

ACADEMIC BOARD TE TAUMATA

Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Board held on Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 1.00pm in the Hunter Council Chamber

The meeting was held face-to-face in the Kelburn Council Chamber and was convened by the Vice-Chancellor Professor Nic Smith. The meeting was opened with a karakia and everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

PART A

25.01 Apologies, acknowledgements and welcomes

Apologies were taken as read (see Appendix 1).

The convenor welcomed the following staff promoted to professors:

Title	Name	Faculty/School
Professor	Ben Ruck	School of Chemical and Physical Sciences
Professor	Janet Pitman	School of Biological Sciences
Professor	Jenny Ritchie	School of Education
Professor	Gina Grimshaw	School of Psychology
Professor	Ivy (I Ming) Liu	School of Mathematics and Statistics
Professor	Leon Gurevitch	School of Design Innovation
Professor	Ocean Mercier	Te Kawa a Māui
Professor	Rebecca Bednarek	School of Management

A welcome was also given to student member representatives for 2025

VUWSA President	Liban Ali
Academic V-P	Ethan Rogacion
Ngāi Tauira	Mairangi Campbell-Academic Officer (Āpiha Matauranga)
PGSA President	Rebekah Senanyake
Vice-Presidents	Vladislav Ilin and Muhammad Ramzan Sajid
V-ISA President	Emily Tedjojuwono
Pasifika Students' Council	Tanumia Matega

25.02 Part B of the agenda – items brought forward

No items were brought forward from Part B to Part A.

25.03 Vice-Chancellor Oral Report

The Vice-Chancellor's oral report was received.

Enrolment figures to date are strong, with EFTS increases as follows: Domestic students have almost reached 600, reflecting a 5% increase; International students have risen to almost 120, showing an 11% increase; Postgraduate students, across both taught and research are up by 166, which is a 6% increase. These numbers reflect the hard work and sustained effort from across the university.

While EFTS remain a critical component of the university's funding model, the positive EFTS growth is mirrored by a strong and engaged student body and an increase in accommodation numbers. This was particularly evident during the Halls Orientation and Orientation Week.

The VC attended several events that Liban Ali, the VUWSA President, and his team organised. Feedback from the halls indicates a strengthened sense of community and an uplift in student positivity compared to last year. Appreciation was also extended to Logan Bannister and her team for their coordination and dedicated mahi in this space.

In other areas:

- The Freedom of Speech policy has now been confirmed and incorporates the feedback from the Academic Board.
- The Applied Doctoral Scheme was launched by the Hon. Dr Shane Reti, Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology last week. It is a national programme developed to equip research graduates to be industry ready and is led by a consortium consisting of ourselves and the University of Auckland, along with the University of Otago, and Massey University.
- The opening of Ngā Mokopuna and the reawakening of the marae is a significant day in our history and the building provides a wonderful new space for the university. Staff were encouraged to visit the building if they hadn't done so already.
- The new Minister for Universities, the Hon. Dr Shane Reti, visited the university recently and was interested in areas largely aligned with the government's agenda. Discussion with the minister included fostering growth in economically advantageous areas, particularly those driven by technology and science.
- The Prime Minister envisions universities as hubs for individuals with bright ideas, aiming to commercialise innovations and play a significant role in society. It was noted that while commercialisation often arises from large communities with technological expertise, the added value to society frequently comes from individuals who understand the context and practical applications of these innovations.
- We have a new chancellor Alan Judge following the appointment of John Allen to ombudsman. The Hon. Maryan Street has been re-elected and appointed to a further term as Pro-Chancellor. Appreciation was extended to John Allen for all his hard work as Chancellor.

We are living in a time when technology is changing our lives more quickly than before, and while change is positive, there is risk that we will get to a destination we do not want to be at unless we consider social science which gives us context, and humanities which looks at the values that underpin them.

The VC attended a breakfast with the Prime Minister and business leaders. Many of them agreed we are at a time where this is going to be challenging.

A discussion is being planned for a debate with politicians, preferably at Parliament, to at least be participants in that process along with some academics. The hard part now is to get politicians who are wanting to stand up and talk about the relentless focus is on STEM.

