue.
 - 3 that expenditure was favourable to budget by \$4.8m, primarily due to staff vacancies and timing of spend on occupancy and operating expenses.
 - 4 that the Consolidated Group deficit of \$3.4m included the Foundation surplus.
 - 5 that the Foundation surplus of \$3.9m was favourable to budget by \$1.8m, primarily driven by higher donation revenue.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 30 April 2026 be noted.

260078

26.86 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 15 June 2026 (document VUWC 26/58).

Noted: that the Faculty names in the list had been updated to reflect the decision made by Council at its 23 March 2026 meeting to add the Te Reo name, and remove Wellington from most Faculties and Schools (with the exception of the Wellington School of Business and Government) (resolution 260040).

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 26/58, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 15 June 2026.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Bell-Purchas/Evans
260079

26.87 AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP STATUTE AND COUNCIL ELECTIONS' PROCEDURE

Received: a Council paper dated 29 May 2026 from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bryony James, regarding the full review of the Council Membership Statute and Council Elections' procedure (document VUWC 26/59).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.

- 2 that the Chancellor acknowledged the work of the Council review team chaired by Professor Richard Arnold working with James Te Puni, and Caroline Ward.
- 3 that the Council Membership Statute had been in place since its inception in 2016.
- 4 that after consideration of the review team's recommendations by Council, consultation followed with Te Hiwa and then the broader University community. The submission from VUWSA during this stage was excellent in giving suggestions regarding the Elections' Procedure which have been incorporated.
- 5 that after the consultation round, the Council Membership Statute and Elections' Procedure underwent a comprehensive review by the legal team, and this was shared with Council prior to the documents being finalised for approval today.
- 6 that the main changes include a stated intention to have at least three Māori on Council (an increase from at least two), and the Elections' Procedure has been tightened up with clarity around terms; and casual vacancies should they arise.
- 7 that the meticulous work of the University's Policy team in ensuring the Statute and Council Elections' procedure are consistent with the University's policy framework was acknowledged.
- 8 that Council members were unanimous in approving both the Council Membership Statute and the Council Elections' procedure.

Resolved: **that Council approve the revised Council Membership Statute and Council Elections' Procedure.**

260080

26.88

DELEGATIONS' STATUTE – SCHEDULED FULL REVIEW

Received: a Council paper dated 25 May 2026 from Professor Bryony James (Vice-Chancellor effective 12 June 2026) regarding the full scheduled review of the Delegations' Statute (document VUWC 26/60).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that the Delegations' Statute followed the University's standard policy review process, which included consultation with key stakeholders and the wider University community
- 3 that the Audit & Risk Committee considered the revisions to the Statute in detail at its meeting held on 18 May and was supportive of the proposed amendments subject to some minor tidy ups which have been made.
- 4 that it was advised that there is a process for sub-delegations which is carried out in writing, with an automated system that ensures that no delegation below sub-delegation can occur. The General Counsel will confirm that this is happening in all cases and that those with sub-delegations are signing to confirm they understand their responsibilities under the Delegations' Statute.

Resolved: **that Council approve:**

- (a) the revised Delegations' Statute; and
- (b) that two members of Council and the Vice-Chancellor sign the proposed updates to the Delegations' Schedule.

260081

26.89 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER TO PEOPLE & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Received: a Council paper dated 27 May 2026 from the Chancellor regarding the appointment of Council Member, Ms Megan Evans, to the People & Culture Committee (document VUWC 26/61).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that the Chancellor will review the Terms of Reference for this Committee in the near future once the new Vice-Chancellor's objectives have been clarified.
- 3 that it was requested by Professor Arnold that consideration be given to the fact that the Committee composition only allows lay members of Council (i.e. those who are not staff or student representatives).

Resolved: **that on the recommendation of the Chancellor and Chair of the People & Culture Committee:**

Ms Megan Evans be appointed to the People & Culture Committee under Clause 4.1 (c) of its Terms of Reference

260082

26.90 AMENDMENT TO THE NOMINATIONS PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE

Received: a Council paper dated 27 May 2026 from the Chancellor, Mr Alan Judge, regarding a proposed amendment to the Nominations Panel Terms of Reference (document VUWC 26/62).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that the recommendation was unanimously supported, particularly as it was in keeping with the revised intentions under the updated Council Membership Statute.

