

Part A Open Agenda Council meeting 16.03.2026

Council Agenda Part A (Open Agenda) 16.03.2026 Council Room – Level 2 ClockTower, Princes Street 22, Auckland 4:00pm		 Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland	Page #
KARAKIA	The meeting will be opened with the following karakia:		
	Te Reo: Tukua te wairua kia rere ki ngā taumata Hei ārahi i ā tātou mahi Me tā tātou whai i ngā tikanga ā rātou mā Kia mau, kia ita Kia kore ai e ngaro Kia pupuri Kia whakamaua Kia tina! TINA! Hui e! TĀIKI E!	English Translation: Allow one's spirit to exercise its potential To guide us in our work As well as in our pursuit of our ancestral traditions Take hold and preserve it Ensure it is never lost Hold fast Secure it Draw together - Affirm	
1. APOLOGIES	Ms Kinser – leave of absence for the meeting on 16.03.2026	The Chancellor moves that the apologies, if any, be noted .	
2. WELCOME	The Chancellor welcomes Mr Tom Irvine, Māori representative		
3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS	3.1 Council Interest Register for 2026 – members are asked to advise Wendy (w.versaeren@auckland.ac.nz), as soon as possible when changes are required. 3.2 In addition to the requirement for Council to complete an annual Interest Register the attention of Members is drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the Agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.	The Chancellor moves Council Interest Register for 2025 be received and the additional disclosures, if any, be noted and the action taken be endorsed .	

Part A Open Agenda Council meeting 16.03.2026

<p>4. HONOURS/AWARDS-NEW YEAR HONOURS</p>	<p>THE NEW ZEALAND ORDER OF MERIT</p> <p>New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration Mr Andrew Brown DSD - For services to the New Zealand Defence Force</p> <p>Dames Companion Dame Coral Shaw DNZM - For services to public service, the judiciary Dame Helen Danesh-Meyer DNZM - For services to ophthalmology</p> <p>Knights Companion: Sir Graham Le Gros KNZM - For services to medical science Sir Rodney Drury KNZM For services to business</p> <p>Companions: Dr Bruce Hayward CNZM - For services to geology Mr Gregor Barclay CNZM - For services to sports governance Professor Charl de Villiers CNZM - For services to accountancy Professor Gaven Martin CNZM - For services to mathematics and education Dr Beverley-Anne Lawton CNZM For services to women's health Mr Donald Trott CNZM, JP - For services to opera Mr Tony Quinn CNZM - For services to motorsport and the community</p> <p>Members: Professor Andrew Stockley MNZM - For services to schools debating Dr Caroline Oliver MNZM - For services to cancer research and the community Mr David Pluck MNZM - For services to education Mr John Roughan MNZM - For services to journalism and the community Mr Terence Maskell MNZM - For services to choral music Mrs Fahima Saeid MNZM For services to refugees Ms Arihia Stirling MNZM, JP - For services to education and Maori Ms Donna Chisholm MNZM - For services to journalism</p> <p>Officers: Mr Stewart Germann ONZM - For services to franchise law Mrs Lyn Lloyd ONZM - For services to renal nutrition</p>	<p>The Chancellor moves that Council note all those honoured who have connections to the University and note that the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor have written to each of them offering their congratulations</p>
--	--	---

Part A Open Agenda Council meeting 16.03.2026

	<p>Ms Deborah Espiner ONZM - For services to people with disabilities Professor Roderick MacLeod ONZM - For services to palliative care Dr Arif Saeid ONZM - For services to refugees and youth Mr Tenby Powell ONZM - For services to business, governance Mr Tony Egan ONZM - For services to the agricultural industry Ms Cecilia Robinson ONZM - For services to business and women</p> <p>King's Service Medal: Dr Leonie Sinclair KSM – For services to health Dr Tania Pinfold KSM – For services to youth health Miss Sheridan Gundry KSM – For services to historical research Mr William Fuller KSM, JP – For services to the community Wayne Toleafoa KSM, JP - For services to Pacific communities</p>		
5. COUNCIL MEETINGS	<p>5.1 Council, Draft Minutes (Part A), 10.12.2025; and 5.2 Special Council Meeting, Minutes (Part A), 20.02.2026</p>	The Chancellor moves that the Minutes (Part A), 10.12.2025 and special meeting, 20.02.2026 be taken as read and confirmed .	14
	5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes (Part A), 15.10.2025 and special meeting 20.02.2026 not elsewhere on the agenda		
6. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT		The Chancellor moves that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be noted .	24
7. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES	7.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE		37
	7.1.1 Minutes, (Part A), 26.02.2026	The Chancellor moves that the Finance Committee Minutes (Part A) 26.02.2026 be received .	
	7.1.2 Terms of Reference	The Chancellor moves that the amended terms of reference be adopted	

Part A Open Agenda Council meeting 16.03.2026

	<p>7.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE</p> <p>7.2.1 Minutes, (Part A), 03.03.2026</p> <p>7.2.2 Terms of Reference</p>	<p>The Chancellor moves that the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes (Part A) 03.03.2026 be received.</p> <p>The Chancellor moves that the amended terms of reference be adopted</p>	44
	<p>7.3 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE</p> <p>7.3.1 Minutes, (Part A), 05.03.2026</p> <p>7.3.2 Terms of Reference</p>	<p>The Chancellor moves that the Capital Expenditure Committee Minutes (Part A) 05.03.2026 be received.</p> <p>The Chancellor moves that the amended terms of reference be adopted</p>	50
	<p>7.4 STUDENT APPEALS COMMITTEE</p> <p>7.4.1 Report for 2025</p>	<p>The Chancellor moves that the 2025 Student Appeals Committee Report be received</p>	58
	<p>7.5 HONOURS COMMITTEE</p> <p>7.5.1 Memorandum, 04.03.2026 from the Chancellor</p> <p>7.5.2 Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute, Guidelines and Honours Committee Terms of Reference - update</p>	<p>The Chancellor moves that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Receive the memorandum, 04.03.2026; ii. Approve the Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute and Guidelines; and iii. Adopt the Honours Committee amended Terms of Reference 	60

Part A Open Agenda Council meeting 16.03.2026

8 SENATE MATTERS	8.1 REPORT OF SENATE MEETING 23.02.2026 Part A1, a-b: Policy and other matters requiring to be considered/received by Council Part A2,1-3: Matters requiring Council approval Part B, 1: Item to note by Council Part C, 1-3: Matters handled under Delegated Authority	The Chancellor moves that the recommendations in Part A of the Report of Senate, 23.02.2026 be adopted and Part B and C be noted .	65
9 CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR	None		
10 OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING	10.1 SEAL Since the Council meeting on 10.12.2025 the seal has been applied to the following document in accordance with the Council resolution of 18.02.1991: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deed of Novation - Transfer of contractual responsibility from Callaghan Innovation to MBIE – Sequal Lumber Ltd, University of Auckland, Mostafa Papeu, Callaghan Innovation and Secretary for Business Innovation and Employment and Chief Executive Te Tumu Whakarae mō Hīkina Whakatutuki • Deed of Novation - Transfer of Contractual responsibility from Callaghan Innovation to MBIE – Catalyst Tec Ltd, University of Auckland, Sara Rashidi, Callaghan Innovation and the Secretary for Business Innovation and Employment and Chief Executive Te Tumu Whakarae mō Hīkina Whakatutuki • Deed of Novation - Transfer of Contractual responsibility from Callaghan Innovation to MBIE – Whanauka Ltd, University of Auckland, Bryan Busby and the Secretary for Business Innovation and Employment and Chief Executive Te Tumu Whakarae mō Hīkina Whakatutuki • Deed of Assignment - 22 Stanley St, Parnell - Precinct Properties Wynyard Ltd (the Assignor) Stanley Limited Partnership (the Assignee) and The University of Auckland • Deed of Novation - Transfer of two Ministry contracts related to the Structured Maths Programme from UniServices to the 	The Chancellor moves that the affixing of the seal to the listed document be noted .	

Part A Open Agenda Council meeting 16.03.2026

	University of Auckland - Auckland UniServices Ltd, University of Auckland and the Sovereign in right of the Government of New Zealand	
11 ELECTIONS - APPOINTMENTS	<p>11.1 ELECTION OF THE PRO CHANCELLOR FOR 2026</p> <p>Note that, under:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule 11, clause 15 (4) of the Education and Training Act 2020, the Chief Executive, staff members and the student member are not eligible to be elected as Chancellor or Pro-Chancellor. • Schedule 11, clause 15 (5) The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of a Council each hold office, for a period for which the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson is elected but are eligible for re-election. • The election of the Pro-Chancellor will take place for a period starting on 17.03.2026 and ending 31.12.2026. <p>Schedule 11, clause 15 of the Education and Training Act 2020 provides:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the first meeting of a Council the Council shall elect one of its members to be the Deputy Chairperson of the Council. 2. Whenever a vacancy subsequently occurs in the office of Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson of the Council, the Council shall elect one of its members to fill the vacant office. 3. The chief executive, a member of staff or a student member are not eligible for election as the Deputy Chairperson. 4. The Deputy Chairperson holds office until 31.12.2026 <p>The Deputy Chairperson of the Council of a university may be referred to as the Pro Chancellor or by such other title as the Council determines.</p>	
12 GENERAL BUSINESS	None	
13 FAREWELL	The Chancellor farewells, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dawn Freshwater	The Chancellor moves that Council thank the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dawn Freshwater, for her contribution to the work of Council.
14 LEAVE OF ABSENCE	(for the meeting of 29.04.2026)	

Part A Open Agenda Council meeting 16.03.2026

PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS

The Chancellor moves that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting.

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:

- Item No. 1.1 Council Minutes Part B 10.12.2025
- Item No 1.2 Special Council Meeting Minutes Part B 20.02.2026
- Item No. 2.1.1 Finance Committee – Minutes Part B 26.02.2026
- Item No. 2.1.2 Treasury Policy Review
- Item No. 2.1.3 Financial Performance 2025
- Item No. 2.2.1 Audit and Risk Committee -Minutes Part B 03.03.2026
- Item No. 2.2.2 2025 Draft Annual Report
- Item No. 2.3.1 Capital Expenditure Committee – Minutes Part B 05.03.2026
- Item No. 2.3.2 Business Case
- Item No. 2.4.1 Honours Committee
- Item No. 2.5.1 Auckland Health research Ethics Committee – membership
- Item No. 2.6.1 Biological safety Committee – membership
- Item No. 2.6.2 Biological safety Committee – Annual report
- Item No. 2.7.1 Human Participants Ethics Committee – membership
- Item No. 5.1 Council Committee membership for 2026
- Item No. 7.1 Payment of Fees to Lay and Student Council Members.

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:

The protection of the interests mentioned below.

Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution:

Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:

- i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations;
- ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and
- iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage.

AND THAT Mark Gregory, Professors Young, and Bloomfield F, Tim Bluett, Helen Cattnach, Julian Michael, Simon Neale, Anthony Brandon, Wendy Verschaeren, and Ruwani Dharmawardana be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of, or need to be briefed about, the matters to be discussed. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of The University of Auckland for which those persons are responsible.

