



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 13 February 2023
in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building
from 9.00 am to 1.35 pm**

PRESENT:

Mr John Allen (Chancellor)
Professor Richard Arnold
Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
Mr Jaistone Finau *from 10.05 am to 12.20 pm*
Mr Alan Judge
Mr David McLean
Ms Kelly Mitchell
Ms Cath Nesus
Professor Nic Smith (Vice-Chancellor)
Hon Maryan Street (Pro-Chancellor)
Mr James Te Puni
Ms Caroline Ward (Secretary to Council)

APOLOGIES:

Nil

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms Jackie Anderson, Acting General Counsel
Ms Katherine Edmond, Director, Communications
Ms Fabiefara Filo, Acting Manager, Pasifika Student Success Team
Mr Simon Johnson, Acting Chief Operating Officer
Professor Wendy Lerner, Provost
Mr Blair McRae, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Engagement
Professor Markus Melloh, Dean of Faculty of Health
Mr Les Montgomery, Chief Financial Officer
Ms Pelesa Semu, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika)

INVITED SPEAKER:

Ms Barbara McKerrow, Chief Executive, Wellington City Council
accompanied by Ms Sehai Orgad, Chief of Staff, Wellington City Council

23.01

WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / APOLOGIES

Noted:

- 1 that Mr Allen warmly welcomed all to the meeting acknowledging Professor Nic Smith and Ms Kelly Mitchell for whom it was their first formal meeting of Council.
- 2 that those watching the meeting via the livestream were also acknowledged.
- 3 that he congratulated Professor Wendy Lerner on her recently announced appointment as Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University.
- 4 that Ms Mitchell led the Karakia.

23.02 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

- Received:** declarations and disclosure of interests by members of Council.
- Noted:** that the Interests Register will be updated to add Mr Jaistone Finau's appointment as Chair of the Trusthouse Foundation Porirua Regional Advisory Committee, and subsequent appointment as a member of the overarching body – the Trusthouse Foundation.
- Noted:** that Council members were reminded to advise the Secretary to Council of any changes to their disclosure of interests listing between meetings.

23.03 COUNCIL MINUTES, MEETING HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2022

- Received:** the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28 November 2022.
- Resolved:** that the public Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28 November 2022 be approved.

Arnold/McLean
Carried
230001

23.04 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

- Received:** a Council paper from the Chancellor, Mr John Allen, dated 7 February 2023 (document VUWC 23/01).
- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the untimely death of former Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Stuart McCutcheon, was noted with great sadness. His contribution to this University and the tertiary sector overall was recognised for its impact and significance.
 - 3 that the death of former Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies, Terence O'Brien was recorded. Mr O'Brien was particularly remembered for his contribution to the University as a staff member and subsequently as a strong supporter and friend.
 - 4 that the challenging financial environment remains, with lower-than-expected 2023 student enrolment numbers. Other factors include a strong job market and opportunities for international travel along with the cost of living in Wellington having an impact.
 - 5 that the importance of having staff and students back on campus whilst providing a dynamic, stimulating and enriching in-person experience will be a key strategic focus during the year.
 - 6 that for students the importance of face-to-face lectures and tutorials and participation in the many social and educational opportunities available cannot be underestimated. The University is much more than a content provider, we are educators.
 - 7 that the closure of VicBooks and the impact of this on staff, students and the wider community was acknowledged. Every effort is being made to find a replacement operator to ensure that this important aspect of a full experience on campus can continue.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's report be noted.

Nesus/Street
Carried
230002

23.05

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: a report from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 2 February 2023 (document VUWC 23/02).

Noted: 1 that the report was taken as read.
2 that in Professor Smith's first formal report to Council since starting in the role on 16 January 2023, he highlighted three main themes:

Core strategic goals

How do we re-energise the University community and what does it mean to be a place-based institution? Thinking about the wider context, the devastating loss of Vic Books is an indicator that if we don't see engaged staff and students back on campus there will be further losses of things that enrich the campus experience.

