



## COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Monday 15 September 2014 from 2.00 – 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building

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**PRESENT:**

Mr Ian McKinnon (Chancellor)  
Mr Graeme Mitchell (Pro Chancellor)  
Professor Grant Guilford (Vice Chancellor)  
Mr David Alsop (Student Representative)  
Ms Sonya Clark (Student President)  
Professor Charles Daugherty  
Mr Charles Finny  
Ms Dolores Janiewski  
Professor Paul Morris  
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith  
Ms Brenda Pilott  
Dr Theresa Sawicka  
Mr John Selby  
Mr Roger Taylor  
Emeritus Professor Peter Walls  
Ms Caroline Ward, Secretary to Council

**APOLOGIES:**

Ms Victoria Heine  
Mr Neville Jordan  
Ms Helen Sutch

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms Jenny Bentley, Director Campus Services  
Professor Penny Boumelha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic  
Ms Maria Cobden, Associate Director, Communications and Marketing  
Mr Ian Hibma, Security Manager, Campus Services  
Ms Stephanie Hunter, Manager Student Finance  
Mr Simon Johnson, General Counsel  
Ms Kerri Kilner, Administration Assistant, Vice-Chancellor's Office  
Mr Wayne Morgan, Chief Financial Officer  
Professor Neil Quigley, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)  
Professor Rob Rabel, Pro Vice-Chancellor International  
Ms Madeleine Setchell, Director Communications and Marketing  
Mr Andrew Simpson, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr Russell Third, Risk and Audit Manager  
Ms Pam Thorburn, Director Student Academic Services  
Professor Deborah Willis Pro Vice-Chancellor/Dean Humanities and Social Sciences  
Professor Mike Wilson, PVC/Dean Science, PVC Engineering, Architecture & Design

## PART A

### WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor welcomed all present, especially Student speakers - Ramon Quitales and Geneveine Wilson. He acknowledged the gallery and asked that students listen to what he hoped would be a robust debate, respecting differing points of view (as would be expected at a University).
  - 2 that the Chancellor made particular mention of the efforts of Mr Alsop and Ms Clark in preparing for the fee setting meeting of Council. The student forum meeting held last week had provided an excellent opportunity to discuss issues.
  - 3 that international student, Ramon Quitales, President of the VUWSA International Students' Representative Group (VIRSG) spoke and argued that international students were being treated as cash cows, referring to both the \$1,000 administration fee for international students who enrol and subsequently withdraw and the ten per cent increase in international LLM fees. He drew attention to a paper prepared by his Group and asked that Council consider its contents.
  - 4 that Geneveine Wilson, Vice President-Health of Ngai Tauia spoke and highlighted the issue of alienating minority at-risk students. She appreciated that the aim of the University was to attract and retain Maori students, however fee increases caused further isolation and disadvantage. It was important for students to differentiate themselves as leaders in generating change and to harness Victoria's entrepreneurship and innovation capabilities to do this.
  - 5 that the Chancellor thanked both students for their excellent speeches and concise points. He understood the difficulties the proposed fee increase would impose, noting that neither Council nor Students found the process palatable.

### 14.174 APOLOGIES

**Noted:** that apologies had been received from Ms Victoria Heine, Ms Helen Sutch and Mr Neville Jordan.

**Resolved:** that the apologies be sustained.

**Carried**  
**140150**

### 14.175 DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

**Received:** disclosures of interests by members of Council, by way of a general notice under the Education Act 1989 Section 175 and the Local Authorities (Members Interests) Act 1968.

- 1 Charles Finny has one child who is a student at VUW
- 2 Brenda Pilott has a family member who is a post-graduate student of VUW
- 3 Dolores Janiewski has a daughter who is a current student at VUW
- 4 Sonya Clark declared an interest in relation to VUWSA's funding in regard to the Student Services Levy.

**Noted:** by the Chancellor, that the interests declared were not at the level of “conflict”, and that all Council members would be permitted to vote on all resolutions before Council under item 4.

**14.176 DECLARATION OF ELECTION RESULT**

**Received:** the declaration of election result from the Secretary to Council regarding the recent General and Academic staff elections (document VUWC 14/133).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the successful candidate in the Academic staff election for both the four month term from 1 September to 31 December 2014 and the four year term from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018 was Dolores Janiewski.
  - 2 that the successful candidate in the General Staff election for a four year term from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018 was Theresa Sawicka.
  - 3 that the Chancellor congratulated both candidates on their success.

**Resolved:** that the declaration of election result for the General and Academic staff elections from the Secretary to Council be noted.