The University of Auckland

Interests Register for Members of UoA Council 2026

3.1

Name of Member	Interests	Updated												
Gemma Skipper	employee of the University and having friends/family who work at UoA	19.02.2026												
Julia Pahina	Fibre Fale Limited - CEO & Co-Founder	19.02.2026												
Dawn Freshwater	Chair Research Committee UNZ (2021) Member UNZ Board Director APRU (2021), Vice-Chair since 2022 Board Director World Universities Network (2021) Deputy Chair Research Australia Board	19.02.2026												
Sunisha Dugar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International student at the University of Auckland • Employee at Auckland Council as swim instructor • Involved in student leadership across university contexts through clubs. Currently, Co-President of Amnesty International on campus and academic support co-ordinator for Auckland University Psychology Association. 	19.02.2026												
Julia Tolmie	Employed by the University of Auckland Has family enrolled at the University of Auckland	20.02.2026												
Cathy Quinn	i) is on the board of Fletcher Building ii) is a trustee of the Kintyre Trust with a corporate trustee Pin Twenty Limited iii) is a consultant to MERW iv) chair of Fertility Associates v) is a director of Fonterra	02.03.2026												
Rob McDonald	Contact Energy - Chair, joined board 2015 Fleetpartners - Director, joined board 2023 Vero Insurance New Zealand - Chair, joined board 2025 Vero Liability - Chair, joined board 2025	04.03.2026												
Jonathan Mason	Companies (Director or Major Shareholder): Zespri. NZ US Council (Chair) Chair of the Auckland Branch of the Institute of Directors and Trustee for Beloit College in Wisconsin, USA. Charitable Trusts / Public Bodies / Incorporated Societies (governance role unless otherwise noted): Dilworth Trust Board. Advisors to the Foundations: Cambridge Associates (<i>via</i> Dilworth Trust Board) Chair of Dilworth School for Boys	28.02.2026												
Cecilia Tarrant	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 30%;">Director/Officer/Shareholder</th> <th style="width: 65%;">Company/Organisation/Business Entity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>i</td> <td>Director/Shareholder</td> <td>Seeka Limited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ii</td> <td>Director and interim Chair</td> <td>Payments NZ Limited</td> </tr> <tr> <td>iii</td> <td>Chancellor</td> <td>The University of Auckland Council</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Director/Officer/Shareholder	Company/Organisation/Business Entity	i	Director/Shareholder	Seeka Limited	ii	Director and interim Chair	Payments NZ Limited	iii	Chancellor	The University of Auckland Council	02.03.2026
	Director/Officer/Shareholder	Company/Organisation/Business Entity												
i	Director/Shareholder	Seeka Limited												
ii	Director and interim Chair	Payments NZ Limited												
iii	Chancellor	The University of Auckland Council												

	iv	Director/Share holder	Javan Cream Company Limited	
	v	Advisory Board	The Seriously Good Chocolate Company Limited	
	vi	Trustee	Tere Waitomo Community Trust	
	viii	Executive in residence	At UABS	
	ix	Member	Diocesan Administration Council for the Catholic Diocese of Auckland and of the Investment Committee	
Candace Kinser	President of Cancer Society Auckland Northland (donor to UofA) Director and Shareholder, Sagitas Consulting Ltd Director and Shareholder, Vester Ltd BioEconomy Science Institute (as of 01.07.2025) Kiwifruit Breeding Centre (joint venture between Zespri and the Bioeconomy Science Institute) (Director from September 2025) Callaghan Innovation (from September 2025)			19.02.2026
Sam Ricketts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Head of Investment Banking & Co-Head of Investment Bank, NZ - Jarden • Director – Jarden Investments Limited • Director – Jarden Principal Investments Limited • Director – Jarden Structured Investment Limited • Director – Jarden Principal Investments Picasso GP Limited • Director – Jarden Nominees GP Limited • Director – Jarden Nominees Limited • Director – Jarden Partners Limited • Director – Jarden Securities Limited • Director – Jarden Management Limited • Director – Jarden Private Partners Limited • Director – Jarden Principal Investments Picasso PIE Limited • Director – Jarden Principal Investments Red Limited • Director – Jarden Custodial Services Limited • Director – Jarden Finance Limited • Director – Jarden PT Limited • Director – Jarden Scientific Trading Limited • Director – Jarden Scientific Trading Trustee Limited • Director – Jarden Limited • Director – Jarden Nominees No2 Limited • Director – Jarden Scrip Limited • Director – OMF Nominees Limited • Director – Jarden Wealth and Asset Management Holdings Limited • Director – Jarden Wealth and Asset Management Limited • Director – Oceania and Eastern Securities Limited • Director – Oceania and Eastern Finance Limited • Director – Oceania and Securities Limited • Director – Janmac Capital Limited • Director – Quartet Equities Limited • Director – Maisemore Enterprises Limited • Director – O & E Group Services Limited • Director – Oceania and Eastern Limited • Director – Oceania and Eastern Group Funds Limited • Director – Oceania and Eastern Holdings Limited • Director – Onepoto Trustee Limited • Director – Oceania North Limited • Director – Onepoto Investments Holdings Limited • Trustee of the Samuel Thomas Ricketts Trust • Trustee of the ST & MFDP Ricketts Family Trust • Trustee of the Ricketts Family Trust • Trustee of the Ipipiri Nature Conservancy Trust • Chair of the Sacred Heart College Development Foundation Trust • Shareholder – Jarden Group Limited 			03.02.2026

Tom Irvine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acting Director - Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki (AAGToT) • Member - AAGToT Advisory Committee • Member - Hauraki Gulf Forum • Board member - MOTAT • Māori Advisory Board - Aktive Sport Auckland • Trustee - Taumata Toi a Iwi (Regional Arts Trust) • Board Member - Committee for Auckland 	19.02.2026
------------	---	------------

Excerpts from Council Minutes 2026		
Date of Council Meeting	Name of Member and Interest Disclosed	Action Taken
	•	

Council Minutes Part A (Open Minutes) 10.12.2025 Council Room – Level 2 ClockTower, Princes Street 22, Auckland 4:00pm		 Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland
PRESENT:	Ms Tarrant (Chair), Professor Freshwater (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Tolmie, Mr Paitai, Ms Pahina, Ms Kinser, Ms Dugar, Ms Skipper, Mr McDonald, Mr Ricketts, Mr Mason (online)	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Professors Bloomfield, Young and Stinear, Dr Lithander, Mr Gregory, Mrs Cleland, Mr Bluett, Mr Phipps, Mr Greenbrook-Held, Mr Brandon, and Ms Verschaeren	
1. APOLOGIES	Ms Quinn	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor): that the apologies, be noted .
2. WELCOME	The Chancellor welcomed Ms Sunisha Dugar, as the student representative to Council.	
3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS	<p>3.1 Council Interest Register for 2025 – members were asked to advise the University Committee Executive (w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz), whenever changes were required.</p> <p>3.2 In addition to the requirement for Council to complete an annual Interest Register, the attention of Members was drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the Agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.</p> <p>No further disclosures were made</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor): that the Council Interest Register for 2025 be received.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
4. COUNCIL MEETINGS	4.1 Council, Draft Minutes (Part A), 15.10.2025	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor): that the Minutes (Part A), 15.10.2025 be taken as read and confirmed.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>

	4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes (Part A), 15.10.2025 not elsewhere on the agenda	
5 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT	<p>The Report was taken as read.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Freshwater, presented this item.</p> <p>She supplemented the Report with the following additional information: Significant contributions had been made by staff and students throughout 2025, resulting in a successful year marked by multiple achievements and awards across various areas.</p> <p>Challenges had been encountered, particularly in relation to the implementation by Government of recommendations from the University Strategy Group and the Science System Advisory Group, with policy settings now in place.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor advised Council on ongoing collaboration with the Government on the integration of research entities and on metrics to assess research outcomes. In addition, the new Tertiary Education Strategy had been released. Council noted that the Universities were working closely with the Government, especially regarding international education, with a significant target to double this export industry.</p> <p>She also advised Council of ongoing negotiations of the Council of Australasian of University Librarians with publishers, particularly Elsevier, regarding open access, with measures in place to ensure contingencies for staff and students.</p> <p>The successful opening of Old Choral Hall in the previous week and the Chancellor's dinner held in Hiwa late November were highlighted.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Dugar): that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be noted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
6. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES	<p>6.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE</p> <p>6.1.1 Minutes, (Part A), 19.11.2025</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr McDonald): that the Finance Committee Minutes (Part A) 19.11.2025 be received.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
	<p>6.2 AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE</p> <p>6.2.1 Minutes, (Part A), 10.11.2025</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Kinser): that the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes (Part A) 10.11.2025 be received.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>

	<p>6.3 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</p> <p>6.3.1 Minutes, (Part A), 04.11.2025</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Skipper): that the Capital Expenditure Committee Minutes, (Part A), 04.11.2025 be received.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
	<p>6.4 UNIVERSITY EQUITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE</p> <p>6.4.1 December 2025 report</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Pahina): that Council receive the December 2025 report of the University Equity Leadership Committee</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
	<p>6.5 NAMING COMMITTEE</p> <p>6.5.1 Memorandum, 01.12.2025 from the Chancellor</p> <p>6.5.2 Draft Naming Policy</p> <p>6.5.3 Draft Naming Procedures</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Professor Tolmie): that Council receive the memorandum and approve the Draft Naming Policy and Procedures.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
	<p>6.6 RŪNANGA</p> <p>Memoranda, 03.12.2025 from Rūnanga regarding:</p> <p>6.6.1 Feedback on the Freedom of Expression Statement</p> <p>6.6.2 Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Māori Cross Portfolio Work Programme 2025</p> <p>Council was reminded that, following a previous report from the Rūnanga, a request had been made for a meeting with Council. It was reported that, after consideration by the Vice-Chancellor Review and Executive Remuneration Committee, it had been recommended that an initial meeting would take place between Rūnanga, the Chancellor, and Mr Rob McDonald.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Skipper): that Council receive the Memoranda, 03.12.2025</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>

	Following this meeting, further consideration would be given as to whether a meeting between the Rūnanga and the full Council would be appropriate.	
7 SENATE MATTERS	<p>7.1 REPORT OF SENATE MEETING 17.11.2025</p> <p>Part A1, a-f: Policy and other matters requiring to be considered/received by Council</p> <p>Part A2,1-3: Matters requiring Council approval</p> <p>Part B, 1-2: Items to note by Council</p> <p>Part C, 1-2: Matters handled under Delegated Authority</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Paitai): that the recommendations in Part A of the Report of Senate , 17.11.2025 with exclusion of item 2. 1. Proposed University Statement on Freedom of Expression be adopted and Part B and C be noted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
8 CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR	None	
9 OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING	<p>9.1 SEAL</p> <p>Since the Council meeting on 15.10.2025 the seal has been applied to the following document in accordance with the Council resolution of 18.02.1991:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deed of Lease – Rooms specified in Appendix A in Building 311 (Student Union Building) and Building 322 (AUSA House, Alfred Street) City Campus Auckland – University of Auckland (Landlord) and the Auckland University Students Association Inc (Tenant) • Deed of Nomination – 118 Grafton Road, Auckland Central, Auckland – Michael Howell Holloway (Nominator) and the University of Auckland (Nominee) 	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Mason): that the affixing of the seal to the listed document be noted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
	<p>9.2 FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION STATEMENT</p> <p>9.2.1 Memorandum, 01.12.2025 from the Chair of the VC’s Advisory Group on Freedom of Expression (FoE), Mrs Adrienne Cleland</p> <p>Council was informed that the proposed Statement on FoE was submitted to Council following extensive consultation and review through Senate and other University bodies. Council was advised</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Kinser): that Council adopt the following Freedom of Expression Statement:</p> <p>Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland fulfils a role as a critic and conscience of society through the protection and promotion of freedom of expression and academic freedom. Our university is a place where diverse cultures, identities, ethnicities and value</p>