25.04 Written Report

AB25/01

The February 2025 DVC report was received from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori and Engagement), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Report

Professor Robyn Longhurst spoke to her report which was taken as read.

Sharing Academic Information with students: A positive discussion took place at the recent Learning and Teaching Committee, and guidance information is being collated for staff with the aim of reducing the number of OIAs as they are creating a significant workload for legal. This is a significant opportunity to ensure that students enrolled in our programmes and courses can access all relevant academic information.

The academic promotions process: We have formally written to the TEU to commence a variation in the academic staff collective. In addition, a short video will be provided outlining what those changes are. This is available online, but a recap will be circulated.

The curriculum mapping project was outlined in the Oko— University News of 18 February 2025 with details on what is in scope.

In brief, there was a 15 vs 20-point paper discussion and while it has been discussed in the past, it is important we revisit this as a university. Within the project, we are also looking at Mataranga Māori, sustainability, and work integrated learning. We will look at delivery modes, and at major, minors and specializations, assessments modes and our understanding of requisites and finally courses that have pass/fail assessment with and without percentage attributed. We have tight deadlines in order for this to be progressed quickly.

The floor was opened for comment.

- It was suggested that the curriculum mapping was smaller in scope than expected. Robyn advised a useful discussion took place recently at learning and teaching, and there will be a lot of this information pulled from our new curriculum system (MATA) and they will be talking to people and sense-testing so as to not rely solely on data.
- It is intended that a clean copy be put on the website.
- It was asked what the next steps are regarding the promotions process. Robyn advised

they are currently working on this and not waiting for a TEU decision, and work is cascading down.

- Regarding the initial pitch for academic approvals, we are currently trialling with staff to see how it is working.
- Information requested for more about the relationship between the Curriculum Mapping Project and the Curriculum Transformation Project, and if there will be a discussion regarding any major changes. Robyn advised we are collecting information and will write a paper for feedback before deciding on a starting point.
- Until we know more about that information, we are not able to go forward with a more major curriculum project.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research Report

Professor Margaret Hyland was an apology. Professor Neil Dodgson spoke to her report taking it as read.

We have been successful with the University of Auckland, Massey University and Otago University in securing the MB Applied Doctorate Scheme valued at \$20M over five years. This university could reasonably expect to see around two or three million dollars in funding from that for doctoral students, given MBIE's benefit to the new faculty of science and engineering, but we are going to see if we can broaden how that works. We are grateful to our health researchers who were extremely successful in the most recent research round with the Health Research Council. There were 12 of the 13 successful applications, bringing in another \$1.8 million in new funding.

The research office advised that last year's milestone grants are now starting, and we were successful in getting 20 projects worth \$12 million.

Our community is successfully bringing in funding but with Callahan Innovation closing, we are looking at commercialisation approaches. The removal of funding for humanities and social sciences from the Marsden fund has been an enormous disappointment, especially to people in FHSS.

Neil, as Dean of FGR, wanted to acknowledge that it is not just the staff who are affected, but also research students and their future careers. Margaret is working with the new dean of FHSS to look at ways in which we can replace some of that funding.

It was pointed out that it is not only FHSS that are impacted by the withdrawal tranche of Marsden funding, but also the Wellington School of Business and Government.

The intention is that in addition to having those science engineering researchers who would be doing new science and engineering, we would also be looking at social science and business researchers who are looking at policy settings.

The Minister, Dr Shane Reti, was very focused on STEM in both his press release and in what he said at the launch.

There are some good synergies for example a student signing up for this will be committing to four to six hours a month of professional development work. The University of Auckland

have some good areas that they have developed in terms of training and entrepreneurship, and we are also looking to Massey and Otago Universities and ourselves to provide some of the training as well.

The PGSA has run the Three Minute Thesis competition for many years but were unable to do this last year. We have been speaking with the new president and agreed that it is appropriate for the PGSA to focus on creating a good community amongst the research students and on advocacy. We are therefore looking into FGR running this on behalf of the university like the other New Zealand universities do.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Students Report

The report was taken as read.

