



COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday, 28 September 2015
from 1.30 pm to 5.45 pm in the Council Chamber, Level 2, Hunter Building,
Kelburn Campus**

PRESENT:

Sir Neville Jordan (Chancellor)
Emeritus Professor Peter Walls (Pro Chancellor)
Professor Grant Guilford (Vice-Chancellor)
Ms Stella Blake-Kelly
Mr Charles Finny
Ms Victoria Heine
Associate Professor Dolores Janiewski
Mr Ian McKinnon
Mr Graeme Mitchell
Professor Paul Morris
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith
Ms Brenda Pilott
Mr Roger Taylor
Dr Theresa Sawicka
Mr John Selby
Ms Helen Sutch
Mr Rick Zwaan (VUWSA President)
Ms Caroline Ward, Secretary to Council

APOLOGY:

Dr Matthew Palmer QC

IN ATTENDANCE:

Professor Frazer Allan, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Engagement)
Dr Leon Bakker, Director Planning and Management Information
Ms Jenny Bentley, Acting Chief Operating Officer
Professor Bob Buckle, PVC/Dean of Commerce
Ms Annemarie de Castro, Director Human Resources
Ms Rainsforth Dix, Associate Director, Campus Operations
Professor Mark Hickford, PVC & Dean of Law
Ms Stephanie Hunter, Manager, Student Finance, Student Academic Services
Ms Maria Jones, Associate Director, Communications & Marketing
Mr Simon Johnson, General Counsel
Associate Professor Allison Kirkman, Vice-Provost (Academic & Equity)
Professor Kate McGrath, Vice Provost (Research)
Professor Emeritus Barrie Macdonald, Interim Provost
Mr Wayne Morgan, Chief Financial Officer
Mr Jim Mercer, Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Ms Madeleine Setchell, Director, Communications & Marketing
Mr Russell Third, Risk and Audit Manager
Ms Pam Thorburn, Director Student Academic Services
Professor Jennifer Windsor, PVC/Dean Humanities & Social Sciences, PVC Education

15.200 CHANCELLOR WELCOME / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Noted:**
- 1 that the Chancellor welcomed all present to the meeting.
 - 2 that the new Constitution was gazetted on 24 September 2015.
 - 3 that the high standard of the recent Blues Awards was commended and the VUWSA President was asked to relay Council's congratulations to the VUWSA team.
 - 4 that an apology from Dr Matthew Palmer QC was recorded.

Resolved: that the apology from Dr Matthew Palmer QC be sustained.

Zwaan/Sawicka

Carried

150183

15.201 DECLARATIONS AND DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS

- Noted:**
- 1 that the following disclosures of interest 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 were made:
 - 2 that the following members of Council have a family member studying at Victoria University in 2016 who may be affected by Item 2 – 2016 Student Fees (Domestic and Full Fee adjustments):

Ms Brenda Pilott
Mr Charles Finny
Mr Neil Paviour-Smith
Professor Grant Guilford
Sir Neville Jordan

- 3 that Mr Rick Zwaan advised that he intends to study at Victoria in 2016.

15.202 2016 STUDENT FEES (DOMESTIC AND FULL FEE ADJUSTMENTS)

Received: a Council Paper from the Chief Financial Officer dated 15 September 2015 on 2016 Student Fees (Domestic and Full Fee Adjustments) (document VUWC 15/119).

- Noted:**
- 1 that the VUWSA President spoke to the meeting and his presentation is attached as Appendix 1.
 - 2 that the elected Student spoke to the meeting and her presentation is attached as Appendix 2.
 - 3 that taking into account the University's current and projected financial situation for 2016, as well as the implications on resource requirements associated with maintaining the quality of academic activities and the overall student experience, the following recommendations are made.

Resolved: 1 that Government funded undergraduate and postgraduate fees for all subject areas be increased by 3%.

Taylor/Selby

Carried

150184

Against: Mr Zwaan

- 2 that in the event Government allows fee increments above the 3% for specified subjects, the University reserves the right to apply the increases to new enrolments from Semester 2 in 2016. Any subsequent increase in 2016 would be subject to further Council approval.

Taylor/Selby
Carried
150185
Against: Mr Zwaan

- 3 that the Student Services Levy be increased by 2% as recommended by the ACCSL Committee.

