

ACADEMIC BOARD TE TAUMATA

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on Tuesday, 18 August 2026 at 1.00pm in RHLT1, Rutherford House, Pipitea Campus

The meeting was held face-to-face in RHLT1, and was convened by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bryony James. The meeting was opened with a karakia and everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

PART A

26.58 Apologies, acknowledgements and welcomes

Apologies were taken as read (see Appendix 1).

Welcome to:

- Professor Hona Black, a new appointment in Te Kawa a Maui at the end of July.
- Dr Annie Te One, replacing Mike Ross as Tumuaki (Head of School) at Te Kawa a Maui.

26.59 Part B of the agenda – items brought forward

AB26-66 (Amend HLMG specialisation in the MHLth) - brought forward to Part A at the request of Associate Professor Helen Rook.

26.60 Vice-Chancellor oral report

The Vice-Chancellor's oral report was received.

Please introduce yourself when asking a question or commenting at Academic Board.

- It helps your friendly neighbourhood minute taker, and empowers those who don't speak as often to take part.

Staff Forums

- Trimester 2, 2026 census numbers are now confirmed. These numbers validate the accuracy of our financial forecasting, and allow end-of-year forecasts to be confirmed.

- Domestic EFTS= 99.9% of our projected target
- International enrolments = 21% ahead of target
- The University has a student headcount of 20,861
 - This is a 4% increase on 2025
 - It is also 10% of the population of Wellington – Te Herenga Waka is a very big part of Wellington, and Wellington is a very big part of us.

Te Ama Away Day

Te Ama (the university committee of faculty deans and service directors) met on 4 August 2026. Discussion focused on two main themes:

- Internationalisation
 - Thank you to everyone, including Rochelle Gribble (Manager, Strategic Projects), Amy Rutherford (Director, International), Sam Mackay (Deputy Director, International), and Kirsty McClure (Director, Student Experience and Success for their roles in planning and organising the day.

This theme connected to a previous discussion at Academic Board: international EFTS are a crucial part of Te Herenga Waka's population, both in terms of the colour and vibrancy of the student body, and as a source of revenue. How should Te Herenga Waka engage with and plan towards success in transnational education as a "place-based" university?

- The structure of Te Ama
 - Going forward, there will be fewer, but longer and more comprehensive Te Ama meetings to allow for a smoother flow of information, and to allow Te Ama to engage in conversations earlier.

The Your Voice survey

- The survey deadline was extended to 5pm Friday 21 August to allow more time for responses.

Alumni Visits

Alumni events are important both as a source of philanthropy, and for understanding how the University can foster the richest possible connections with former students. They are also a way of maintaining a strong community connection among our students, particularly overseas.

University Exchange Aotearoa

- A collaboration meeting took place on Tuesday 11 August between the University of Otago, Auckland University of Technology, and Te Herenga Waka to reflect on and review the student exchange piloting this year.
 - The student experience so far has been exceptional.
 - The next stage of collaboration (to take place in 2027) is a professional staff exchange.
 - Potential and actual collaboration in teaching spaces was also discussed.

Universities New Zealand (UNZ) update

- New Secretary General, Jodi Caughley, will start the role in September 2026.
 - One of her early jobs will be helping the VCs to redefine the purpose of UNZ after its restructuring into a much leaner organisation.
- International PhD fees
 - A cabinet paper has been prepared, grandfathering current domestic fees for international PhD students until 2028.
 - It is unclear what will happen for international PhD students who enrol after 2028.
 - The University Strategic Group (USG) will meet on Friday 28 August, and NZ Vice-Chancellors are represented by Prof Neil Quigley (current Chair of UNZ), Prof Grant Edwards (former Chair of UNZ). And Prof Cheryl de la Rey, who is leading the work on the new academic quality assurance structure. There will be updates as necessary.

Election Forums

The first election forum took place in the first week of August, with Andy Foster (New Zealand First), Parmjeet Parmar (ACT), Ginny Andersen (Labour) and Lawrence Xu-Nan (Greens).

ACT is in the news with their proposal to make the student services fee voluntary.

- Currently, the student services fee is set at \$10.44 per point for on-campus students, and \$5.22 per point for remote students. Most students pay \$1200 - \$1500 per year.
- Te Herenga Waka allots funding from this fee as follows:
 - 49% health, counselling and pastoral care
 - 26% clubs, societies, sport and recreation
 - 11% advocacy and legal support for students
 - 8% career and employment guidance
 - 3% financial advice
 - 2% student media
 - 1% childcare

VUWSA – State of the Student Survey

This was launched in the first week of August. Certain statistics have been covered in the media, e.g. that 38% of students reported skipping a meal in the last week, due to cost-of-living expenses.

There were two recommendations in the report for Te Herenga Waka:

1. To provide more scholarships and hardship grants – this emphasises the importance of alumni outreach
2. To provide equitable and accessible support and advice about post-university pathways and employment options.