	<p>that the adoption of this Statement was a Government requirement, and that annual surveys would be conducted to ensure compliance with legislation. Both management and Council would be required to assure the Government of adherence to legislative obligations, including the provision of environments that encourage research and freedom of expression.</p> <p>Council discussed the content of the Statement, noting that the document had undergone significant redrafting to respond to stakeholder feedback and align with legislative requirements and University values.</p> <p>Council noted that the Statement outlined the circumstances under which official University spokespeople might make public statements related to University roles, functions, or duties. Council noted that the list of examples provided, including legislative obligations related to Te Tiriti, was not exhaustive..</p> <p>Council proceeded to discuss the distinction between Academic Freedom (AF) and FoE and was advised that definitions and supporting materials would be published to clarify implementation. Guidance would be provided for supporting groups and communities that could potentially be impacted or offended by lawful free speech on campus, with scenarios to be published as needed.</p> <p>Council discussed the potential for misinterpretation of the Statement and the importance of maintaining institutional neutrality while fostering open debate and protecting the well-being of staff and students. Council was advised that risk management procedures were in place for controversial speakers and events, and that the University actively managed such risks in accordance with legal and policy requirements.</p>	<p>systems contribute to research, teaching, and related activities. Respect for everyone’s right to express their views and a commitment to civil discourse are critical to our function.</p> <p>The University actively fosters and supports lawful and constructive debate by its staff and students on any topic, including with the participation of external speakers invited by a staff member, or a recognised student association or student club. The University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression so that the ordinary activities of the University are not unduly disrupted.</p> <p>The University, as an institution, will not take public positions on matters that do not directly concern university roles, functions or duties. Official University spokespeople may make public statements on matters directly related to university roles, functions or duties, including the wellbeing and safety of staff and students, financial and resource management, sustainability, equity, and university obligations related to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as laid out in the Education and Training Act 2020. Institutional neutrality is not a retreat from important conversations, but a commitment to creating an environment where such conversations can freely take place.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
<p>9.3</p> <p>9.3.1</p>	<p>SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES STATUTE N2025 - DELEGATIONS</p> <p>Memorandum, 02.12.2025 regarding the Scholarships and Prizes Statute 2025 - Delegations</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Pahina): that Council:</p> <p>1. APPROVE the subdelegation by the Vice-Chancellor of the following functions and powers to one or more staff members, pursuant to section 286(5)-(6) of the Act:</p> <p>(a) approve the form of Specific Terms for scholarships and for prizes in section 4(2)-(3) of the Statute;</p>

		<p>(b) stipulate, amend, and/or revoke the Specific Terms for a scholarship or prize in section 4 of the Statute;</p> <p>(c) appoint a selection body for a scholarship or prize where required in section 8(2) of the Statute; and</p> <p>(d) grant a scholarship or prize pursuant to section 8(1) of the Statute.</p> <p>2. NOTE that the exercise of the remaining functions and powers in the Statute are within the jurisdiction of the Vice-Chancellor as the manager of the academic and administrative affairs of the University pursuant to section 294(1) of the Act and may be subdelegated by the Vice-Chancellor to one or more staff members of the University pursuant to section 295 of the Act.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
	<p>9.4 DELEGATIONS DOCTORAL DEGREES AND MPhil</p> <p>9.4.1 Memorandum, 03.12.2025 regarding Council delegations – Doctoral Degrees and MPhil</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Ricketts): that Council WITH EFFECT FROM 01.02.2026:</p> <p>a. Revoke all delegations made by Council to the Board of Graduate Studies (BOGS) existing as at 31 December 2025.</p> <p>b. Delegate to the Vice-Chancellor (or delegate) the power to determine:</p> <p>i. all matters pertaining to admission, registration, enrolment, candidature, supervision and examination for the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD); Doctor of Clinical Psychology; Doctor of Education; Doctor of Fine Arts; Doctor of Health Sciences; Doctor of Medicine; and Doctor of Medical Sciences (named doctorates) and for doctoral adjacent postgraduate certificates</p> <p>ii. all matters pertaining to admission, registration, enrolment, candidature, and examination for the degrees of Doctor of Engineering; Doctor of Laws; Doctor of Literature; and Doctor of Science (higher doctorates)</p>

- iii. the award of all PhDs, named doctorates and higher doctorates
 - iv. all matters pertaining to admission, registration, enrolment, candidature, supervision and examination for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil)
 - v. the award of the degree of MPhil.
- c. Vest** in the Vice-Chancellor (or delegate) all the powers and duties delegated to and/or vested in BOGS by the statutes and regulations made by Council and policies and procedures approved by Council listed in the Appendix 1.
- d. Delegate to the Vice-Chancellor** the power to approve the amendment of the statutes, regulations, policies and procedures listed in Appendix 1 to give effect to the resolution in item c).
- e.** Approve the subdelegation by the Vice-Chancellor of the powers and duties delegated to and/or vested in the Vice-Chancellor under items b-d (or any of them) to staff members of the University.

And that **Council, with effect from 01.01.2026:**

- (a) **Amend** the definition of Associate Dean/Director (Postgraduate Research) in each of the statutes, regulations, policies and procedures listed in Appendix 2 so that the definition reads as follows:
Associate Dean/Director (Postgraduate Research) normally refers to the person holding the appointment of Associate Dean/Director (Postgraduate Research) (or equivalent) in the faculty or Large Scale Research Institute (LSRI) in which the candidate is enrolled, or to that person's nominee in the case of an LSRI or one-department faculty, but the role may also be carried out by a person holding that appointment (or equivalent) in another faculty or LSRI or by a person holding the appointment of Assistant Dean Postgraduate Research (or equivalent) or another Associate Dean/Director role within the same faculty or LSRI.
- (b) **Amend** the statutes, regulations, policies and procedures listed in Appendix 3 in the way described in Appendix 3.

		The motion was CARRIED unanimously
	<p>9.5 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPS) FOR INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEES (IECS)</p> <p>9.5.1 Memorandum, 10.12.2025, from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation, Professor Frank Bloomfield)</p> <p>9.5.2 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Institutional Ethics Committees (IECs)</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Professor Tolmie): that Council approve the revised Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Institutional Ethics Committees (IECs) (Version 1.1)</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
	<p>9.6 DEED OF INDEMNITY (DOI) FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND AND THE FOUNDATIONS</p> <p>9.6.1 Memorandum, 01.12.2025 from the Chief Financial Officer, Mr Tim Bluett</p> <p>9.6.2 Deed of Indemnity from the University to the Foundations</p> <p>9.6.3 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University and the Foundations</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr McDonald): that Council approve the adoption of a new Deed of Indemnity from the University to the Foundations, and delegate to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to execute the DoI on behalf of the University, as per the memorandum.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
10 ELECTIONS - APPOINTMENTS	<p>10.1 ELECTION OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE ON COUNCIL</p> <p>10.1.1 Memorandum, 27.11.2025 From the Returning Officer, Mrs Adrienne Cleland</p> <p>Council noted that a typographical error was made in the above memorandum: the election opened on 07.10.2025 and ended on 14.10.2025. This needed to be corrected.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor): that Ms Sunisha Dugar be appointed as the student representative on Council for a two-year term (1 November 2025 – 31 October 2027).</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously</p>
11 GENERAL BUSINESS	<p>11.1 MEETING AND GRADUATION DATES 2026</p> <p>Council meeting dates: 16.03.2026, 29.04.2026, 10.06.2026, 24.08.2026, 19.10.2026, 09.12.2026</p> <p>Finance Committee meeting dates</p>	

	<p>26.02.2026, 18.05.2026, 04.08.2026, 21.09.2026, 12.11.2026</p> <p>Audit and Risk meeting dates: 03.03.2026, 15.05.2026, 14.09.2026, 09.11.2026</p> <p>Capital Expenditure meeting dates: 05.03.2026, 29.07.2026, 01.10.2026</p> <p>Graduation: Tai Tokerau: 10.03.2026 Autumn: 04-07.05.2026 Spring: TBD</p> <p>11.2 As this was the last meeting attended by Mr Paitai who held the position of Māori representative on Council since 01.01.2020, The Chancellor thanked him for his contributions to the work of Council.</p>
<p>12 LEAVE OF ABSENCE</p>	<p>Ms Kinser requested leave of absence for the meeting of 16.03.2026</p>

PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS

RESOLVED (Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor): that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting.

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 were as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered:

- Item No. 1.1 Council Minutes Part B 15.10.2025
- Item No. 2.1.1 Finance Committee – Minutes Part B 19.11.2025
- Item No. 2.1.2 Budget Report 2026-2028
- Item No. 2.2.1 Audit and Risk Committee Minutes Part B 10.11.2025
- Item No. 2.2.2 Health, Safety & Wellbeing Programme Update
- Item No. 2.2.3 Scope of Officers’ Responsibilities
- Item No. 2.3.1 Capital Expenditure Committee Minutes Part B 04.11.2025
- Item No. 2.3.2 Hono| Human Connections Programme Update
- Item No. 2.4.1 Honours Committee
- Item No. 2.5.1 Animal Ethics Committee – membership
- Item No. 2.6.1 Biological safety Committee – membership
- Item No. 2.7.1 Auckland Health research Ethics Committee – membership
- Item No. 2.8.1 Human Participants Ethics Committee – membership
- Item No. 3.1 Correspondence referred by the Chancellor
- Item No. 4.1 2026 Key Performance Targets

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:

The protection of the interests mentioned below.

Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution:

Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:

- i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations;
- ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and
- iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage.

AND THAT Mark Gregory, Professors Young, and Bloomfield F, Mark Gregory, Adrienne Cleland, Andrew Phipps, Tim Bluett, Helen Cattnach, Jeremy Greenbrook-Held, Anthony Brandon, and Wendy Verschaeren be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public had been excluded, because of their knowledge of, or need to be briefed about, the matters to be discussed. This knowledge, which would be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, was relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of The University of Auckland for which those persons were responsible.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm

The meeting went into Public Excluded session at 5.00pm

Approved as a true and correct record.

Cecilia Tarrant, Chancellor

Date

Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council | 16 March 2026

General

External, Policy and Government Update

The University has hosted several international delegations this year, including Taiwan's Academia Sinica and Brazil's research funding agency, National Council for Scientific and Technological Development, and a visit by the Estonian Ambassador, along with a university research delegation.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater was one of six University leaders invited to attend the World Laureates Summit in Dubai in early February, moderating a session on disruptive technologies reshaping the world. More than 70 world-leading laureates, including Nobel Prize winners and Turing Award holders, joined the event, which converged with the World Governments Summit.