Taylor/Selby
Carried
150186

- 4 that the proposed 2016 updates and changes to the Student Fee Statute be approved.

Taylor/Selby
Carried
150187

- 5 that International student fees for the Foundation Certificate in Jazz and the Master of Conservation Biology be increased by 2% and 5% respectively.

Taylor/Selby
Carried
150188

15.203

FINANCIAL REPORT TO 31 JULY 2015

Received: the consolidated Financial Reports to 31 July 2015 (document VUWC 15/120).

Noted: that the consolidated result for the period ended 31 July 2015 is a \$14.9m surplus, \$10.1m favourable to budget.

Resolved: that the Consolidated Financial report to 31 July 2015 be approved.
Zwaan/Sawicka
Carried
150189

15.204

GRADUATES IN ABSENTIA – DEGREES TO BE GRANTED

Received: the list of degrees, diplomas and certificates granted on 28 September 2015 (document VUWC 15/121).

Resolved: that Council grants the degrees, diplomas and certificates in this University on those persons listed in document VUWC 15/121, and that their names be entered on the Roll of Graduates on 28 September 2015.
Sutch/Walls
Carried

15.205 AMENDMENTS TO THE ACADEMIC DRESS STATUTE

Received: a Council Paper from the Vice-Provost (Academic & Equity) dated 10 September 2015 on a proposed change to the Academic Dress Statute (document VUWC 15/122).

Resolved: that Council approve the following:

1 the amendment of the title of Clause 4.2 from “Hoods” to “Hoods and Stoles”, as this more accurately reflects its content.

2 the addition of the following to Clause 4.2(b):

- Applied Statistics
- Meteorology
- Professional Economics
- Teaching and Learning (Primary)
- Teaching and Learning (Secondary)

3 the removal of the reference to the Master of Management Studies in Clause 4.2(g), the removal of Clause 4.2(h) which refers to this clarification, and the renumbering of Clause 4.2(i) to 4.2(h).

4 the amendment of the text in Clause 4.4(b) from “The colour of the lining of the stole and the stripe placed on the lining for the following Master’s degrees is as follows:” to “The colour of the lining of the stole and the stripe placed on the lining for the Master’s degrees listed in Clause 4.2(b) is determined by Faculty as follows:”

5 the removal of all existing qualifications and colours from the table in Section 4.4(b) and the insertion of the following:

Faculty of Commerce	Champagne (BCC 4) with Tartan Green stripe
Faculty of Education	Peacock Green (BCC 123) with White stripe
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	Fuchsia (BCC 199) with Tartan Green stripe
Faculty of Science	Adonis Blue (BCC 85) with White stripe

6 the changes to the statute as attached showing these proposed changes. Other minor amendments have also been made to the text for consistency and to avoid duplication.

Finny/Sawicka
Carried
150191

15.206 COUNCIL CALENDAR – KEY EVENTS AND NEXT MEETING

Received: a Council Paper from the Secretary to Council dated 22 September 2015 (document VUWC 15/123) listing forthcoming events for the remainder of 2015.

Noted: that the next meeting of Council will take place on Tuesday, 20 October 2015 starting with a light lunch at 1 pm in the Hunter Common Room, followed by the Council Meeting in the Council Chamber at 1.30 pm.

Resolved: that the Memorandum on Forthcoming Events for the remainder of 2015 and the date for the next Council meeting on Tuesday, 20 October 2015 be noted.

Zwaan/Sawicka
Carried
150192

15.207 MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2015

Received: the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24 August 2015.

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24 August 2015 be approved.

Selby/Zwann
Carried
150193

15.208 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 24 AUGUST 2015

Received: the Matters Arising (not covered by Agenda items) from the Meeting of Council held on 24 August 2015.

Noted: that the Vice-Chancellor provided an oral report on University support activity for international students and it was agreed that the detail be attached to the minutes (see Appendix 3).

Resolved: that the Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24 August 2015 be noted.

