



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 4 December 2023
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building and via Zoom
from 9.00 am to 3.10 pm**

PRESENT: Mr John Allen (Chancellor)
Professor Richard Arnold
Ms Pania Gray
Mr Alan Judge
Mr David McLean
Ms Kelly Mitchell
Ms Cath Nesus
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor) *via Zoom*
Mr James Te Puni
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES: Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Mr Jaistone Finau

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Jackie Anderson, Acting General Counsel
Dr Leon Bakker, Director, Planning and Information Management
Dr Logan Bannister, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students
Mr Mark Daldorf, Director, People & Capability
Ms Katherine Edmond, Director, Communications
Professor Rawinia Higgins Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori and Engagement
Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research
Professor Bryony James, Provost
Mr Simon Johnson, Acting Director, Campus Operations
Associate Professor Dame Winnie Laban, AVC Pasifika
Professor Sarah Leggott, Dean FHSS
Ms Margot Lyons, Legal Counsel
Professor Rob McKay, Director, Antarctic Research Centre
Professor Markus Melloh, Dean of Faculty of Health
Mr Reece Moors, Director, Vice-Chancellor's Office
Mrs Rachel Scott, Health & Safety Advisor
Mr Craig Sutton, Project Delivery Manager, Campus Development
Ms Tina Wakefield, Chief Operating Officer

23.183

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that Mr James Te Puni led the Karakia.
 - 2 that the Chancellor warmly welcomed all to the meeting, especially the full complement of Te Hiwa members.

- 3 that he extended condolences to Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich following the death of her husband. He also acknowledged the death of the Secretary to Council's father and again extended condolences.
- 4 that this was the final meeting for student representative, Mr Jaistone Finau. He thanked Jaistone for his service and wished him every success saying he was certain we would see more of him in the future on the national and international stage.
- 5 that apologies were received from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich and Mr Jaistone Finau.

Resolved: that the apologies from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich and Mr Jaistone Finau be sustained.

Arnold/Gray
Carried
230161

23.184 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.

23.185 ADDITION OF LATE ITEM – NAMING OF CHAIR

Received: that a request to add a late approval item to the confidential agenda to name a Chair was received.

- Noted:**
- 1 that the naming could not be delayed until the next Council meeting on 12 February 2024 because of the desire to provide certainty to the appointee to the Chair before the University closes for the year.
 - 2 that Council was unanimously supportive that the item be added.

Resolved: that a late item on naming of a Chair be added to the confidential agenda.

Te Puni/McLean
Carried
230162

23.186 ELECTION OF 2024 CHANCELLOR AND PRO-CHANCELLOR

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council dated 16 November 2023 regarding the election of the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor for 2024 (document VUWC 23/134).

- Noted:**
- 1 that an election had been held in accordance with the procedures set out in the Council manual.
 - 2 that there was one nomination for Chancellor, Mr John Allen; and one nomination for Pro-Chancellor, Hon Maryan Street; therefore candidates for both positions are elected unopposed.

- 3 that Council was unanimous in supporting these nominations and congratulated and thanked Mr Allen and Hon Maryan Street for continuing as Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor in 2024.

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Mr John Allen be declared duly elected to the office of Chancellor for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024;
 - 2 that Hon Maryan Street be declared duly elected to the office of Pro-Chancellor for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.

Judge/Mitchell
Carried
220163

23.187 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD 30 OCTOBER 2023

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 30 October 2023.

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 30 October 2023 be approved.

Nesus/McLean
Carried
230164

23.188 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 27 November 2023 (document VUWC 23/135)

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the Chancellor acknowledged and thanked his Council colleagues for their work in shaping and supporting the financial sustainability programme. He also commended the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, on his courage, stamina and leadership in his first year at Te Herenga Waka.
 - 3 that the enormous impact on staff who have left the University due to the financial sustainability work was recognised. Their contribution to Victoria was acknowledged with great appreciation.
 - 4 that the graduation celebrations this week will be a highlight as over 1,000 graduates parade through the city and cross the stage at one of four ceremonies.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

Street/Nesus
Carried
230165

23.189 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 27 November 2023 (document VUWC 23/136).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the Vice-Chancellor congratulated all graduates on their achievements as graduation is celebrated this week.