Constraints

The entire tertiary sector is constrained by government financial policy and is also showing the effects of nearly three years of the COVID-19 pandemic. The University's enrolment figures are confronting and there is no question that the pipeline is diminishing. Students are also particularly hard hit by the cost-of-living crisis currently affecting the country. Attributing all of the current difficulties to the new Admissions system is unfair, however it has not helped. The Acting Chief Operating Officer has led a task force to focus entirely on admitting and enrolling as many students as possible. The efforts of staff who have participated above and beyond to maximise enrolment opportunities were acknowledged.

University rankings

These are an anodyne fact of the University landscape allowing measures to be constructed cheaply and at a distance. Despite this, they are an important driver of international student University selection process. As part of considering what is distinctive/valuable about this University the time is right to determine our distinctive strengths and how best to invest in those in a constrained environment.

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

Judge/Mitchell
Carried
230003

23.06

FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 2022

Received: the Financial report to 31 December 2023 from the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Les Montgomery (document VUWC 23/03).

Noted: 1 that the report was taken as read.

- 2 that it had been a difficult end to 2022 with a loss of more than \$15 million driven by weaker revenue and increased costs mostly due to people related items including the outcome of the bargaining rounds late in the year.
- 3 that all of the University's subsidiaries had had a tough financial year in 2022 including Wellington Uni-Professional and Wellington Uni-Ventures.
- 4 that the Chancellor acknowledged that it will be a significant challenge to achieve the Council's goal of breakeven in 2023.

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

Judge/Bönisch-Brednich

Carried

230004

23.07

MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

Received: a Council paper from the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nic Smith, dated 1 February 2023, providing a Media and Social media report (document VUWC 23/04).

Noted:

- 1 that the report was taken as read.
- 2 that the world record indoor football match had received a lot of media coverage and Council recorded its congratulations on this achievement.
- 3 that the impressive work of the University's academic community engaging well beyond the walls of the University was commended, for example the articles across the media by Professor James Renwick following the serious flooding as a result of cyclone Hale.

Resolved: that the Media and Social Media report be noted.

Te Puni/Street

Carried

230005

23.08

NEW YEAR HONOURS - 2023

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council dated 7 February 2023 regarding New Year Honours – 2023 (document VUWC 23/05).

Noted: that the Knighthood of Sir Mark Dunajtschik, a strong supporter and significant friend of the University, was highlighted.

Resolved: that Council conveys its congratulations to all Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington graduates, friends and stakeholders honoured in the 2023 New Year Honours.

McLean/Arnold

Carried

230006

23.09

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Received: a Council paper from the Secretary to Council, Ms Caroline Ward, dated 2 February 2023, listing Forthcoming Events (document VUWC 23/06).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Council paper was taken as read.
 - 2 that the official welcome for students takes place on Friday, 24 February 2023 as part of Orientation week activities. Council members are welcome and encouraged to attend.
 - 3 that the next meeting of Council will take place on Monday, 27 March 2023, at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building, Kelburn Campus, Wellington and/or via Zoom.

Resolved: that the Council paper on Forthcoming Events and the date and details of the next Council meeting on Monday, 27 March 2023 be noted.

Mitchell/Bönisch-Brednich
Carried
230007

The agenda was re-ordered to consider the next four items

23.10 CONFIRMATION OF QUALIFICATIONS

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 13 February 2023 (document VUWC 23/09).

Noted: that the Secretary to Council was congratulated by the Chancellor and Members of Council for completing her Bachelor of Science degree.

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on the persons listed in document VUWC 23/09, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 13 February 2023.
 - 2 that a motion of congratulations to the Graduates be recorded.

Bönisch-Brednich/Mitchell
Carried
230008

23.11 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER – MS PANIA GRAY

Received: a Council paper dated 2 February 2023 from the Chancellor regarding the appointment of a Council member, Ms Pania Gray (document VUWC 23/09).

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Nominations Panel:

in accordance with clause 6.1 of the Council Membership Statute, Ms Pania Gray be appointed to Council for a four year term from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2026.