Professor Freshwater also attended APAIE 2026, the Asia-Pacific Association for International Education conference, which examined the impact of global risks on the sector and adverse outcomes of AI.

Small Business and Manufacturing Minister Hon Chris Penk chose the Newmarket Innovation Precinct to announce funding for small manufacturers to access Digital Light Manufacturing, in an initiative developed by University of Auckland researchers.

The Precinct was also the venue for a Committee for Auckland gathering during which Mayor Wayne Brown outlined his vision for the city.

The metrics for the Government's new Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF) are being finalised. The Government announced in September 2025 that the TREF would replace the Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF), which Minister for Universities Hon Dr Shane Reti said would be streamlined and cost-effective.

Universities NZ is undergoing a consultation process on future fitness and relevance.

November's general election is already reflected in day-to-day politics. The political focus on Auckland is evident in the scheduled 9 March AUSA-hosted, moderated debate.

Internal Update

The University announced the appointment of a new vice-chancellor Professor Nic Smith who will take up the role on 3 August. Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater will conclude her tenure on 10 April, with Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation Professor Frank Bloomfield to act in the intervening months.

1. Education and Student Experience

Overview

Please note: Enrolment figures at this point of the year fluctuate significantly from day-to-day.

Domestic enrolments are tracking well ahead of this point last year. The 2025 cohort of Auckland year 13 students was significantly larger than in previous years, driving a 16 per cent increase in school-leaver enrolments at the University this year. While the market segment has grown significantly, our share of the market remains static, at 32 per cent.

The significant increase in school leavers is driving down the percentage of postgraduate students, even if the latter are 3 per cent higher than this point last year.

Māori and Pacific student enrolments have continued to increase relative to 2025. Disabled learner enrolments are higher (up 8 per cent overall) relative to 2024 across all segments (except Foundation), undergraduate and postgraduate, and domestic and international.

Indicators	Last Year	Current Year			
		To Date (16 Feb)		End of Year	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Forecast
Total EFTS	39,184	28,143	30,414	39,141	39,232
Domestic Funded	31,302	23,795	25,269	31,523	31,517
International Full Fee	6,574	4,329	4,812	6,780	6,850
% Postgraduate EFTS	27.9%	27.6%	25.4%	27.6%	27.7%

Note: EFTS information does not include enrolments in the ELA and other sources.

"Forecast" figures are from the September 2025 forecast round. The next forecast round will take place in March.

EFTS in priority groups

	2025 (16 Feb)	2026 (16 Feb)	% Change
Total Māori EFTS	1,915	2,104	9.8%
Māori School leavers	322	412	28.0%
Total Pacific EFTS	2,204	2,509	13.9%
Pacific School leavers	379	514	35.6%
Total Postgraduate	7,485	7,726	3.2%
Domestic	5,722	5,836	2.0%
International	1,756	1,876	6.8%

Progress against priorities**Priority 1: Accessible, equitable lifelong higher education opportunities**

Work is underway to implement the new Learner Success Plan areas of focus established across each of the faculties. For example, Arts and Education have aligned their five Tuākana programmes into a cohesive offering of academic support for students while responding to the needs of each discipline.

The Kōkiri Raumati summer programmes (Summer Start, UniBound and Tōia ki Waipapa) have concluded. Across the three programmes, 275 students took part (148 Summer Start, 113 UniBound and 14 Tōia ki Waipapa). 45 Tier 1 Kōkiri Raumati scholarships were awarded, covering course fees and accommodation at O'Rorke for the summer. In addition, 114 Tier 2 scholarships were awarded, covering course fees only. The teams organised a range of engagement and experience activities for taura in the Kōkiri Raumati programmes.

Summer School has now concluded, with 722 students enrolling in 119 courses.

Priority 2: Student-centric learning, co-curricular and extra-curricular cultures

Semester 1 commenced on 2 March with a record number of students welcomed. Across all study stages, nearly 40,000 students have enrolled. New-to-university domestic enrolments have increased by 12 per cent, while first-time international enrolments have risen by 21 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Priority 3: Education that is research-informed, transdisciplinary, relevant and with impact for the world

The third iteration of TeachingWell: Foundations of Learning and Teaching ran 10- 11 February, with 38 academic colleagues attending. The Teaching and Learning symposium, a week later, hosted Emeritus Professor Ronald Barnett from University College London.

Current work is underway to support staff and students with the implementation of the two-lane model of using AI in assessments.

Priority 4: Graduates who make the world better tomorrow than it is today

University of Auckland alumni recognised in the 2026 New Year Honours highlight the significant contribution graduates make in New Zealand and internationally. Seventeen alumni were honoured this year, recognising their leadership and impact across health, science, education, public service and community development.

6

2. Research and Innovation

Indicators	Last Year	Current Year			
		To Date (Dec 2025)		End of Year	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Forecast
Research revenue (\$M)	281.0	284.8	252.0	284.8	263.1

Note: The revenue includes University of Auckland revenue only

Overview

Changes to the Science, Innovation and Technology (SIT) continue in 2026 with the recent announcement of the Research Funding NZ Board members: Dr Emma Blott (Chair), Professor Aidan Byrne, Professor Amanda Barnard, Professor Brett Cowan, Professor Dianne Gleeson, Dr Meika Foster, Distinguished Professor Sir Peter Hunter, Dr Sue Bidrose. These science and innovation leaders have experience across the Marsden Fund, the MBIE Science Board, the Health Research Council, and international funding bodies in Australia, Singapore, and Europe.

Further to the SIT funding changes has been a change to the commercialisation and investment landscape. Research staff at universities can now own IP developed from publicly funded research and can choose to commercialise without support from the University and its technology transfer office (TTO). Universities can, however, still receive market returns for capital invested in start-ups. This approach is not too different to the University of Auckland practices that have operated since 2016. The University of Auckland and UniServices will need to continue to modify, improve and develop its programmes to assist entrepreneurial academics in managing conflicts of interest and other policies on campus.

The newly established New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology (NZIAT) is currently conducting a bidding process for an AI Research Platform to be funded over seven years, with up to \$70 million available. Five concepts have been shortlisted and funded for a phase two full proposal round, closing at the end of March 2026. The University of Auckland's Aotearoa Agentic Artificial Intelligence Platform (AAAIP) is one of the five selected for this final bidding round.

Progress against priorities

Priorities 1, 3 and 4: World-class research inspired by our place in Aotearoa and the Pacific AND Relevant, purposeful, impactful research for our communities AND Ambitious research confronting humanity's greatest challenges.

The project to identify Signature Research Areas (SRAs) focuses on identifying a small number of institutionally endorsed areas of research excellence and distinctiveness where the University of Auckland has the scale, depth, and leadership to address major global and national challenges. SRAs are intended to provide strategic focus for investment and support a clear and compelling narrative about the University's research strengths in highly competitive international environments.

Final proposals are now nearing completion and will be considered by the Strategic Research and Innovation Advisory Group (SRIAG) shortly, with a view to recommending a set of Signature Research Areas for endorsement at the University Executive Committee. This will mark a key milestone in the project, enabling the University to move from identification to implementation, including decisions about governance, investment and how SRAs will be activated to support research performance, partnerships and impact.

Fofonga for Pacific Research Excellence launched the AFI: Pacific Partnership Programme and TUBU: Researcher Capability Fund for 2026. The core purpose of Fofonga's AFI programme is to foster the development of research partnerships between Pacific researchers across the University and the Pacific Island region. TUBU: Researcher Capability Fund aims to support the professional growth and capability of researchers conducting Pacific research. It also seeks to foster and support the research skills, reach and impact of a University researcher.

Priorities 5 and 6: Nurturing, recruiting and retaining outstanding research talent AND A research ecosystem characterised by collaboration, agility, simplicity, engagement, and empowerment.

The Office of PVC Māori and RIO partnered to hold the inaugural Pae Huinga Manu event, which showcased excellence in Māori research. Professors Deidre Brown, Sarah Jayne Pane, Dr Jamie Lee Rahiri and Dr. Ngahuia Harrison were acknowledged and presented their research.

Research with Impact and Scholarly Excellence

Phase Two of the Research with Impact and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) project is progressing, with work centred on developing tools that will enable clear visualisation of both quantitative and qualitative contributions to research excellence. With the sector shift toward incorporating metrics in place of the Quality Evaluation (QE) component within the new Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF), the RISE project has been expanded to encompass TREF-related requirements. Within the data workstream, a comprehensive set of quantitative indicators has been developed, with work progressing well to define them and engage subject matter experts to ensure they align with best practice, meet organisational needs, and support relevant internal and external processes.

Research Platforms

Two significant initiatives to improve research infrastructure effectiveness are underway:

- A new Research Infrastructure Ecosystem (RIE) Programme seeks to optimise and consolidate the University's research infrastructure portfolio, in part by establishing several flagship research infrastructure "*Domains*" with strengthened funding and governance arrangements.
- Research Platforms are progressively being onboarded to Infinity X, a specialist booking, billing, and reporting tool that will greatly improve Platform operational effectiveness, planning and reporting.

Ethics Improvement Programme

The Human Ethics Improvement Plan is on track to deliver a suite of improvements in April 2026, including new Ethical Guidelines, Essential Learning and a single Human Ethics Application Form for the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee (UAHPEC) and Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee (AHREC). These deliverables address the pain points identified through consultations with researchers in 2025 and 2026. Further changes to the human ethics ecosystem are expected following the Ministry of Health's December 2025 announcement confirming the disestablishment of the Health Research Council of New Zealand, which currently serves as the accreditation body for UAHPEC and AHREC.

The Animal Ethics Improvement Plan is also starting to deliver improvements following the establishment of a new Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) Secretariat in 2025. Material reductions to AEC processing timeframes have been observed in Quarter 4 2025 and are expected to improve further into 2026 following the introduction of new approaches to the pre-screening and assessment of applications. A new AEC Chair was appointed in 2025, and recruitment for a new Animal Welfare Officer is currently underway.

3. Partnerships and Engagement**Overview**

Analysis of the University's media impact shows continued high levels of media presence and influence, while the newly established Planetary Solutions initiative shows early promise of driving positive, meaningful conversations around sustainability.

Priority 1: Strengthen and deepen our relationships with tangata whenua.

In the School Leaver category, Māori applicants have already surpassed last year's end-of-term totals for applicants, offers, and offer acceptances, with current forecasts (for end of February) between 474-516, against a target of 465.

Priority 2: An ambitious and relevant partner that is globally networked.

On 8 December, the University welcomed a high-level delegation from two of our key transnational education partners: Southwest University and Northeastern University at Qinhuangdao.

The Chinese Ministry of Education (MoE) has approved the Joint Programme in Pharmaceutical Sciences between UoA's Faculties of Science and Medical and Health Sciences and Wuhan University's Faculty of Medical Sciences. The approval was part of 122 new transnational education projects announced by the MoE on 30 December, which include 66 joint programmes and 56 joint institutes.

The Faculty of Science has signed two articulation agreements:

- An agreement with Wuhan University's School of Computer Science, to facilitate the progression of eligible students from Wuhan University's BSc in Computer Science to designated undergraduate and postgraduate Science programmes at UoA; and
- An agreement with Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) Bengaluru, a highly ranked private institution and constituent of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India, to formalise a structured academic pathway between MIT Bengaluru and UoA.