The floor was opened for comment.

- The universities will be leaning into the value of a broad-based university degree in their briefing to the incoming Minister/Ministers after the election. Lobbying points will include:
 - The importance of monitoring the impact as the Transition Research Fund increases the proportion of funding in the Technology for Prosperity pillar
 - The importance of international PhD students in Track II diplomacy.
- The rankings algorithms are adjusted and changed every year, but QS has a big reputational impact. Schools should be canvassing for people of influence to complete QS surveys.

26.61 Written Report of DVCs

AB26-58

The August 2026 DVC report was **received** from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Kaitiakitanga), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students).

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Report

Professor Robyn Longhurst spoke to the DVC (Academic) report which was taken as read.

The Curriculum Enhancement Programme

- There have been five staff focus groups, and one student focus group discussing Workstream 1: Assessment, particularly the use of AI. There are hugely differing opinions across academic and professional staff, and disciplines.
- An assessment framework will be drafted and released for consultation.

Curriculum Quality

- Matatāhuna—Universities Quality Assurance Agency (UQAA) is currently working what the Cycle 7 audit of quality assurance will entail.

Te Kokonga Whare e Kitea

- A recent milestone has been the development of a shared definition of student success for Te Herenga Waka, which can be found in the report.
- Project funding will conclude at the end of the year – current work is on embedding key successful initiatives to make them sustainable within existing University structures.

The floor was opened, with no comment.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori and Kaitiakitanga Report

Professor Rawinia Higgins spoke to the DVC (Māori and Kaitiakitanga) report, which was taken as read.

Events:

- Matariki Hautapu took place at 6am on Friday 17 July – thank you to the Te Herenga

Waka community for coming together.

- Thank you to the 132 volunteers who took part in the Growing Our Future sustainability project.
- Congratulations to Professor Kathryn Sutherland and Professor Anna Jackson on their inaugural lectures.
- Upcoming inaugural lectures will be given by Professor Franck Natali (Chemical and Physical Sciences) on [3 September 2026](#), and Professor Yi Mei (Engineering and Computer Science) on [17 September 2026](#).

The floor was opened, with no comment.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Report

Professor Sally McArthur spoke to the DVC (Research) report, which was taken as read.

Policy and Guidelines consultation

- The Human Ethics Policy and Guidelines will be released for consultation in August. Give feedback on the [University's consultation web page](#).
- The Faculty of Graduate Research (FGR) is consulting on reducing the number of examiners for doctoral examinations from three to two.

The floor was opened, with no comment.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Report

The DVC(S) report was taken as read with Dr Logan Bannister's apologies. Acting DVC(S) Kirsty McClure spoke to this item in her place.

- Logan is currently in India attending a roadshow until the end of August.
- There have been 6000 registrations for Open Day on 21 August – higher than registrations at this time last year.
- Mauri Ora has been approved to teach International Medical Graduates through the Government's GP workforce expansion initiative, and has signed a series of three-year contracts. The first six-month placement began in July.

The floor was opened with no comment.

26.62 Programme amendment for Academic Board approval

AB26-66

The following proposal was **approved** by Academic Board:

Faculty	Proposal Title
FEHPS	Amend the Health Leadership and Management (HLMG) specialisation in the Master of Health (MHLth)

This proposal was brought forward to part A to account for the papers for this meeting being amended to add restrictions on two courses.

26.63 Part C of the agenda

It was **resolved** that non-members be excluded from this meeting for consideration of agenda item 12 in accordance with s9(2)(a) LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii).

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PART B OF THE AGENDA

The following items, not having been brought forward, were **confirmed**.

26.64 Minutes of the last meeting

AB26-60

The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 14 July 2026 (numbers 26.45 to 26.54) were **confirmed**.

Note: Part C of meeting minutes are excluded

26.65 Programme amendments for Academic Board approval (to be reported to CUAP)

The following programme amendment was **approved** by Academic Board to be reported to CUAP:

Faculty	Proposal Title	Reference
FOSE	Introduce a new nested Postgraduate Certificate in Biomedical Science (PGCertBmedSc)	AB26-61

26.66 Programme amendments for Academic Board approval

The following programme amendments were **approved** by Academic Board:

Faculty	Proposal Title	Reference
FEHPS	Introduce new courses, amendments to the regulations for Bachelor of Education (Teaching) Early Childhood and Graduate Diploma of Teaching (ECE)	AB26-62
FHSS	Amend regulations to Diploma of University Studies (Pasifika Pathways)	AB26-63
FADI	Amend the MArch(Prof), MIA and MLA regulations to include new thesis courses	AB26-64
FADI	Amend the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURPlan) Regulations to add new courses	AB26-65
FEHPS	Amend the Bachelor of Midwifery (BMid) programme to add a new course and make updates to course titles, prescriptions, points, and requisites across all four years	AB26-67
FHSS	Amend the major requirements for Literary and Creative Communication (LCOM) and Environmental Humanities (EHUM)	AB26-68
FHSS	Amend the Bachelor of Global Studies (BGS); Introduction of two new ICOM courses, amendments to major requirements for CHIN, FREN, GERM, ICOM, JAPA, SPAN	AB26-69
FHSS	Amend regulations for Master of Migration Studies (MMigs)	AB26-70
FOSE	Amend postgraduate Biological Sciences courses and programme regulations	AB26-71
FOSE	Amend the Statistics (STAT) major and minor, the Actuarial Science (ACTS) specialisation, and related regulations	AB26-72