Resolved: **that on the recommendation of the Chancellor Council approve the amendment of clause 4.1 (e) of the Nominations Panel Terms of Reference:**

FROM a person appointed by Council on the nomination of Te Aka Matua TO the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori & Kaitiakitanga.

260083

26.91 STUDENT PRESIDENT REPORTS

Received:

- 1 a report from Mr Aidan Donoghue, VUWSA President (document VUWC 26/63a);
- 2 a report from Mr Mairangi Campbell, and Mr Manaia Puha, Ngāi Tauira Co-Presidents (document VUWC 26/63b).

Noted:

- 1 that the Student President reports were taken as read and Mr Aidan Donoghue and Mr Mairangi Campbell were warmly welcomed to the meeting.
- 2 that the VUWSA President updated Council on a highly active "go hard" trimester with strong student engagement through events, advocacy, and representation, including national collaboration on key student issues. He

highlighted expanded representation now that postgraduate students are included under VUWSA, as well as a major student survey to inform future work.

- 3 that key concerns were discussed, including cost of living pressures, potential fee increases (whilst acknowledging the difficult decisions Council faces to ensure the financial sustainability of the University), and the wellbeing impacts of national policy debates on some student groups.
- 4 that the Ngāi Taura Co-President highlighted continued focus on strengthening Māori student engagement, wellbeing, and community through a wide range of kaupapa, including events, funding initiatives, and Graduation activities. Work continues to strengthen organisational structures and external advocacy.
- 5 that the Chancellor expressed appreciation of behalf of Council for the hard work and advocacy carried out on behalf of students by both student bodies and wished them well for the second half of the year.

Resolved:

- 1 **that the report from the VUWSA President be noted.**
- 2 **that the report from the Ngāi Taura Co-Presidents be noted.**

260084

26.92 PASTORAL CARE CODE SELF-ATTESTATION REPORT

Received: a Council paper dated 21 May 2026 from Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students) providing the 2025 Pastoral Care Code self-attestation report (document VUWC 26/64).

Noted:

- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
- 2 that the report was part of the 2025 monitoring process for the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice (2021) and is due to be submitted to Universities New Zealand on 1 July 2026. It confirms that Victoria is meeting its obligations against the Code.
- 3 that input was gathered from Student Services teams, other Central Services Units (CSUs), the VUWSA President, and existing 2025 reports. This provided strong evidence of Te Herenga Waka's sustained commitment to the Pastoral Care Code ensuring delivery of safe, inclusive, and high-quality services and learning environments that support the wellbeing and success of all Taura.
- 4 that Council was invited to submit any detailed comment or feedback to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students by the end of the week.
- 5 that Council commended the fulsome report provided for its quality and thoroughness.

Resolved: **that the 2025 Pastoral Care Code self-attestation report be noted.**

260085

at 12.00 noon Mr James Te Puni joined the meeting

26.93 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 2 June 2026 regarding Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 26/65).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
 - 2 that upcoming Matariki events were highlighted to which Council members will receive invitations; as well as the annual Tree Planting days which take place in late July.
 - 3 that the next meeting of Council will take place on Monday, 27 July 2026 at 11 am in Room AM103, Alan McDiarmid Building, Kelburn Campus.
 - 4 that Council meetings during the remainder of 2026 will be held at venues as follows:
14 September, Rutherford House, Level 12
19 October, Council Chamber
30 November, Rutherford House, Level 12

Resolved: that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting on 27 July 2026 be noted.

260086

26.94 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Received: the public minutes of the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 18 May 2026.

Noted: that the Audit & Risk Committee minutes were taken as read.

Resolved: that the Audit & Risk Committee minutes be noted.

260087

26.95 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 26/66).

Resolved: 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 18-27.

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
18. Minutes of previous meeting held 4 May 2026	Privacy, commercial prejudice,	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)

	commercial activities.		
19. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Q1 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)
20. 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)
21. Financial report to 30 April 2026, and CFO report	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, Confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Deep dive – Digital Assets	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, Confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Amending of qualification conferred	Privacy	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. National Music Centre quarterly report	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, Confidential basis	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. 320 The Terrace demolition update	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Audit & Risk Committee minutes, 18 May 2026 meeting	Commercial prejudice, commercial activities, confidential basis.	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
27. 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 27, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

260088