The Prime Minister's Scholarship recipients for Latin America have completed their four-week Spanish Language and Cultural Immersion Programme with UC Chile. The recipients for India scholarships have completed their six-week programme with the IIT Delhi NZ Centre.

Priority 3: Deep engagement with diverse Aotearoa and Asia-Pacific communities.

Total New Zealand media coverage for the University in Q4 2025 was 5,302 news items, translating into a 28 per cent share of voice, the highest of any New Zealand university. Of that coverage, 97 per cent was either very positive (43 per cent), positive (45 per cent) or neutral (9 per cent), with only 3 per cent classed as negative. In terms of content, 42 per cent of media coverage comprised expert academic commentary on topical issues, with a further 30 per cent relating to the impact and value of the University's research. Finally, 62 per cent of stories were generated either by proactive (30 per cent) media engagement or facilitated (32 per cent) support to academics and journalists, with the remaining 38 per cent being Media-driven.

Work is progressing on a strategic initiative to strengthen the visibility and impact of Research and Innovation across the University's digital ecosystem. The project will consolidate content from key entities, including the Research and Innovation Office, School of Graduate Studies, Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Newmarket Innovation Precinct, and the New Zealand Product Accelerator. The coherent online presence will improve accessibility and engagement for key stakeholders.

Priority 4: Enduring relationships with prospective students, students, alumni and donors.

The 2025 Legacy Lunch, the University's annual recognition event to celebrate legacy givers, was held on 4 December. With 75 attendees, this was the largest Legacy Lunch on record. The guest speaker was Professor Maurice Curtis, a professor of neuroscience, co-director of the Neurological Foundation Human Brain Bank and co-director of the University's Medical Imaging Research Centre.

Priority 5: Diverse student body reflecting our communities.

Alongside the high number of Māori applicants noted above, Pacific applicants and offers are tracking close to last year's end-of-term numbers, with current forecasts (for end of February) between 564-622, against a target of 590. Onshore International School Leavers are at 188 enrolments (against a target of 200), while for High-Achievers (CIE and IB), enrolments are at their highest in four years.

Around 2,000 new international students from 173 countries are due to start their studies at the University in Semester One. This includes 20 TNE students through established articulation and joint programme agreements with key partners in China, India, and Malaysia (with six students from China and one from India awarded the TNE High Achievers Award) and 85 Manaaki scholarship students from 15 different countries. A further 46 Manaaki scholarship recipients due to start later in 2026.

Additionally, between December 2025 and January 2026, the University hosted visiting students from partner institutions in the US, China and Brazil.

Priority 6: Recognised and valued by our communities for the contributions we make towards a more sustainable future for all.

The University has published 13 articles as part of our Planetary Solutions partnership with Newsroom, including an article on urban heat islands, which RNZ picked up for further discussion with our academics. Regular Planetary Solutions articles are set to continue with the recruitment to the University of Rebekah White, an experienced science writer previously with the New Zealand Geographic.

4. Enabling our People and Culture

Overview

Key activities this period focus on preparing for significant system and process enhancements, embedding capability frameworks into goal-setting and development planning, and advancing initiatives that strengthen leadership, culture, and organisational performance. Furthermore, this period will focus on Korero Mei 2026 action planning, the recruitment of the new vice-chancellor and key organisational changes.

Hono Phase 2

Key milestones for Hono Phase Two continue to progress to schedule:

- Tupu and ADPR remain on track to transition into Hono in late April 2026.
- Advanced Compensation and Succession Planning will go live in June 2026.
- Testing is progressing to plan, with User Acceptance Testing scheduled for March 2026.
- Training and support materials, including updated intranet content, are in development and will be released progressively in the coming months.
- Cross-functional teams (Change, OD, Advisory, Training) are working in short delivery cycles to maintain momentum.
- Detailed decisions on development planning, feedback processes, calibration, and system notifications are now being operationalised.

Progress against priorities:

Priority 1: Live our values and purpose

The Values-led Culture programme continues to provide a central mechanism for strengthening leadership practice and cultural alignment across the University. Current activity is focused on aligning leadership expectations with refreshed performance and development processes.

The Pūhoro Senior Leaders Programme has completed seven cohorts and continues to receive positive feedback, particularly for strengthening collaboration and cross-University leadership practice. The extension of the programme to the UEC reflects an ongoing focus on developing senior leaders who model the University's values and purpose.

Priority 2: Develop a future-ready workforce

The Tupu cycle is underway, with staff setting goals aligned to Ngā Taumata Tutukinga, He Iti Kahurangi, and the University's leadership practices. Communications have reinforced expectations around development planning and continuous performance conversations, while managers have been advised to proceed with goal setting as planned, with flexibility to refine goals as required.

The Future Academic Workforce work programme is poised to enter its next phase as the academic year commences.

6

5. Our Enabling Environment

Overview

Indicators	Last Year	Current Year			
		To Date (Dec - 25)		End of Year	
	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Forecast
Total revenue (\$M)	1539.7	1578.5	1,601.1	1,578.5	1,618.5
Revenue achieved as a % of budget	100.9%	100.0%	100.3%	100.0%	102.5%

Progress against priorities:

Strategic Priority 1: Create Mana-enhancing experiences for our communities through effective, efficient, and valued operations and services

While high unemployment has contributed to Semester One's increased student numbers, our systems have facilitated this growth. This includes improvements in the applicant-to-offer and offer-to-enrolment conversion rates. A wide range of kaimahi involved in engagement, recruitment, processing and supporting incoming taura as well as technical and process enhancements have improved processes. On top of this, Immigration New Zealand, in partnership with Universities New Zealand, has increased resourcing for visa processing.

- Enabling and developing our staff to improve effectiveness of operations and services offered:
 - The Director, Staff Services is facilitating a second "Association for Tertiary Education Management (ATEM)" cohort of mid-level managers across the University's administration to be part of a dedicated annual development programme. .
 - Service Essentials supports professional staff teams in aligning priorities, coordinating workflows, and monitoring performance through tools such as Visual Management Boards (VMBs) There are currently 74 teams actively participating (53 established, 21 implementing).

Academic Heads' Experience

- In collaboration with the Planning & Information Office, the project will be piloting a new AI Assistant (TUI) to improve the accessibility of key decision-making data for Academic Heads. The pilot focuses on data to support operational decision-making relating to fluctuations in student enrolments in the lead-in to Semester 1. Further datasets are due to be released and tested at regular intervals throughout the year to support other School/Department operations.
- The Business Process Automation (BPA) team has assessed five manual processes identified as workload 'pain points' for Academic Heads as priorities for process improvement and/or simplification. The project and BPA team are now engaging to develop timelines and plans for remediation.

Prioritising improvement of student experiences through personalised services, student support and wellbeing frameworks and a welcoming, vibrant environment:

- Personalised communications for future and current students: By leveraging the Eloqua automation platform, our digital communications are increasingly timely, relevant, and tailored to each student's individual journey, including enhanced course-specific enrolment guidance.
- Personalisation: Authenticated users, including our international agents who support many of our offshore applicants and offer holders, now receive real-time, personalised updates on key processes (such as admissions and examinations) in one central AskAuckland location (our online portal).

Priority 2: Deliver a distinctive, capable, and flexible people-centred environment that celebrates our place in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific

Delivery of the approved Property Capital Programme:

- Old Choral Hall: The project was formally opened in December 2025 and is now occupied by Alumni Relations.
- B230: Law & Performing Arts: Works commenced on site in late 2025, and the Detailed Design phase is well progressed.
- Carlaw Park Stage 4: Works continue on-site, with the 'in-ground' works largely completed. The Detailed Design phase is nearing completion.
- Grafton Research facility: Planning is underway to confirm the strategic case and occupants for the new research facility on the Grafton Campus in conjunction with FMHS and Research.
- Fale refurbishment and upgrade: Works have commenced on site to upgrade the Fale and related premises.
- Finance ERP Modernisation: As a cornerstone of our Finance Transformation Programme, we are upgrading our legacy ERP infrastructure. We have shortlisted two primary system options and are evaluating prospective Systems Integration (SI) partners to lead the implementation.

Estate Planning activities (Property and Digital):

- Planning activities continue for the refurbishment of Architecture, Urban Design & Planning spaces, the new B525 Research Facility, the submission of the Resource Consent for the Student Centre and Library development, and the development of the Newmarket campus.
- OGGB Data centre relocation to CDC Canberra Data Centres) in Hobsonville and Silverdale: Digital Services has successfully completed the migration of networking from our OGGB data centre to our new hosted CDC location in line with our single data centre strategy and sustainability goals.

- Research AI Infrastructure Investment: In alignment with our Research Infrastructure Roadmap, we have secured the initial tranche of specialised AI hardware. This acquisition serves as the foundational pillar for the university's broader Research AI ecosystem.
- Following a very successful trial of an Ai Assistant (Cogniti) within the learning management system (Canvas) to support learning and teaching outcomes, the capability is to be extended to over 20,000 students in 2026.
- In Q4 of 2025, the University launched one of NZ's largest AI capability uplift programmes, aiming to train 400 AI Coaches across faculties and service divisions. In January, the first cohort of 40 coaches completed this training, with a further 150 already nominated for future cohorts.

The Steering Committee for the Tai Tokerau Campus in late 2025 concluded the Strategy and an Academic Delivery model, and is now preparing a business case for the Campus.

Priority 4: Enable long-term operational sustainability and resilience for the University through careful stewardship and planning and by enabling revenue growth

The annual report and financial statements for 2025 are tabled for approval in Part B of this meeting, along with the review of financial performance for the year. It is satisfying to note that the underlying operational result was in line with expectations and provides a sound platform to deliver our goals for 2026. A large proportion of the benefits targeted through the performance improvement programme over the past two years have been embedded in the 2026 budgets, with further progress in the remaining areas expected during the year.