Street/Allen
Carried
230009

23.12 AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor dated 2 February 2023 regarding the appointment of a Council member to the Audit & Risk Committee (document VUWC 23/10).

Resolved: that on the recommendation of the Chancellor:

Ms Pania Gray be appointed to the Audit & Risk Committee under clause 4.1(b) of its Terms of Reference.

Allen/Street

Carried

230010

23.13

APPOINTMENT OF FOUNDATION TRUSTEES

Received: a Council paper from the Chancellor dated 2 February 2023 regarding the appointment of Foundation Trustees (document VUWC 23/11).

- Resolved:**
- 1 that Mr Alan Judge be re-appointed as a Trustee of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rule 2.2 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office of one year from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.
 - 2 that Ms Jessica Ye, having been nominated by the Victoria University of Wellington Students' Association, be appointed as a Trustee of the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation under rule 2.3 of the First Schedule to the Trust Deed for a term of office of one year from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Te Puni/Arnold

Carried

230011

at 9.30 am Ms Fabie Filo and Ms Pelesa Semu joined the meeting

23.14

PASIFIKA QUARTERLY REPORT

Received: a Council paper dated 7 February 2023 from Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) providing a Pasifika update (document VUWC 23/07).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read and Ms Filo spoke to it.
 - 2 that progress in key strategic areas including work to increase Pasifika student numbers, their grade point average and their qualification completion rates was highlighted.
 - 3 that the wider range of student support and engagement work carried out by the Office of the AVC (Pasifika) was detailed.
 - 4 that a heartfelt plea for the University to investigate the provision of more scholarships for Pasifika students was received and acknowledged by the Chancellor.

Resolved: that the Pasifika quarterly report be noted.

Mitchell/Nesus

Carried

230012

at 9.40 am Ms Fabie Filo and Ms Pelesa Semu left the meeting

at 9.40 am Ms Barbara McKerrow and Ms Sehai Orgad joined the meeting

at 10.05 am Mr Jaistone Finau joined the meeting

23.15

SPEAKER: MS BARBARA MCKERROW, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL**Welcomed**

Wellington City Council Chief Executive, Ms Barbara McKerrow and her Chief of Staff, Ms Sehai Orgad.

Noted:

- 1 that the Chancellor warmly welcomed Ms McKerrow and Ms Orgad to the meeting and thanked them for making the time to address Council today. He emphasised the longstanding importance of the relationship between the University and the Wellington City Council.
- 2 that ways in which the Council and the University can work together were discussed. Ms McKerrow detailed the vision of the new Mayor of Wellington, Tory Whanau, of the capital being a 'City of Impact'. She said there are many opportunities for the city and University to work together to promote Wellington as a great place to live, work and study. She also noted a number of existing partnerships between WCC and the University including plans for a National Music Centre and the Pōneke Promise.

at 10.15 am Ms Barbara McKerrow and Ms Sehai Orgad left the meeting

23.16

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**Received:**

a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 23/12).

Resolved:

- 1 that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely agenda items 17-29.

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
17. Minutes of previous meeting held on 28 November 2022	s9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii), and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA s48(1)(a)(ii)
18. 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)
19. 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)
20. 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)

21. Admissions and enrolments report	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
22. Financial report to 31 December 2022	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
23. Strategy – standing item	s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
24. Naming	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
25. Report on Appeal Committee Hearings	s 9(2)(a)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
26. Pastoral Care Code Annual report	s9(2)(b)(ii) and s9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
27. Quarterly reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital roadmap• Student recruitment and marketing	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
28. Committee reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nominations Panel• People & Culture Committee	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(i)	LGOIMA, s48(1)(a)(ii)
29. 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 29, because of their knowledge of the relevant matters identified above which will be of assistance in relation to those matters.

Arnold/McLean
Carried
230013

at 10.20 am the meeting adjourned for morning tea / at 10.50 am the meeting reconvened