FOSE	Consequential amendments following introduction of the Mechatronics major	AB26-73
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26.67 Report of the Academic Programmes Committee

AB26-74

The Academic Programmes Committee report of 10 August 2026 was **noted**.

26.68 Academic Programme Review – Biological Sciences

AB26-75

The Academic Programme Review report and implementation plan for the Biological Sciences programmes were **endorsed**.

26.69 Academic Programme Review – Philosophy

AB26-76

The Academic Programme Review report and implementation plan for the Philosophy programme were **endorsed**.

Appendix I

Academic Board attendance – 18 August 2026

Professor Barbara Allen	Assoc Prof Maja Krtalić	Professor Janet Pitman
Professor Graeme Austin	Professor Giacomo Lichtner	Assoc Prof Revti Raman
George Baker	Professor Karl Lofgren	Professor John Randal
Professor Hona Black	Professor Robyn Longhurst	Ethan Rogacion
Professor Todd Bridgman	Assoc Prof Xavier Marquez	Assoc Prof Helen Rook
Professor Daniel Brown	Professor Stephen Marshall	Beth Smith
Professor Jane Bryson	Professor Sally McArthur	Professor Karen Smith
Dr Kimberly Cannady	Shay McEwan	Assoc Prof Anna Siyanova
Dr Luke Chu	Professor Geoff McLay	Professor Karen Smith
Professor Averil Coxhead	Professor Nicola Nelson	Professor Kathryn Sutherland
Professor Joanne Crawford	Professor Sally Jane Norman	Professor John Townend
Professor Kim Cunio	Professor Robyn Phipps	Trish Wilson
Assoc Prof Toby Daglish	Professor Janet Pitman	Professor Marc Wilson
Professor Carmen Dalli	Professor John Randal	Professor Michael Winikoff
Aidan Donoghue	Ethan Rogacion	Assoc Prof Amanda Wolf
Professor Anne Gold	Professor Nicole Moreham	
Professor Dave Harper	Dr Andrew Munkacs	
Dr John Haywood	Professor Sally Jane Norman	
Professor Bryony James	Dr Yvette Perrott	
Dr Yau Hee Kho	Professor Robyn Phipps	

Non-members in attendance

Rochelle Gribble	Dr Angelina Sbroma
Dr Ryan Kerr	Leigh Torode
Dr Yang Liu	Derek White
Kirsty McClure	Dr Jill Wilkinson
Reece Moors	Dr Veronika Williams
Varsha Narasimhan	

Apologies

Dr Catherine Abou-Nemeh	Professor Joanne Kidman	Dr Graeme Whimp
Professor Astrid an Huef	Professor Anna Jackson	Professor Tony Ward
Professor Sian Hwee Ang	Professor Joanna Kidman	Professor Mike Wilson
Professor Nick Ashill	Professor Sara Kindon	Professor Jenny Wollerman
Professor Rod Badcock	Professor Ali Knott	Professor Mengjie Zhang
Dr Logan Bannister	Professor Karin Lasthuizen	Dr Helen Andreae
Professor Pamela Bell	Professor Sarah Leggott	Rachel Bruce
Professor Chris Bumby	Professor Phil Lester	Michelle Clark
Professor Sue Cherrington	Professor Jim McAloon	Karen Davis
Professor Martyn Coles	Professor Paul Jose	Dr Michael Dudding
Heather Day	Professor	Leanne Gibson
Assoc Prof Stephen Epstein	Prof Katharine McKinnon	Lynn Grindell
Professor Richard Furneaux	Professor Ocean Mercier	Assoc Prof Monica Handler
Professor Ally Gibson	Professor Andrew Munkacsi	Dr Angela Joe
Professor Nick Golledge	Professor Ilan Noy	Dr Bruno Marques
Professor Anne Goulding	Professor Wayne Patrick	Ash McPherson
Professor Vanessa Green	Professor James Renwick	Sue O'Donnell
Professor Arthur Grimes	Professor Sarah Ross	Linda Roberts
Dr Linda Hogg	Assoc Prof Rhian Salmon	Dr Robert Stratford
Professor Patricia Hunt	Assoc Prof Anna Siyanova	Andrew Tarr
Prof Catherine Iorns-Magallanes	Professor Marco Sonzogni	Dr Kate Thornton
Kate Tibbitts	Dr Okan Tan	Dr Craig Watterson