- 3 that admission and enrolment numbers for 2024 continue to be encouraging, although it is early days in the process. Applications for accommodation also look positive and a degree of cautious optimism remains.
- 4 that at a recent series of Staff Forums, all members of Te Hiwa presented to staff and outlined their three priorities for the 2024 year.
- 5 that there had been positive discussions at Academic Board including a session where close to 20 academics presented ideas on what they think the university could focus on to increase its attractiveness to students. Some of these ideas will feed into development of the University's new strategic plan.
- 6 that the loss of staff, both professional and academic, had resulted in significant pressure on staff who remain. There will be a strong focus on looking at what we can do less of to ease the strain on people.
- 7 that Professor Higgins was recognised and thanked for her work leading the Student recruitment and retention taskforce.

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

Street/McLean
Carried
230166

23.190 FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 OCTOBER 2023

Received: the Financial report to 31 October 2023 from the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Les Montgomery (document VUWC 23/137).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that in May the full year underlying forecast for the University group was a deficit of \$33m.
 - 3 that the current full year underlying forecast for the University group is a deficit of \$29m. With two months of activity remaining the result could alter however a substantial underlying loss will still occur.
 - 4 that the Kaikoura earthquake proceeds have resulted in a \$40.8m non-recurring benefit that must be treated as revenue. The CFO emphasised that these funds will be required for seismic remediation.
 - 5 that when the claim proceeds are included, the year to date University Group result is a surplus of \$17m. If the claim proceeds are excluded, the year to date University group deficit is \$22.3m.

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

Judge/Allen
Carried
230167

23.191 CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 4 December 2023 (document VUWC 23/138).

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 23/138, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 4 December 2023.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Mitchell/Gray

Carried
230168

23.192 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOLLOWING STAFF ELECTION

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 9 November 2023 regarding the appointment of a Council member following the staff election (document VUWC 23/139).

Resolved: that in accordance with clause 5.1(b) of the Council Membership Statute, Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich be appointed to Council for a further four year term from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027.

Nesus/Arnold
Carried
230169

23.193 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2024

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 27 November 2023 regarding the appointment of Committee Chairs and Committee members for 2024 (document VUWC 23/140).

Noted:

1 that Council members were unanimously supportive of the suggested appointments.

2 that the Chancellor acknowledged the additional workload shouldered by Committee chairs and thanked Hon Maryan Street as Chair of Audit & Risk Committee, Alan Judge as Chair of Finance Committee, and Cath Nesus as Chair of the Te Aka Matua Committee for their work.

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Chancellor:

the Committee Chairs and Committee membership as set out in document VUWC 23/140 be approved.

**Te Puni/Mitchell
Carried
230170**

23.194 PASIFIKA QUARTERLY REPORT

Received: a Council paper dated 27 November 2023 from Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) providing a Pasifika update (document VUWC 23/141).

Noted:

- 1 that Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) updated Council on progress against goals in the Pasifika Strategy and Operational Plan.
- 2 that all Pasifika staff have been retained through the financial sustainability change programme and that work to increase the number of Pasifika staff continues.

- 3 that Pasifika communities are among those disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and this has affected recruitment and retention of Pasifika students, with postgraduate numbers a notable exception.
- 4 that the recent Pasifika Roadshow, which saw the team visit Pasifika communities throughout the Wellington region to discuss study options and support services for students, was acknowledged as an excellent initiative.

Resolved: that the Pasifika update be noted.