Professor Dawn Freshwater
Vice-Chancellor

Appendix One: University Gifts and Pledges [November 2025-January 2026]

The following major new gifts and pledges were received by ARD from November 2025 to January 2026, totalling \$NZ21,123,408 plus \$US160,000 from the Alan Maxwell Revocable Trust for Alan Maxwell Science Scholarships:

- \$4,800,000 from The McCall MacBain Foundation for Kupe Leadership Scholarships
- \$3,178,411 from the Neurological Foundation of New Zealand for the 'Mate Wareware-Dementia Prevention Research Platform' study at Science, and for the 'Ultra-large scale drug discovery for the regulation of neuroinflammation' study, the 'Blood Biomarkers: A New Frontier in Alzheimer's Diagnosis in New Zealand' study, and the 'Determining the role of Bach2 in modulating glial cells as a treatment for spinal cord injury' study, all at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$2,031,101 from Rank Group Limited for the 'OAK: milk oligosaccharides during antibiotic treatment in kids' study at the Liggins Institute
- \$1,706,487 from the Auckland Medical Research Foundation for the 'Pharmacological intervention for ventilator-induced lung injury' study, for the 'Designing for health equity: Understanding housing and neighbourhood impacts on healthy child development' study, the 'Delayed therapies for neonatal brain injury' study, and the 'DNA-PK prodrugs as radiosensitisers' study, all at Medical and Health Sciences; for the 'Multi-jet acceptability study' at ABI; for the 'Newborn screening for ECHS1 disease in Aotearoa' at the Liggins Institute; and for the 'Unmet needs of NZ Children' study at Arts and Education
- \$1,631,580 from the Buchanan Charitable Foundation for the Buchanan Pathways Programme at Arts and Education
- \$987,245 from Wellcome Leap Inc. for the 'SADIE: in-Silico Assessment of pregnancy via Digital Integrated Environments' study at Auckland Bioengineering Institute
- \$615,000 from The Jubilee Trust to support research and a Research Fellowship in Biological Sciences
- \$548,588 from the Heart Foundation for a senior research fellowship at Manaaki Manawa, The Centre for Heart Research and for the 'Right-heart failure: decoding disease mechanisms and optimising treatment strategies from an energetics perspective' study at ABI
- \$444,981 from Massachusetts General Hospital for the 'Neurochemistry and neuropathology in the basal ganglia and cerebellum of X-linked Dystonia Parkinsonism brains' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$411,047 from the Estate of Roger Joseph Shalfoon for Cancer Trials NZ at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$376,937 from the Michael and Suzanne Borrin Foundation for the 'Imprisonment in Aotearoa New Zealand: Identifying "justice gaps" for tamariki, rangatahi and wahine in the responses to female offenders' study at Law
- \$365,114 from the Maurice and Phyllis Paykel Trust for the 'From Glucose to Growth: Understanding How Early Maternal HbA1c Shapes Placental and Fetal Health' study and for a one-year fellowship in Ophthalmology, both at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$362,243 from Cancer Research Trust New Zealand for the 'Novel Camptothecin Derivatives as Cytotoxic Payloads for Antibody-Drug Conjugates' study and the 'RadiATE: Radiopharmaceutical Accelerator for Translational Exploration' study, both at Medical and Health Sciences, and for the 'Identifying the molecular mechanisms that regulate circulating melanoma cell migration across the human brain endothelial barrier' study and the 'Exploring the Tumour Microenvironment of Lung Cancer in Never Smokers' study, both at Science
- \$350,000 from the Royal Aust & NZ College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists for RANZCOG Guideline Development 2026 at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$330,000 from the Neuro Research Charitable Trust (Cure Parkinson's NZ) to support Parkinson's disease research at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$250,000 from the Trounson GK Trust for zinc-air battery research at Science
- \$250,000 from John Burrige to establish and maintain Te Puna Aroha, to support Māori students throughout their time at University
- \$244,994 from the Cancer Society of New Zealand for the 'Therapeutic targeting of SHOC2 for the treatment of NRAS-mutant melanoma' study and for the 'Impact of Māori Genomic BVD on TMB/MSI in Māori and Pasifika Cancer Patients' Master's Scholarship, both at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$237,000 from the Wood Industry Development and Education Trust for the Breaking Barriers in Timber Construction programme at Engineering and Design
- \$210,769 from the Estate of Frederick George Haddock for support for the Auckland Cancer Society Research Centre

- \$196,898 from the University of Aberdeen for the 'Baroreceptors – a novel drug paradigm for treating hypertension' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$150,000 from the Ralph and Eve Seelye Charitable Trust for Ralph and Eve Seelye Scholarships
- \$129,010 from the Estate of John Michael Render Young for the University of Auckland Strategic Endowment
- \$124,462 from i3S for the 'Deciphering the contribution of common non-coding genetic variation to Autism Spectrum Disorders' study at the Liggins Institute
- \$119,757 from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board for the 'The C*STEROID Trial – Safely improving outcomes after planned caesarean section birth' study at the Liggins Institute
- \$100,000 from Gregory Jarvis for scholarships for students enrolled in the Women in Engineering Academy Programme and the Apollo Programme at Engineering and Design
- \$98,478 from the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists for the 'Treatment hesitancy in Māori and Pacific Peoples with keratoconus' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$89,586 from the Australasian Diving Safety Foundation for the 'Exploring the Impact of Pre-Dive Exercise, Microparticles, and Menstrual Cycle on Venous Gas Emboli after Diving' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$70,000 from the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust for Te Tau Ihu Mussel Restoration at Science
- \$67,174 from RG Douglas Limited for ORL research at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$67,002 from Huntington's Disease Society of America, Inc for the 'Spatial analysis of somatic instability in Huntington Disease brain tissues' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$65,644 from Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand for the 'New Mechanisms of RUNX1 Dysfunction in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$60,500 from the Gillespie Family for Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy research at the Centre for Brain Research
- \$58,956 from the University of Birmingham for the 'Animistic Variations: Philosophy and Religion in and beyond the Pacific' study at Arts and Education
- \$50,000 from Chuan Seng Lee to support academic exchanges between the Faculty of Engineering and Design and three of Singapore's top-ranked universities
- \$50,000 from Burnett Foundation Aotearoa for the Burnett Foundation Aotearoa Fellowship 2025-2026 at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$37,200 from the Estate of Bepen Bhana for a Master of Fine Arts scholarship at Arts and Education
- \$34,744 from the Science for Nature Trust for the 'Lab testing of the AgroSustain compound and compound formulation testing' study at Science
- \$31,500 from Beca Group for Beca Scholarships at Engineering and Design
- \$31,000 from Beatrice Ratcliffe Charitable Trust for scholarships and musical instruments at the School of Music
- \$30,000 from The Evergreen Foundation for human brain research at the Centre for Brain Research
- \$30,000 from The Save Sight Society of New Zealand Inc for the 'Novel functional alternative for corneal endothelial transplantation' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$25,000 from the Associated New Zealand Myalgic Encephalomyelitis Society for the 'Identifying child and adolescent predictors of adult ME/CFS and Long Covid' study at Arts and Education
- \$25,000 from Toni Butcher to support researchers working on a national brain tumour register at the Centre for Brain Research
- \$25,000 from VRF Vault Limited for ophthalmology equipment at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$25,000 from the Minds for Minds Trust for the 'Variants of uncertain significance - using organoids to understand the clinical significance of novel genetic variants in autism' study at Medical and Health Sciences
- \$US160,000 from the Alan Maxwell Revocable Trust for Alan Maxwell Science Scholarships

Finance Committee MINUTES | PART A
26 February 2026
VIRTUAL MEETING | Zoom
8:00 am to 10:00 am



<p>Present: Rob McDonald (Chair), Cecilia Tarrant, Professor Dawn Freshwater, Julia Pahina, Gemma Skipper, Professor Julia Tolmie, and Sunisha Dugar In Attendance: Mark Gregory, Tim Bluett, Helen Cattanach, Patricia Yap and Ruwani Dharmawardana</p>		
1. Apologies	Cathy Quinn was not in attendance at this meeting.	
2. Disclosures of Interest	The attention of Members was drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020. No further disclosures were made.	
3. Minutes of Finance Committee of 19.11.2025	<p>Item No 3.1: Minutes, Part A 19.11.2025</p> <p>Item No 3.2: Matters Arising from the Minutes, Part A, not elsewhere on the agenda. No matters were discussed that needed further attention, as part of the follow-up from the previous meeting.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chair Julia Pahina) that the Minutes, Part A, of the Finance Committee held on 19.11.2025 be taken as read and confirmed.</p>
4. Other Matters for Decision or Noting	<p>Item No 4.1: Committee Terms of Reference</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chair Professor Freshwater) that</p> <p>i) The report be received and noted.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED (Chair Professor Freshwater) that the Finance Committee recommends to the Council that:</p> <p>i) The amended Committee Terms of Reference be adopted.</p>
	<p>Item No 4.2: Financial Performance</p>	

7.1

	2023	2024	2025	2025	2025
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	var
EFTS	35,337	36,603	39,184	37,025	2,159
Teaching \$m					
TEC	375.2	424.0	440.8	430.6	10.2
Fees	411.8	432.2	501.0	471.5	29.6
PBRF & other	122.3	131.7	146.8	128.8	18.0
	909.3	988.0	1,088.7	1,030.9	57.8
Expenditure	418.0	452.2	477.7	464.1	(13.6)
Contribution	491.3	535.8	611.1	566.9	44.2
Contribution %	54.0%	54.2%	56.1%	55.0%	1.1%
Research Revenue	290.6	288.2	251.1	286.8	(35.7)
Contribution	40.3	34.6	27.8	32.4	(4.6)
Support and other					
Revenue	197.9	208.2	212.2	194.8	17.4
Expenditure	717.8	756.0	813.7	775.8	(38.0)
Contribution	(519.9)	(547.8)	(601.5)	(580.9)	(20.6)
OPERATING SURPLUS	11.7	22.6	37.3	18.3	19.0
TOTAL REVENUE	1,397.8	1,484.3	1,552.1	1,512.6	39.5
% revenue	0.8%	1.5%	2.4%	1.2%	
SBITDA	166.0	184.1	246.1	200.7	45.4
SBITDA %	11.9%	12.4%	15.9%	13.3%	2.6%
Capital expenditure	253.6	216.0	167.3	259.6	92.3
Capex % Operating Rev	18.1%	14.6%	10.8%	17.2%	0.0%
Net cash movement	26.7	(9.2)	105.8	163.3	(57.4)
Cash (Debt)	146.2	138.6	246.0	260.7	(14.6)

OPERATING SURPLUS

The 2025 surplus was \$37.3m (2.4%), representing an improvement over the 2024 result of \$14.8m.

REVENUE GROWTH

Strong enrolment growth drove significant increases in teaching revenue, specifically a \$23.4m rise in domestic fees and a \$45.4m increase in international fee revenue over 2024.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International student numbers grew by 15.3%, with the Science and Business & Economics faculties providing the most significant contributions.

TEC FUNDING

TEC funding increased by 4% (\$16.8m), compared to a 4.3% rise in domestic enrolments and fell \$11m short of the enrolment-based full funding total due to funding caps.

TEACHING MARGINS

Teaching margins have risen as academic recruitment has lagged behind enrolment growth, leading to increased vacancy levels in the short term.

INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

A major \$34.7m increase in building depreciation following 2024 asset revaluations has materially suppressed the overall surplus. Digital Services faced a \$5.7m rise in service costs, largely driven by SaaS operating costs for platforms like HONO (HR and Payroll).

RESEARCH PRESSURES

Research income is declining due to the conclusion of high-value COVID-related projects, National Science Challenges (NSCs), and the withdrawal of specific U.S. federal funding.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

The opening of the HIWA recreational and wellbeing facility and increased scholarship expenditure contributed to \$22.5m (up 14.8%) net cost increase in student-facing activities.

PROJECT COSTS

Overall project costs fell, with property project costs down \$5.8m and digital project costs down \$6.3m as major initiatives like HONO began to wind down.

UNISERVICES

A number of UniServices business units were transferred into faculties to strengthen commercial focus and lower support costs by leveraging University infrastructure. UniServices now focuses specifically on securing funded research and commercialising innovations.