Selby/Zwaan
Carried
150194

15.209 REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Received: an oral report from the Chancellor.

Noted: that since the last Council meeting on 24 August 2015 the Chancellor:

- attended a meeting with new Fellow of the Royal Society, Professor Colin Wilson
- progressed discussions with Tech Mahindra on providing taught Masters IT/IS students
- attended a Wellington Chamber of Commerce Breakfast regarding bringing International Students to Wellington
- was a Member of the Panel for the Chief Operating Officer Interviews
- convened a meeting with MFAT about a "Centre for Democratic Studies" and discussed a possible USA funding line

- held several meetings with internal and external advisors and the Secretary to Council regarding Phase 3 of the new Council project
- was a Judge for the Sir Paul Callaghan Eureka Science Communication Awards – along with Professor Kate McGrath
- attended a special Canterbury University Event - Cocktails in Honour of John Woods being appointed to CNZM
- was Guest of Honour and speaker at TEC's National Secretaries' to Council Networking Meeting
- met with Te Ropu Awhina
- gave a Speech to the Rotary Club of Port Nicholson
- initiated lunch with Speaker of the House and use of the Speakers' Lounge for VUW luncheon
- attended the Blues' Awards.

Resolved: that the Chancellor's Report be noted.

Sutch/Morris
Carried
150195

15.210 REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Received: an oral report from the Vice-Chancellor covering the period since the last meeting of Council on 24 August 2015.

- Noted:**
- 1 that the report was taken as read.
 - 2 that the success of Dr Paul MacDonald in receiving the SAGE Publications 2014 Outstanding Paper award was highlighted.
 - 3 that Dale Carnegie was awarded an Ako Aotearoa National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award.
 - 4 that Professor Martha Savage has been elected as a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union
 - 5 that the New Zealand School of Music staged a successful opera in the Memorial Theatre and this also provided an opportunity to thank supporters at a function at the Adam Art Gallery.

Resolved: that the Vice-Chancellor's oral report be noted.

Sawicka/Zwaan
Carried
150196

15.211 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Received: oral reports from Committee Chairs supported by minutes from the meetings held as follows:

- Capital Expenditure Committee, 31/8/15
- Finance Committee, 31/8/15
- Governance Committee, 15/9/15
- Te Aka Matua Committee, 15/9/15

Resolved: that the minutes from the Committee meetings be noted.

Heine/Walls
Carried
150197

15.212

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EXCLUSION OF THE
PUBLIC**

Received: a recommendation that certain items be taken with the public excluded (document VUWC 15/124).

Resolved: that the public be excluded from the meeting for the discussion of items 14-29 for the reasons and duration outlined in the recommendation, with the exception of such members of the Management Team as the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor may request to remain for the public excluded part of the agenda as they have knowledge relevant to particular issues to be discussed.

Mitchell/Selby
Carried
150198

Appendix 1

Rick Zwaan's address to Council regarding Student Fees

This year I've thought a lot about this meeting. Over the last few years I've watched VUWSA Presidents sit where I am now eloquently eliciting the same arguments about why perpetual fee increases are bad for students.

To summarise; even at the reduced 3% fees rise per year, in 5 years time the annual cost of tuition will be 40% more than it was 5 years ago. In about 30 years time the cost of study will have doubled.

With these increases, a student starting a standard bachelors degree next year will walk across the stage at graduation three years later and receive a piece of paper representing \$22,000 of debt from course fees and compulsory levies alone.

These increases today will add an extra \$3.9 million into the student debt books. Collectively, the single graduating class of 2016 will represent a staggering \$68 million dollars of debt from fees alone.

These graduates will enter the workforce and be forced to pay the highest effective tax rate for at least a decade. This has significant impacts on hundreds of thousands of students who are less able to get on the property ladder and start families.

The long term impact of student debt on the wider New Zealand economy is unknown due to a lack of research into it. With the only school of government in the country and the Institute of Government and Policy Studies, Victoria should be playing a role in contributing to research into this.

Now the Vice Chancellor argues that, due to a lack of government funding, we're required to keep increasing fees just to keep the status quo going. This is true to an extent.

Being an excel loving science student, I collated the last ten years of government tertiary budgets, and adjusted for inflation, on a per student basis, the government SAC funding has slowly declined. This decline has been offset by student fees to keep the total size of the pie about the same.

However, as of 2013 a divergence has started to occur. The compounding effect of perpetual fee increases has meant that the overall pie is increasing well ahead of inflation. Universities like Victoria are no longer just holding steady but are profiting off increasing student debt.