Mitchell/Judge
Carried
230171

23.195

VUWSA AND NGĀI TAUIRA STUDENT PRESIDENT REPORTS

- Received:**
- 1 an oral report from the VUWSA President, Ms Jessica Ye and incoming 2024 VUWSA President, Ms Marcail Parkinson
 - 2 an oral report from the Ngāi Taurira Co-Presidents, Te Waikamihī Lambert and Ms Sterling Maxwell.

- Noted:**
- 1 that the student leaders were warmly welcomed to the meeting.
 - 2 that the positive and strengthening partnership between VUWSA and the University has been a feature of 2023.
 - 3 that it had been a busy year for VUWSA and there had been strong advocacy in the lead up to the general election. The VUWSA elections had resulted in students elected to all leadership positions.
 - 4 that the 2024 VUWSA President, Marcail Parkinson introduced herself to Council members and is looking forwarding to the challenges of the new year.
 - 5 that incoming Ngāi Taurira co-presidents Te Waikamihī Lambert and Sterling Maxwell updated Council on their planned activities and engagement for the coming year. They will put a strong focus on getting first-year Māori students engaged with Ngāi Taurira from the start of 2024. They also eagerly anticipate the opening of the Living Pā towards the end of next year.
 - 6 that the Chancellor expressed his appreciation for the leadership of the VUWSA President, Ms Jessica Ye, and the Ngai Taurira President, Harris Devon during 2023. He wished them both every success in the future.

Resolved: that the oral reports from the Student Presidents be noted.

Mitchell/Te Puni
Carried
230172

23.196

COMMITTEE MINUTES / ACADEMIC BOARD REPORT

- Received:**
- the Academic Board report and Committee minutes:
- Academic Board report, meeting held 7 November 2023 (document VUWC 23/142)
 - Audit & Risk Committee, 20 November 2023

- Finance Committee, 20 November 2023.

Resolved: that the Academic Board report and Committee minutes be noted.

Street/Judge
Carried
230173

23.197 FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 27 November 2023 regarding Forthcoming Events and the next Council meeting (document VUWC 23/143).

Noted: that the next meeting of Council will take place on Monday, 12 February 2024, at 9am 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, 12 February 2024 be noted.

Gray/Judge
Carried
230174

23.198 SPEAKER : PROFESSOR ROB MCKAY, DIRECTOR, ANTARCTIC RESEARCH CENTRE

Received: an oral report from Professor Robert McKay, Director, Antarctic Research Centre.

Noted:

- 1 that the Chancellor warmly welcomed Professor McKay and thanked him for speaking to Council.
- 2 that Professor McKay outlined the history of the Centre, its areas of research focus and some of the specific work it is currently involved in. He acknowledged the value of external funding and philanthropic support in ensuring the Centre can thrive and grow and the importance of continuing to build the Centre's global reputation to ensure researchers continue to be involved in cutting-edge research and students are attracted to study here.
- 3 that there are strategic opportunities for the University due its close location to CRIs in Wellington.
- 4 that Professor McKay extended an invitation to Council members to visit the Antarctic Research Centre at a future date.

Resolved: that the oral report from Professor Robert McKay, Director, Antarctic Research Centre be noted.

Gray/Te Puni
Carried
230175

23.199 RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 23/144).

Resolved: 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 15-29, and the late item agreed under minute 23.185.

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 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.	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
17. Minutes of previous meeting held 30 October 2023	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. Safety, Health & Wellbeing report 1-31 October 2023/oral report for November	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Vice-Chancellor's report	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Financial report to 31 October 2023 and 2023 forecast	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Quarterly report: National Music Centre update and options	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. 2024 Budget/2024 Management Plan	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Insurance Renewal mandate	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Living Pā funding increase	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. Rescindment of qualification	s9(2)(a)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Foundation report to 30 September 2023	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
27. Digital roadmap quarterly report	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
28. Committee and Academic Board minutes	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(h), and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
29. Council only time	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), and s9(2)(ba)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
Late item Naming of Chair	s9(2)(a)	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 29, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Allen/Judge
Carried
230176

the meeting adjourned at 11.00 am
the meeting reconvened at 11.15 am