Enrolments have picked up and are looking positive. The census date for T1 is 10 March and around 12 March is when our position will be known, particularly for T1 on confirmed enrolments.

A small number of enrolments for domestic and late applications for T1 are still being received. Online applications close 27 February but a steady number of students are finalising their enrolments. With regards to international, the T1 application and enrolment process closed slightly earlier as there is a different pattern that happens with international enrolments. For domestic, we see most enrolments come in T1. For international, there is a large cohort in T2 so numbers may seem a little further off.

Congratulations to Liban Ali and his team for O-Week and for a good night.

There is a longer transition period for students post O-Week this year. Historically we have delivered a significant amount of information to students. With regards to academic preparedness, that is being extended over a six-week period so they are not overwhelmed and can get information in time.

It was noted that students seem more focused and calmer this year, which is attributed both to this intake of students and to the university providing the leadership and getting the systems right.

Concern was raised over caps for the number of students who can enrol in courses. This was possibly due to room sizing. A conversation will be held to try and work out how to extend numbers as the preference is to welcome as many students as possible.

Focus is on retention this year for our student body and student numbers.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Māori and Engagement Report

The report was taken as read.

Appreciation was given to all who participated and attended the opening of the Ngā Mokopuna and it was acknowledged that it was good to have the wider university community be part of that. The following week over a thousand people visited, and the next week two graduation ceremonies were held.

The occupants are settling into Ngā Mokopuna and the new room booking system is being worked through for meetings and events, as well as timetabling classes and tutorials. The booking system gets busy, so people are encouraged to book if keen to incorporate the building as part of their curriculum. It was noted that a booking form can be used to make [Bookings](#). The occupants are still learning about the building, but most areas are working well.

It was hoped to start the certification period in T1 but because there is still some commissioning of the works, the process has been delayed, although information is still being collected. It was a good orientation with welcoming our new Māori and international students in Orientation Week. It is encouraging to see so many students.

Acknowledgement was given to all the staff who continue to do great work in the media and the communications team.

25.05 CUAP Round 1 Proposals 2025

The following two new programme proposals were endorsed by the Academic Board for submission to CUAP Round 1:

AB25-02 Proposal to create a Mechatronics (MECA) major in the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours (BE(Hons))

Dr Stuart Marshall introduced the new major in the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours.

There are currently three majors in the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours, which is a four-year accredited degree being software engineering, electronic engineering and cybersecurity engineering. The idea behind this major is not a radical departure from what we currently do.

This new major would tie in well with the existing electrical and electronic engineering major and will build on some of our existing strengths. We already have a couple of mechatronics courses and mechatronics focused staff but there has been demand from the existing electrical and electronic students, as well as students we have met at recruitment events for a mechatronics major. We are therefore confident that, along with the predictions that Leon provided courtesy of PAMI, there would be strong demand for this.

AB24 -03 Proposal for a new undergraduate degree, the Bachelor of Construction (BConst), and new Graduate Certificate (GCertCAT) and Diploma (GDipCAT) in Construction and Architectural Technology.

Professor Robin Phipps as Dean of FADI introduced the new Bachelor of Construction. The version in the papers is a revised document sent last week as there was a matter that needed to be resolved. There is an addendum amended version which was circulated, and we also have a late addendum which arose from a hui in relation to the naming of the GradCert and the GradDip. We have pulled those two items so that is the proposed five from this proposal. With that element removed, we wanted to put forward a QA proposal for a Bachelor of Construction, and for some revisions to the current existing Bachelor of Building Science.

The rationale for this new degree is that New Zealand has a huge need for affordable housing and the requirement to catch up on a lot of infrastructure with high spend to make this happen. We need a large number of upskilled people. This is a new area of teaching and will flow onto research.

This is mainly about the teaching now for the university and is predicted to draw in a number of full fee students because construction has had a skill shortage with New Zealand immigration for the last 20 years or more. This will be a drawcard as has been evidenced by the other two providers of construction degrees, Massey University and AUT.