**McKinnon/Mitchell  
Carried  
140151**

**14.177 STUDENT FEES AND STUDENT SERVICES LEVY FOR 2015, AND AMENDMENTS TO THE VICTORIA UNIVERSITY FEES STATUTE**

**Received:** a paper on Student Fees for 2015 (document VUWC 14/134) recommending:

- i) Domestic Student Tuition Fees for 2015
- ii) International Student Tuition Fees for 2015
- iii) Student Services Levy for 2015
- iv) Amendments to the Victoria University Fees Statute

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Student Fees paper was considered by the Finance Committee on 1 September 2014 and was approved for recommendation to Council.
  - 2 that the Chancellor asked that the Chair of Finance move the resolutions and that the Pro-Chancellor second the resolutions. The Chancellor acknowledged again that this was a difficult exercise and reiterated Council’s responsibility for the institution operating in a financially responsible manner that ensures the efficient use of resources and that it maintains its long term viability.
  - 3 the following Appendices:

- 1 Government Funded Student Tuition Fees – Recommended Option
  - 2 Domestic (Government Funded) Fee Setting Exceptions
  - 3 New Zealand Universities Comparison of University 2014 Fees
  - 4 International Full Fees – Recommended Option
  - 5 International Full Fee Setting – Exceptions
  - 6 New Zealand Universities Comparison of 2014 International Fees
  - 7 Review of the Impact of Changes in Fees (Cost Sharing) on the Behavior of Students and Higher Education Institutes
  - 8 Fees Statute 2015 with tracked changes.
- 4 that the Chair of Finance Committee was satisfied that the Senior Leadership Team had developed a sound and fair budget for 2015. Council was responsible for governance of the University and maintaining its long term sustainability. Regrettably, in order to maintain this, fee increases are necessary to maintain viability in the current environment.
- 5 that the Student President said that given what appears to be inevitable ongoing fee rises, perhaps it was time to involve students in the process more, as was the case for the Student Services Levy. She said this would provide a forum to understand the value for money students gain from continued fee rises. For example, whether it was ensuring tutorials don't grow in size or the creation of an International House for international students it was important to see a shift in the approach. If students cooperate in the process moving towards fee increases, they will feel more engaged and accepting of the result. The conversation needs to shift towards quality. It was critical to ensure that international students have a voice in the decision-making process.
- 6 that the Vice-Chancellor stated that the University delivers a quality student experience as evidenced by the results from I-Barometer, VUW ranks top in New Zealand. The survey of student experience for 2014 was 90% satisfaction, up from 80% in 2011. The University also operates at the lowest cost level across New Zealand and Australian universities. Further, 95% of students are in work within 3 months and a degree provides a 400K premium across a career. In order to maintain the high quality education Victoria provides the Vice-Chancellor was in favour of the recommendations.
- 7 that the chanting from the gallery became so loud the Chancellor asked that those disrupting the meeting "play it fair" and listen to all speakers to consider their views.
- 8 that Mr Alsop, Student Representative, said he endorsed the comments of Ms Clark and felt a sense of déjà vu as another round of fee increases inevitably took place. For fee setting in 2015 Mr Alsop suggested an approach that would leverage off the opportunities and renewed scope provided in the new Strategic Plan (currently under development). To use a conversation and consultation method and talk about what the students want to do. To help students to understand what the University is doing to make ongoing fee increases more bearable. As part of this process it was critical to provide assurances on the quality of the student experience and the value of a Degree from Victoria.
- 9 that during loud chanting from the gallery the following resolutions were put:

**Resolved:** 1 that Government funded undergraduate and postgraduate fees for all subject areas be increased by 4%.

Taylor/Mitchell  
Carried  
140152  
Against: Alsop/Clark

- 2 that International student full fee tuition fees be increased by 4%, for most programmes with some exceptions.

Taylor/Mitchell  
Carried  
140153  
Against: Alsop/Clark

- 3 that the Student Services Levy be increased by 2%.

Taylor/Mitchell  
Carried  
140154

- 4 that the proposed 2015 Student Fee Statute amendments be approved.

Taylor/Mitchell  
Carried  
140155  
Against: Alsop/Clark

*At the conclusion of the meeting the Chancellor acknowledged that this was the last Council meeting for Professor Penny Boumelha, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic). He thanked Professor Boumelha for her commitment, her incredible ability to always be right on task and her succinct and well informed comments at Council. He conveyed, on behalf of the Council, his very best wishes for her retirement.*

**The meeting closed at 3 pm**