As a capital thinking university we should be taking a proactive lead on researching the impacts of the tertiary funding policies and be actively working with other universities to improve the situation for both students and the wider university.

TEC have said they're willing to look at how the system could work better, our world leading academics should give them a plan.

With record high student debt levels - what do we get for it?

So, If we're going to raise fees each year we should be damn sure it's worth it.

We have a fantastic strategic plan, yet we still don't have a comprehensive measure of academic quality for our core business of teaching and learning.

What we know is that the perception is that quality isn't increasing - only 7% of students surveyed by VUWSA agreed that academic quality at Victoria is increasing.

We know that, compared to every other New Zealand University, Victoria has the highest number of students per academic staff member. 18.2:1 compared to an average of 15:1.

Increasing the contact time with lecturers and tutors and increasing the number of courses offered was a key theme that came through when we asked where students thought their fees should go.

Yet, from the papers presented to us today, there isn't a clear plan to invest in academics. There is no clear justification of how the extra \$3.9m will benefit students.

This shouldn't be the case. I'd love to be here today and be able to justify to students support for an increase in fees. I'd love to be able to head away and tell students that I'm confident that our money will be spent well, here's what it's being spent on and here's how we figured out what to increase fees by.

Students are our key shareholder and client so we should set fees in partnership with them. This is already the case with the student services levy.

The Advisory Committee on the Student Services Levy or ACSSL is a model that shows a strong partnership with students can work.

It shows that being transparent about how and where student money gets spent isn't something the university should be scared of. It means that I confidently sit here and support a 2% increase in the levy, knowing that it will be spent well on key priority areas of student need.

As members of council, we need solid data and evidence to support our decisions. A company doesn't just raise prices of its products unless it can justify to customers it's value for money. So I hope that next year, the elected students can come to the council meeting after working through the budgets with the VC, having solid data answering the years of questions from students, and know that the million dollars of extra debt will be worth it.

Unfortunately that's not the case for me today.

Appendix 2

Stella Blake-Kelly's address to Council regarding Student Fees

This is my 5th year sitting through our annual fee setting meeting. The experience has varied a lot. One year I was the only student observing. A couple of years have featured protests, sometimes led by people who weren't even students. One year I wasn't even allowed to bring my drink bottle in with me.

But every year the process has remained formulaic and frustrating. Formulaic as the governmental policy settings incentivise only one outcome. Frustrating as every year it breeds resentment in the eyes of our students, our young people. Towards universities, towards government, towards older generations, and ultimately towards the country.

In reality, students' fees are a contribution to the university's collective pool of resources. A financial reflection of the essence of a community of scholars, whereby researchers, teachers and learners all benefit from each other. However, the perceptions students have of tertiary education is fundamentally different.

User-pays tertiary education, and the cost of studying we have now reached, brings with it completely different expectations, completely different experiences, and completely different pressures, to what pretty much everyone in this room has had. Students bearing the increasing cost of education and increasing cost of living is leaving a generation with debt the size of a housing deposit. Whilst once tertiary education guaranteed upward social mobility, now the associated debt just perpetuates the inequalities that already exist within society. This debt will hit \$15 billion next year.

When universities raise their fees annually, it is the one pivotal moment that prompts students to question what they're paying, or rather borrowing for. This is met with a rationale that universities don't want to, that they're underfunded, that it's the government's fault. Or as these papers today explain, that we need to maximise our

revenue streams to be competitive. But students see their education largely as a product they are purchasing, not a contribution to the scholarly community, so when prices go up there is an expectation that quality should too. When no rationale of better value for money for students is evident with price increases, it leaves an impression that the quality of tertiary education in New Zealand is gradually being degraded. This does not instil consumer confidence, and is not in the best interests of this university nor the sector as a whole.

Whilst I understand the value of our degrees, and that it is tied to the reputation of this university and the quality of its research, and that quality costs more, I will be in the minority of students in supporting fee increases. Unless we start doing something different with regards to the process, this formulaic pessimism will continue.

