



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 7 August 2023
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building
from 9.00 am to 12.35 pm**

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

APOLOGIES: Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Mr Jaistone Finau *unable to attend meeting due to failure of Zoom*
Ms Cath Nesus *unable to attend meeting due to failure of Zoom*

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms Jackie Anderson, Acting General Counsel
Professor Stuart Brock, Vice-Provost, Academic
Ms Katherine Edmond, Director, Communications
Ms Meegan Hall, Assistant Vice-Chancellor, Mātauranga Māori
Mr Simon Johnson, Acting Chief Operating Officer
Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika)
Professor Marcus Melloh, Dean Faculty of Health
Meredith Marra, Professor of Linguistics
Mr Les Montgomery, Chief Financial Officer
Professor Sally Jane Norman, Director, New Zealand School of Music
Professor Peter Whiteford, Professor of English Literature
Professor Mike Wilson, Acting Provost

23.114

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

- Noted:**
- 1 that Ms Kelly Mitchell led the Karakia.
 - 2 that Mr Allen warmly welcomed all to the meeting advising that due to technical issues there would be no livestream or ability for two Council members to attend as planned via Zoom.
that as the epidemic notice has been lifted there was no longer a legal requirement to livestream the meeting, however it is planned to continue
 - 3 livestreaming in future.

4 that an apology had been received from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, and due to the failure of Zoom apologies were also recorded for Ms Cath Nesus and Mr Jaistone Finau.

Resolved: that apologies from Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, Ms Cath Nesus and Mr Jaistone Finau be sustained.

McLean/Gray
Carried
230095

23.115 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

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

Noted: that there were no further disclosures of interest since the release of the meeting documentation.

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 for item-specific disclosures, the Chancellor asked that Council members alert him at the time.

23.116 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2023

Received: the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 June 2023

Resolved: that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 June 2023 be approved.

Te Puni/Street
Carried
230096

23.117 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 31 July 2023 (document VUWC 23/79).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that the period since the last meeting had been focussed on work to ensure the University's return to financial sustainability. The Government's announcement of additional funding for the tertiary sector on 27 June (Victoria's share being \$12m - \$6m in 2024 and \$6m in 2025) was extremely welcome. This allowed the consultation phase to pause while a voluntary redundancy process was run. The additional funding and the VR process will result in fewer overall redundancies and allow some programmes to continue in a managed way toward achieving financial sustainability.
- 3 that a large number of emails had been received in support of the NZSM and the University's Theatre programme with feedback including ideas with merit for further consideration. The Chancellor stressed that the proposed changes are not anti the humanities but a pragmatic and evidence-based response to the current financial challenges.
- 4 that the University continues to look for other ways to cut costs including sale of capital assets, operational savings and collaboration with the University of Otago to deliver some teaching and learning.

- 5 that the need to work more collaboratively within a wider strategic framework across the country's Universities is increasingly apparent along with the need for a revised government funding model to better allow institutions to deliver against their long term strategic plans.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

Mitchell/Arnold
Carried
230097

23.118

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 1 August 2023 (document VUWC 23/80).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the Government's announcement of a \$128m funding boost for the sector on 27 June had resulted in a pause to the consultation process approved by Council on 26 June.
 - 3 that following discussion with Council it was decided to split the change proposal into three phases. The first phase being a voluntary redundancy process. The second phase involved identification of academic programmes or areas of staffing in CSUs that could be removed from the change proposal because VR had resulted in the required cost savings being met. In addition, programmes that had potential to become sustainable because of the additional funding were identified. Phase 3 which has recently commenced involves five weeks of consultation on the remaining change proposal with all feedback considered. Final decisions will be announced on 19 September.
 - 4 that the strong advocacy and heartfelt submissions for some programmes facing cuts were acknowledged, particularly those in which individual lives have been changed for the better and society has benefitted as a result. However, the University can no longer cross-subsidise all programmes due to years of decline in government funding meaning there is insufficient capacity to do so.
 - 5 that the importance of remaining focused on other activities to contribute to financial sustainability was discussed, including the goal of saving \$10 million in operational costs and increasing enrolment numbers in 2024.
 - 6 that a series of staff forums on recruitment, retention and the University's admission and enrolment systems will take place throughout August and early September with the chance for all staff to be involved.

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

McLean/Te Puni
Carried
230098

23.119

FINANCIAL REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2023

Received: the Financial report to 30 June 2023 from the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Les Montgomery (document VUWC 23/81).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the YTD forecast deficit has been slightly revised to a range of \$35-\$38m (from \$34m).
 - 3

- 4 that revenue remains relatively stable and work continues to manage cost. It was confirmed that there is execution risk in the \$10m operational cost saving goal and work continues to dig into the detail and pressure test this. that Council asked for further information under the confidential financial report on initiatives to realise this cost saving.

Resolved: that the Financial report to 30 June 2023 be noted.