5. Leave of Absence	The Chair noted the apology received from Professor Julia Tolmie for the 18 May 2026 meeting and advised members to inform the Committee Secretary in advance if they are unable to attend.	
6. Public Exclusions	<p>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:</p> <p>General subject of each matter to be considered:</p> <p>Item No 7.1: Finance Committee Meeting 19 November 2025, Minutes Part B</p> <p>Item No 7.2: Matters Arising from the Minutes, Part B, not elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <p>Item No 8.0: Treasury Management, Compliance and Cash Flow Report</p> <p>Item No 9.0: Treasury Policy Review Memo</p> <p>Item No 9.1: Treasury Policy (Updated Version for Review)</p> <p>Item No 10.0: Financial Performance 2025</p> <p>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter: The protection of the interests mentioned below.</p> <p>Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution: Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations; and ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage. 	<p>RESOLVED (Chair Cecilia Tarrant) that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting AND THAT Mr Gregory, Mr Bluett, Ms Cattanach, Ms Yap, and Ms Dharmawardana be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public be excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed.</p> <p>This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of the University of Auckland for which those persons are responsible.</p>

7.1

The meeting moved into a Public Excluded session at 08.05 am.

The meeting closed at 9.20 am.

Approved as a true and correct record.

Rob McDonald, Chair

Date:

7.1

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following amendments to the Finance Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) are proposed. In line with the governance pathway, any revisions are endorsed by the Finance Committee before progressing to Council for approval.

Summary of Proposed Changes

1. Role Title Update
Updating “Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) and Registrar” with “Chief Operating Officer and Registrar”.
2. Update to Clause 8 – Secretarial Support
Clause 8 has been refreshed so it now reflects that the Chief Operating Officer arranges secretarial support.

Background Note

The current version of the Finance Committee Terms of Reference was approved by Council on 11 March 2024, following the Committee’s recommendation on 28 February 2024.

Finance Committee Terms of reference

The Finance Committee is a committee of the University of Auckland Council, with the delegated responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities set out in this Terms of Reference approved by Council on ~~11.03.2024~~ 16 March 2026.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to monitor the finances of the University so as to satisfy Council that they are managed in a way that:

- maintains solvency at all times, and
- minimises the risk of external intervention in the affairs of the University, and
- promotes achievement of the University’s annual budget, mission and strategic objectives

The Committee supports the Council in carrying out its duty under s.281(e) of the Education and Training Act 2020 to 'ensure that the institution operates in a financially responsible manner that ensures the efficient use of resources and maintains the institution’s long-term viability’.

2. Responsibilities

The Committee is responsible for reporting and recommending to Council concerning:

- approval of major financial decisions, and
- financial policy and regulatory matters, and
- financial strategy and planning, and
- the financial position and performance of the University, and
- any other matter that Council or the Vice-Chancellor may refer to the Committee

2.1 Approvals

The Committee is to make recommendations to Council concerning approval of:

[Finance Committee_26 February 2026_Terms of Reference \(To be reviewed by Committee\)](#)

Page 1 of 3

- the University's annual budget (capital and operating)
- reviews of the Capital Plan and Financial Projections
- student fees
- financial delegations to and by the Vice-Chancellor

2.2 Policy and Regulation

The Committee is to make recommendations to Council concerning the adoption and review of financial policies, including policies relating to:

- investment
- borrowing
- financial management

2.3 Strategy and Planning

The Committee is to report and recommend to Council concerning:

- Strategic Plan objectives relating to financial and resource management
- major and sensitive assumptions in the University's financial projections
- consistency of the University's financial projections with the Strategic Plan
- major areas of financial risk and related risk management strategies

2.4 Financial Position and Performance

The Committee is to monitor and report to Council on the University's performance against:

- budget
- TEC financial risk criteria
- the University's own financial management parameters
- Strategic Plan objectives related to financial and resource management
- debt-related or any other external covenants

The Committee is also to report to Council and make recommendations where, as a result of its monitoring activity, it believes that corrective action or any changes to policy, practice or financial parameters are appropriate.

3. Review of Terms of Reference

The Committee shall review its Terms of Reference and report to Council the outcome of that review every three years.

4. Membership

The Committee shall comprise the Chancellor, Pro Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, up to three lay members of Council at least one of whom has financial expertise, the professional staff member of Council, the academic member of Council and the student member of Council. The Council will appoint as the Committee's Chairperson a lay member of Council who has financial expertise, and the Committee may, if it sees fit, appoint a Deputy Chairperson.

5. Term of Appointment

The term of office of each member (other than the Vice-Chancellor) shall be one year.

6. Meetings

The Committee shall normally meet five times a year.

7. Management Attendance

The following members of management will normally attend meetings of the Committee:

- ~~Chief Operating Officer Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)~~ and Registrar
- Chief Financial Officer

Additional members of management may be invited to attend for particular items by either the Chairperson or the Vice-Chancellor.

8. Secretarial Support

~~The Chief Financial Officer will designate a person in Financial Services to provide secretarial support for the Committee who is to ensure that a complete record of the proceedings of the Committee including agendas, minutes and papers, proposals, advice and reports provided to the Committee is maintained in permanent form with the Registrar.~~ The Chief Operating Officer and Registrar will provide secretarial support for the Committee, and ensure that a complete record of the proceedings of the Committee including agendas, minutes and papers, proposals, advice and reports provided to the Committee is maintained in permanent form.

9. Authority

The Committee has no delegated authority.

10. Reporting

Minutes of each meeting of the Committee shall be provided to the following meeting of Council.

Where a recommendation is made to Council and the papers before the Committee are not sent to Council, the minutes shall summarise the major issues considered by the Committee in coming to its recommendation.

11. Conflicts of Interest

Committee members must declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest in line with the requirements of the University's Conflicts of Interest Policy.

12. Confidentiality

Committee members have a responsibility to treat all information with appropriate confidentiality. This includes matters tabled or discussed at the Committee meetings, as well as any additional issues that are raised outside meetings.

Audit and Risk Committee MINUTES | PART A
 3 March 2026
 HYBRID | Council Meeting Room and via Zoom
 8.00 am to 10.30 am



<p>Present: Jonathan Mason (Chair), Cecilia Tarrant, Candace Kinser</p> <p>In Attendance: Professor Dawn Freshwater, Mark Gregory, Tim Bluett, Rachelle Miller, Brent Penrose, Michelle Yu, Murtaza Ali, Nav C Deo, Julian Michael, Jeremy Greenbrook-Held, James Harper, Jason Mangan, Andrew Phipps and Ruwani Dharmawardana</p>		
1. Apologies	None	
2. Disclosures of Interest	<p>The attention of Members was drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.</p> <p>No further disclosures were made.</p>	
3. Minutes of Audit and Risk Committee of 10.11.2025	<p>Item No 3.1: Minutes, Part A 10.11.2025</p> <p>Item No 3.2: Matters Arising from the Minutes, Part A, not elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <p>No matters were discussed that needed further attention, as part of the follow-up from the previous meeting.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chair Cecilia Tarrant) that the Minutes, Part A, of the Audit and Risk Committee held on 10.11.2025 be taken as read and confirmed.</p>
4. Other Matters for Decision or Noting	<p>Item No 4.1: Committee Terms of Reference</p> <p>The Committee noted the proposed changes favourably from a governance perspective.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chair Cecilia Tarrant) that</p> <p>i) The report be received and noted.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED (Chair Cecilia Tarrant) that the Audit and Risk Committee recommends to the Council that:</p> <p>i) The amended Committee Terms of Reference be adopted.</p>
5. Leave of Absence	No leave of absence was requested for the meeting scheduled 15.05.2026.	

7.2

<p>6. Public Exclusions</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>General subject of each matter to be considered:</p> <p>Item No 7.1: Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 10 November 2025, Minutes Part B</p> <p>Item No 7.2: Audit and Risk Committee Meeting 10 November 2025, Matters Arising from Minutes, Part B</p> <p>Item No 8.0: 2025 Draft Financial Statements and Management Judgements</p> <p>Item No 9.0: 2025 EY Closing Report</p> <p>Item No 10.0: 2025 Draft Annual Report</p> <p>Item No 11.0: Combined Assurance Report</p> <p>Item No 12.0: Health & Safety Programme</p> <p>Item No 13.0: CyberSecurity Programme Update</p> <p>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter: The protection of the interests mentioned below.</p> <p>Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution: Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations; and ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage. 	<p>RESOLVED (Chair Candace Kinser) that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting AND THAT Professor Freshwater, Mr Gregory, Mr Bluett, Ms Miller, Mr Penrose, Ms Yu, Mr Ali, Mr Deo, Mr Michael, Mr Greenbrook-Held, Mr Harper, Mr Mangan, Mr Phipps and Ms Dharmawardana be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public be excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed.</p> <p>This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of the University of Auckland for which those persons are responsible.</p>
<p>The meeting moved into a Public Excluded session at 08.06 am. The meeting closed at 10.45 am. Approved as a true and correct record</p> <p>Jonathan Mason, Chair Date:</p>		

Audit and Risk Committee Terms of reference (Proposed Updates)

Existing Website link for reference: [Committee Terms of Reference](#)

The Audit and Risk Committee is a committee of the University of Auckland Council, with the delegated responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities set out in this Terms of Reference approved by Council on 16 March 2026 ~~11.03.2024~~.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Audit and Risk Committee is to provide Council with assurance that:

- All financial statements released to the public, stakeholders, lenders or any regulatory body comply with accounting standards, fairly represent the financial position and performance, and
- An appropriate system of internal controls and an appropriate legal compliance framework operates throughout the University, and
- The University Risk Appetite is confirmed, and all material risks are identified and appropriately managed, and
- An effective and integrated Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) framework operates across the University, with appropriate reporting and assurance provided to the Committee.

2. Responsibilities

The Committee is responsible for:

Appointment of external auditors

The Committee shall liaise with the Auditor General in relation to the appointment of an Audit Service Provider in accordance with the Public Audit Act 1989.

Auditor Engagement and Independence

The Committee will review and approve any proposed engagement of the external auditor for non-audit or additional assurance services, and will monitor the nature and extent of such services to ensure auditor independence is maintained. The Committee will also consider any matters relating to auditor rotation in accordance with applicable standards as part of its annual work programme.

Annual report and financial statements

The Committee is responsible for making a recommendation to Council concerning the adoption of the University's Annual Report and Financial Statements.

Accounting policies and standards

The Committee will review significant proposed accounting policy changes and discuss the nature and impact of such changes. Where appropriate the Committee will discuss such changes with Finance Committee.

The Chief Financial Officer will keep Committee members up to date with current accounting standards and, in particular, any changes which could affect the University's financial statements.

Internal controls

The Committee will review systems of internal control throughout the University with internal and external audit to determine the extent to which the systems and audits of them can be relied upon to detect and control weaknesses or fraud.

Fraud, Ethical Reporting, and Protected Disclosures

[The Committee will oversee the effectiveness of the University's fraud control framework, protected disclosures/whistleblowing mechanisms, and ethical reporting systems, including receiving periodic reports on disclosures, investigations, and corrective actions.](#)

Internal audit

The Committee is responsible for appointing the Internal Auditors, reviewing and approving the Internal Audit Programme, considering Internal Audit Reports and monitoring follow-up actions.

Insurance

Each year the Committee will review and approve the University's insurance cover and any policy changes which may be recommended.