If you turn your mind to the two separate fees we are considering today. Both the same outcome to raise fees, but very different processes. The procedure around the Student Services Levy is a collaborative approach of the University and students working together. This gives confidence to students and creates buy in. Students have supported the raise each year, as they will continue to today. This was an innovative approach, that I understand is leading in the sector, with other institutions now trying to replicate it. And I commend the work of staff and students to make it happen. Long term, we will bear the fruit, as allowing for students to be a part of the process will see us have more responsive, effective services to supplement a quality student experience.

I agree with Rick, I haven't heard anyone state that the current tertiary sector funding model is working well. And yes, we can be doing more to contribute to, or stimulate, debate on it. But if we focus on today and what we can actually change to improve the situation, the value of our education is not in these council papers, it is in the eyes of our students and graduates. So I urge Council to reflect on ways we can change the process to better bring students with us and counter their pessimistic perceptions.

Appendix 3

International Student Support

Key points

Victoria University is a signatory to the Ministry of Education's Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students.

In the 2015 iBarometer international student survey, Victoria University had a 91% satisfaction rate in support services amongst its international students compared to the national average of 89%.

Victoria has a specific team within Victoria International who provide support and services tailored to international students.

Internally, this team works closely with Student Academic Services, Campus Services, Accommodation Services and all the Faculties and Schools to ensure holistic support is offered to individual students.

The team also works closely with external organisations such as MFAT, Immigration NZ, foreign sponsoring agencies, study abroad and exchange partners.

Specific Support

Victoria International

The services provided by the VI team include:

- an arrival meeting service for new students
- a specialised International Orientation and Enrolment programme as part of new student orientation
- the orientation programmes includes new student visits to Mauri Ora (Health and Counselling Services) at the start of each trimester

- an International Buddy Programme to pair new students with New Zealand students and provide social events each trimester
- an academic monitoring programme for those students who struggle academically
- pastoral care and critical incident management for individual students
- student visa renewal, medical and travel insurance claim support.

Student Academic Services

The services available to all students are also accessed by international students. These include transition programmes, learning support, financial, careers, health and counselling services. International students are also actively involved in extra-curricular programmes such as Victoria Plus, the Victoria International Leadership Programme and as members of clubs and societies.

The Student Academic Services include:

- Student Learning and Te Pūtahi Atawahi (mentoring) work in partnership with Victoria International to support students on New Zealand Aid Scholarships and deliver an intensive induction programme for these students
- Student Learning provides tailored support to ensure that international students have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their studies
- PALS (Preparation for Academic Life and Study) introduces international students and students from non-English speaking backgrounds to the learning environment and culture at Victoria University
- The Excell (Excellence in Experiential Learning and Leadership) Programme connects international and migrant students with peer leaders with a focus on cross-cultural communication and the development of skills to fully participate in the New Zealand environment
- the Conversation Programme facilitates informal interaction between native and non-natives speakers of English
- Careers and Employment team delivers customised workshops for international students on preparing for work in New Zealand
- Counselling and health have a close relationship with the VI Services team and one of the Counselling team is a key liaison and meets regularly with the advisors there. Students of significant concern or risk are always co-managed between the two services
- Counselling work with the English Proficiency Programme and Foundation students and run workshops about preventative wellbeing as part of their programme for each cohort.

International student engagement with services is monitored. For example, 13.5% of students engaged with Careers and Employment in 2014 were international students, and 24% of those using Student Learning. International students who are multiple users of Student Learning visit between 4 and 7 times in contrast with 2 to 5 visits for domestic multiple users. In Student Counselling international students have comprised approximately 9 to 10% of their service users in the last 10 years - this is probably less than the % of the student population they are and probably reflects a different cultural attitude towards seeking help for emotional or mental health related issues. Many of them would probably seek help from a friend, student health GP or even from Vic International advisors rather than Counselling.

In addition to a generic report on the annual Student Experience Improvement Survey, there a separate report that presents responses from international students. This is used to identify activities and strategies that are working effectively and areas for improvement.

Faculties and Schools

Faculties and Schools also provide extensive support in liaison with Victoria International. For example, Faculty Offices are part of a larger set-up during enrolment periods which serves as a one-stop shop for international students. This means they are not sent from one area to another during the enrolment process. Faculty offices also monitor the academic progress of international students and in liaison with VI ensure students receive academic assistance. Many schools also have a staff member who is the international student point of contact.