It's been discussed significantly within the faculty and has been voted on by faculty with a vast majority in favour, and has been through our Industry Advisory Board who are highly enthusiastic.

There has been a lot of discussion about how the Bachelor of Construction and the Bachelor of Building Science fit together and construction is a key component, which is why these two proposals are going forward together because they're highly interrelated. A related proposal for postgraduate collocation will be coming to the next Academic Board meeting.

25.06 Programme Amendments

The following programme amendments were endorsed by the Academic Board:

Faculty	Faculty Reference Number	Proposal Title	Reference
WSBG	WSBG/12 VUW/24–PGCertPA/1	Deletion of references to PGCertPA with an endorsement in Chartered Accounting	AB25-04 (APC24-93)
WSBG	WSBG/13 VUW/24–BCom/5	Amend the 300-level requirements in the Public Policy major	AB25-05 (APC24-94)
FOS	PGDipClinRes/1	PGDipClinRes internship	AB25-06 (APC24-95)
FOS	BPsych/6	Amend the BSMH major	AB25-07 (APC24-96)
FOS	BSc/11, BEnvSoc/5	Amend the ESCI and CLIM majors	AB25-08 (APC24-97)
FOH	FOH/24/5 - MPAH/1	Amend the Course Codes in the MPAH and BHIth Programmes	AB25-09 (APC24-98)
FHSS	BPM/1	Amend regulations for the Bachelor of Popular Music	AB25-10 (APC24-99)
FHSS	BMus/1	Amend requirements for the DMAP major/minor	AB25-11 (APC24-100)
EDUC	BA/25, BPsych/4	Amend the Educational Psychology (EDPS) major	AB25-12 (APC25-07)
FoH	MNS/1	Amend the MNS (Master of Nursing Science) Programme	AB25-13 (APC25-08)
FHSS	BMus/2, BA/2, BPM/1	Introduction and deletion of courses and amendment of various NZSM majors and minors	AB25-14 (APC25-09)

25.07 Work Programmes

AB25-15

Derek White and Professor Karen Smith gave a presentation in relation to *Work Integrated Learning (WIL) and career development*.

Derek gave an overview of the frameworks and policy implications for work integrated learning and then handed over to Professor Smith who picked up on the strategic discussion via a presentation. At the end of 2023, work integrated learning was highlighted as a significant opportunity for us and an area that we have done quite a lot of work on as an institution.

We are looking at curricular work integrated learning where there is a tripartite relationship between the university, the student and an external organisation with some procedural changes. Regulation is a high-level document that explains the principles that would govern this space and the high-level rules. Information in terms of the consultation that was undertaken, and the consultation feedback and responses were outlined in the document.

The WIL work programme was endorsed by Academic Board. This can be found on [Work-integrated learning](#).

Appreciation was given to the Victoria Teaching group and to Alice Hodder in developing the work integrated learning aspects of the global studies program.

Part C of the agenda

It was resolved that non-members be excluded from this meeting for consideration of agenda items 14 in accordance with s9(2)(a) LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii).

PART B OF THE AGENDA

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

25.08 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 5 November 2024 (numbers 62.24 to 72.24) were confirmed.

AB25-16

Note: Part C of meetings are excluded for reasons of confidentiality where applicable.

25.09 Report of the Academic Programmes Committee

The Academic Programmes Committee reports of 19 November 2024 and 11 February 2025 were noted.

AB25-17

25.10 Quality Assurance Outputs

The Quality Assurance Outputs summary and schedule report providing an update on the Quality Assurance Outputs (Academic Programme Reviews and Graduating Year Reviews) completed in 2024, as well as those scheduled for 2025 and beyond (2026-2027), was noted.

25.11 New Faculty Names

Two new faculties were formed and launched in January 2025 combining both the Faculties of Education and Health, and School of Psychology; and the Faculties of Science and

Engineering. Each new faculty ran a staff consultation to generate new names. The new names selected are Te Wāhanga a Manaia - Faculty of Science and Engineering; and Te Pukenga Wai - Faculty of Education, Health, and Psychological Sciences. These names are still to be approved by Council.