Judge/Street
Carried
230099

23.120

ACADEMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSAL

Received: a Council paper dated 22 July 2023 from Professor Peter Whiteford on behalf of the Academic Board, regarding the Academic Implications of the Financial Sustainability Proposal (document VUWC 23/82).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read and Professor Peter Whiteford spoke to it. He declared an interest in that he was one of the staff affected by the financial sustainability proposal.
 - 2 that the Chancellor recorded that Council has a statutory obligation to seek advice of the Academic Board where there is potential impact on the structure of the University.
 - 3 that the two motions set down at the 26 June Council meeting were acknowledged calling upon the University Council to 1. bring more pressure on government to address the under-funding issue, and 2. Asking Council to note that the approach to the identification of areas for cost saving had been divisive with staff being either in scope or out of scope.
 - 4 that Professor Whiteford conveyed Academic Board's extraordinary level of concern over the impact of the proposal, affecting both academic and professional staff, and affecting the very nature of the University. He raised two additional points that had not been included in his report. 1) that academic sustainability be considered alongside financial sustainability, and 2) the long term implications of CUAP processes be considered where there is academic change as they are lengthy bureaucratic processes which will have considerable impact into next year and beyond.
 - 5 that ideas from Academic Board on how to achieve Financial Sustainability were mainly focused on the current barriers to collaboration including the way Universities are funded, duplication of programmes across Universities and the competitive model being unhelpful.
 - 6 that the Chancellor acknowledged the concerns of Academic Board and asked that Professor Whiteford convey Council's appreciation of the Board's valuable and helpful insight as consultation on the financial sustainability proposal continues.

Resolved: that the Council paper from the Academic Board on the Implications of the Financial Sustainability Proposal be noted.

Gray/Judge
Carried
230100

23.121

CONFERMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 7 August 2023 (document VUWC 23/83).

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 23/83, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 7 August 2023.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Mitchell/Arnold
Carried
230101

23.122

LEARNER SUCCESS PLAN / DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

Received: a Council paper from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, Professor Stuart Bock regarding the Learner Success Plan, and the Disability Inclusion Action Plan dated 31 July 2023 (document VUWC 23/84).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read and Professor Stuart Brock spoke to it confirming that as part of Te Herenga Waka's 2022 Investment Plan, the University was asked to provide a Learner Success Plan and a Disability Inclusion Plan.
 - 2 that subsequent to this, TEC asked the majority of NZ universities to revise their plans with a focus on strengthened governance and leadership oversight, inclusion of new equity indicators and reporting on these, an increased visibility of the role of students, developing and implementing monitoring and evaluation of the plans, as well as tightening objectives, actions and measures in both plans.
 - 3 that a new Student Experience Committee has been established and this will report through to the soon to be appointed DVC Students, the DVC, Māori and the AVC, Pasifika.
 - 4 that a request for some tidying up before submission to TEC was made, the details of which were picked up by Professor Brock and are in the detailed notes of this meeting on file.
 - 5 that the deliberate focus on Māori and Pasifika students in the categories was a TEC request and the Chancellor acknowledged that the gap in results for these students confirms the need for focussed attention via the Learner Success Plan.
 - 6 that all Council members were strongly supportive of the revised plans.

- Resolved:**
- that Council, subject to amendments under point 4 above:
- 1 approve the Learner Success Plan;
 - 2 approve the Disability Inclusion Action Plan; and
 - 3 note the Terms of Reference for the Student Experience Committee.

Gray/Mitchell
Carried
230102

*the meeting adjourned at 10.30 am for morning tea
the meeting reconvened at 10.50 am*

23.123

COMMITTEE MINUTES / ACADEMIC BOARD REPORT

Received:

Committee minutes and the Academic Board report as follows:

- Audit & Risk Committee, 24 July 2023
- Finance Committee, 24 July 2023
- Academic Board report, meeting held 13 June 2023

Resolved:

that the Committee minutes and the report of the Academic Board be noted.

Judge/McLean

Carried

230103

23.124

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received:

a Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 25 July 2023 regarding Forthcoming Events and the next Council meeting (document VUWC 23/86).

Noted:

that the next meeting of Council will take place on Monday, 18 September 2023, at 9.00 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, 18 September 2023 be noted.

Gray/Street

Carried

230104

23.125

SPEAKER – RESEARCH

Received:

an oral report and presentation on Research from Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research.

Noted:

- 1 that an overview was provided on the range and types of research carried out at Te Herenga Waka along with updates on how the University is performing and areas of opportunity to enhance research quality and impact.
- 2 that an update on the Wellington Science City initiative, which received government funding in this year's budget, was provided.
- 3 that the Research Policy will shortly be out for consultation and it will incorporate Mātauranga Māori and the University's Te Tiriti statute as part of the review.
- 4 that Council members undertook a tour of research facilities and met with early career researchers following this meeting.

Resolved:

that the oral report and presentation on Research be noted.

Te Puni/Judge

Carried

230105

23.126

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 23/87).

Resolved: 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 14-22.

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
14. Minutes of previous meeting held on 26 June 2023	s9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii), and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
15. Safety, Health & Wellbeing report	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i), and s9(2)(g)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
16. Financial report to 30 June 2023 and Q2 forecast		
17. Vice-Chancellor's report	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i), and s9(2)(g)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. Financial Sustainability – update	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
19. Disposal of Properties	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
20. Committee and Academic Board minutes	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
21. Quarterly reports	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Council only time	s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i), and s9(2)(g)(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 22, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Street/Judge
Carried
230106

at 11.20 am members of the Public left the meeting