25.12 Reviewed approvals process for new academic programmes

Further to the consultation that began in mid-2024, it was decided that minor changes to processes will be made that should lead to improvement. A set of principles informing the university's academic process for new programmes was developed to help set the foundation for work in this area. Based on these principles, the following are four stages to the academic approval process for new programmes:

1. Initial pitch
2. Brief Concept Proposal
3. Full Proposal and Business Case; and
4. CUAP Proposal.

This revised process will be communicated to staff and will take effect from 1 July 2025.

It was noted the changes to the Academic Approval Process for new programmes following consultation that began in June 2024 be implemented from 1 July 2025.

APPENDIX 1

Academic Board attendance 25 February 2025

Liban Ali	Assoc Professor Meegan	Professor Ocean Mercier
Professor Richard Arnold	Hall	Professor Joanna
Dr Logan Bannister	Dr Monica Handler	Merwood-Salisbury
Professor Brigitte Bonisch-Brednich	Monika Hanson	Professor Nicola Nelson
Professor Jane Bryson	Dr John Haywood	Professor Rewi Newnham
Associate Professor Sasha Calhoun	Professor Rawinia Higgins	Professor Sally-Jane Norman
Professor Juan Canales	Professor Sally Hill	Professor Wayne Patrick
Assoc Professor Sue Cherrington	Dr Linda Hogg	Professor Robyn Phipps
Dr Tim Corballis	Dr Nigel Isaacs	Professor Janet Pitman
Professor Alberto Costi	Professor Bryony James	Professor John Randal
Professor Averill Coxhead	Professor Annemarie Jutel	Ethan Rogacion
Dr Matt Crawford	Associate Professor Maja Krtalic	Dr Ina Reichenberger
Professor Stephen Cummings	Associate Professor Robert Keyzers	Dr Helen Rook
Dr Nathaniel Davis	Professor Simon Keller	Dr Mike Ross
Professor Kevin Dew	Professor Dean Knight	Professor Martha Savage
Professor Neil Dodgson	Professor Anne La Flamme	Professor Paul Teesdale-Spittle
Dr Noelle Donnelly	Associate Professor	Director Kate Tibbitts
Professor Alejandro Frery	Spencer Lilley	Professor Yvette Tinsley
Associate Professor Robin Fulton	Professor Ivy (I-Ming) Liu	Professor John Townend
Dr Nicola Gilmour	Professor Robyn Longhurst	Rebekah Senanayake
Professor Gina Grimshaw	Professor Stephen Marshall	Professor Karen Smith
Professor Leon Gurevitch	Dr Burno Marques	Amandie Weerasundara
Dr Caz Hales	Christine McCarthy	Trish Wilson
Professor Dave Harper	Stella McIntosh	
	Professor Katherine McKinnon	
	Professor Geoff McLay	

Non-members in attendance

Mairangi Campbell
Associate Professor Toby Daglish
Lynn Grindell
Heather Day
Joseph Habgood
Dr Yang Liu
Dr Stuart Marshall
Professor Fiona McDonald
Reece Moors
Carol Morris
Varsha Narasimhan
Linda Roberts
Robert Stratford
Associate Professor Kathryn Sutherland
Leigh Torode
Derek White
Dr Jill Wilkinson

Apologies

Dr Andrew Lensen
Professor Anne Goulding
Antoinette Ahilakumaran
Professor Bev Lawton
Professor Carmen Dalli
Professor Catherine Iorns
Professor Claire Freeman
Professor Elizabeth Stanley
Professor Gary Evans
Professor Graeme Austin
Professor Jenny Ritchie
Professor Joanna Mossop
Professor Joanne Crawford
Dr Luke Chu
Marc Wilson
Professor Margaret Hyland
Professor Michael Winikoff
Professor Nancy Bertler
Professor Neil Dodgson

Professor Nicola Nelson
Pelesa Semu
Rachel Bruce
Professor Rebecca Priestly
Professor Sara Kindon
Professor Sara Leggott
Professor Sarah Ross
Professor Todd Bridgman