Risk management

The Committee is responsible for confirming the University Risk Appetite monitoring the management of all material business risks and ensuring that appropriate procedures and conducts are in place to mitigate or manage those risks.

[The Committee will review and note the key supporting risk documents—including the Risk Appetite Statement, the Risk Management Framework, and the University Risk Register—to support effective oversight of the University's risk management approach.](#)

Legislative compliance

The Committee is responsible for overseeing compliance with legislation and policies relating to legislative compliance.

Litigation

The Committee will monitor any legal proceedings involving potential liability or contingent liability of the University.

Subsidiary companies

The Committee's Terms of Reference include all subsidiary companies. However, where a subsidiary such as Auckland UniServices has its own audit committee, then the subsidiary's audit committee shall have delegated to it the above responsibilities. Annually each such subsidiary audit committee shall, through its Board, provide a written report to the Committee identifying any accounting, internal control or risk matters that are material at a group level, and any matters on which the subsidiary audit committee has taken a different position to that advocated by either external or internal auditors or legal counsel. Audit Committee minutes will be provided in a timely manner to the University Audit and Risk Committee.

3. Review of Terms of Reference

The Committee shall review its Terms of Reference every two years and report to Council the outcome of that review.

These Terms of Reference replace those in force.

4. Membership

The Committee shall comprise three lay members of Council, appointed by Council, and the Chancellor (ex-officio). At least two members of Audit Committee should not be members of Finance Committee.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt an additional member to provide specialist skills.

5. Term of Appointment

The term of office of each member shall be one year.

6. Meetings

The Committee shall normally meet four times a year, on an approximately quarterly basis.

7. Attendance by Management and Advisors

The Vice-Chancellor, or nominee, the ~~Chief Operating Officer~~ ~~Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)~~ and Registrar and the Chief Financial Officer will normally attend committee meetings but at least twice a year and always including the meeting considering the Annual Report and Financial Statements the Committee shall meet with the internal and external auditors without management being present. Additional members of management may be invited to attend for particular items by either the Chairperson or the Vice-Chancellor.

The external and internal auditors may be invited to attend Committee meetings. The internal and external auditors will have access to the Chair of the Committee at any time. If the University is engaged in any litigation or defence of an action by any regulatory agency the Committee may invite the University's legal advisor to attend its meeting and advise on any liability or contingent liability.

The Committee may request management to procure external professional advice where the Committee considers this necessary to meet its responsibilities.

8. Secretarial Support

The Registrar, or nominee, will act as secretary of committee meetings and will circulate minutes of the meetings to committee members, the Vice-Chancellor, the external auditors and to the secretary of Council. The Registrar, or nominee, will ensure that a complete record of the proceedings of the Committee including agendas, minutes and papers, proposals, advice and reports provided to the Committee is maintained in permanent form.

9. Authority

The Committee has the following delegated authorities:

- appointment of the Internal Auditors
- approval of the University's significant accounting policies and changes to them

10. Reporting

When the Committee is considering a recommendation to Council concerning adoption of the University's Annual Report and Financial Statements, reports presented to the Committee at that meeting shall include:

- the draft Annual Report and Financial Statements
- the external auditors' Management Letter
- a report from the external auditors on any matters they believe the Committee needs to be aware of
- a report from the Chief Financial Officer on judgments made by management in the course of preparing the Financial Statements which have a material impact on the Financial Statements

At other meetings during the year, according to a schedule approved by the Committee at the beginning of each year, reports presented to the Committee shall include:

- Internal Audit reports, including management responses to the recommendations
- annual reviews of the rolling Internal Audit programme
- reports on compliance monitoring of internal controls
- reports on each insurance renewal round
- half-yearly updates of the University's risk assessment
- reports of any significant changes to legislation or regulations

The Committee will provide the minutes of each meeting to Council.

11. Conflicts of Interest

Committee members must declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest in line with the requirements of the University's Conflicts of Interest Policy.

12. Confidentiality

Committee members have a responsibility to treat all information with appropriate confidentiality. This includes matters tabled or discussed at the Committee meetings, as well as any additional issues that are raised outside meetings.

Capital Expenditure Committee MINUTES | PART A
5 March 2026
HYBRID | Council Meeting Room and via Zoom
08:00 am to 10:00am



Present: Cecilia Tarrant (Chair), Cathy Quinn, Rob McDonald, and Professor Dawn Freshwater		
In Attendance: Mark Gregory, Tim Bluett, Simon Neale, Andrew Phipps, Cameron Thomas, Richard Clarke, Mark Bentley and Ruwani Dharmawardana		
1. Apologies	Apology for absence was received from Jonathan Mason.	
2. Disclosures of Interest	The attention of Members was drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020. No further disclosures were made.	
3. Minutes of Capital Expenditure Committee of 4.11.2025	<p>Item No 3.1: Minutes, Part A 4.11.2025</p> <p>Item No 3.2: Matters Arising from the Minutes, Part A, not elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <p>No matters were discussed that needed further attention, as part of the follow-up from the previous meeting.</p>	RESOLVED (Chair Rob McDonald) that the Minutes, Part A, of the Capital Expenditure Committee held on 4.11.2025 be taken as read and confirmed.
4. Other Matters for Decision or Noting	Item No 4.1: Committee Terms of Reference	<p>RESOLVED (Chair Cathy Quinn) that</p> <p>i) The report be received and noted.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED (Chair Cathy Quinn) that the Capital Expenditure Committee recommends to the Council that:</p> <p>i) The amended Committee Terms of Reference be adopted.</p>
5. Leave of Absence	No leave of absence was requested for the meeting scheduled for 29 July 2026. The Chair recommended that moving the meeting date to the following week be considered and will advise in due course.	

7.3

<p>6. Public Exclusions</p>	<p>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:</p> <p>General subject of each matter to be considered:</p> <p>Item No 7.1: Capital Expenditure Committee 4 November 2025, Minutes Part B</p> <p>Item No 7.2: Capital Expenditure Meeting 4 November 2025 Matters Arising from Minutes, Part B</p> <p>Item No 8.0: Hono Human Connections Programme Update</p> <p>Item No 9.0: LTFP Capital Programme Update</p> <p>Item No 10.0: Use of Vice-Chancellor Delegated Authority</p> <p>Item No 11.0: Business Case Bruce McLaren Centre for High Performance Engineering</p> <p>Item No 12.0: Rolling Programme – 2026-2030 Pipeline</p> <p>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter: The protection of the interests mentioned below.</p> <p>Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution: Those in Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) To protect the privacy of the persons referred to in the recommendations and to maintain the confidentiality of those recommendations; and ii) To enable the University to carry on without prejudice or disadvantage negotiations; and iii) To prevent the disclosure or use of Official Information for improper gain or advantage. 	<p>RESOLVED (Chair Professor Freshwater) that the public be excluded from Part B of this meeting AND THAT Mr Gregory, Mr Bluett, Mr Neale, Mr Phipps, Mr Thomas, Mr Clarke, Mr Bentley and Ms Dharmawardana be permitted to remain for this part of the meeting, after the public be excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed.</p> <p>This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of the University of Auckland for which those persons are responsible.</p>
------------------------------------	--	--

7.3

The meeting moved into a Public Excluded session at 08:07am.

The meeting closed at 9:45 am.

Approved as a true and correct record.

Cecilia Tarrant, Chair

Date:

7.3

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The following amendments to the Capital Expenditure Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) are proposed. In line with the governance pathway, any revisions are endorsed by the Capital Expenditure Committee before progressing to Council for approval.

Summary of Proposed Changes

1. Role Title Update
Updating “*Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations) and Registrar*” with “*Chief Operating Officer and Registrar*”.
2. Clause 4 (Review of Terms of Reference) Update: Recommendation to align the review cycle with the Finance Committee and Audit and Risk Committee TORs, changing from an annual to a three-year review.

7.3

Capital Expenditure Committee Terms of Reference

The Capital Expenditure Committee is a committee of The University of Auckland Council, with the delegated responsibilities, authorities and accountabilities set out in this Terms of Reference approved by Council.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Capital Expenditure Committee is to ensure that all major capital expenditure is supported by a quality proposal, advances the University’s strategic objectives and is financially sustainable.

2. Responsibilities

The Capital Expenditure Committee is responsible for considering all capital expenditure proposals over \$10 million, subject to the Sensitive Expenditure Policy, with a particular focus on:

- the contribution each proposal would make to achievement of Strategic Plan objectives, and
- the financial sustainability of each proposal

A ‘capital expenditure proposal’ means a proposal for the:

- acquisition of land, or
- acquisition, construction, extension, modification or refurbishment of a building, or
- acquisition of a piece of equipment, or
- acquisition or development of an IT system or application, or
- acquisition of shares or equity like investments outside of investing the University’s working capital, or

- acquisition of a work of art
- acquisition of other asset or financial commitment

where the resulting expenditure would be capitalised under the University's Accounting Policies.

The University's Sensitive Expenditure Policy will apply.

In addition, a "capital expenditure proposal" shall also be deemed to include a write-off, write-down, disposal or demolition of assets currently capitalised as well as long-term leases whose size and duration of commitment is akin to capital expenditure. (For the avoidance of doubt, all new or renewed leases where the undiscounted committed lease payments exceed \$10 million shall be treated as "capital expenditure".)

'Financially sustainable' means a position where the University, in the medium to long term, satisfies its targeted operating, cashflow and balance sheet parameters, whether set by the Council or monitored as a risk criterion by TEC, or covenanted to in connection with any borrowing undertaken.

The Capital Expenditure Committee will receive advice of capital expenditure approved by the Vice-Chancellor for any individual proposals in excess of \$5m.

The Capital Expenditure Committee, at its discretion, may request management to provide progress or milestone reports relating to particular capital expenditure approvals. A Post Implementation Review (PIR) will be presented to the Capital Expenditure Committee where so required by the University's Post Implementation Review Policy.

3. Proposals

The Committee will consider proposals only on the recommendation of the Vice-Chancellor. Proposals forwarded by the Vice-Chancellor for the Committee's consideration will normally have been previously considered and recommended by the relevant members of the University Executive Committee.

The Vice-Chancellor's covering note shall summarise his/her assessment of the proposal's relative capacity to advance the University's strategic objectives in a financially sustainable manner.

Proposals must comprise business case in support of the proposal, and a quality assurance report.

3.1 Business Cases

The business case in support of a proposal should be prepared and endorsed by the relevant member of the University Executive Committee. The business case must comprise:

- a summary of the proposal including, as appropriate:
 - a textual description
 - plans, specifications and visuals

- a costing
- an outline of the project delivery strategy, including the proposed approach to contracting, project management arrangements and a programme
- the strategic case for the proposed expenditure, which must be based on the Strategic Plan and outline how, directly or indirectly, the proposal will enhance the achievement of the Strategic Plan objectives, including the impact on:
 - teaching quality
 - postgraduate completions
 - research activity and external research income
 - student and staff experience
 - environment, climate change and all other aspects of sustainability
 - the University's standing
- the business case for the proposed expenditure, including:
 - an outline of the proposed or projected capital expenditure, operating expenditure and revenue resulting from or required by the project, with analysis supporting all material assumptions and judgements
 - whether any of the proposed expenditure constitutes sensitive expenditure, and if so, the relevant considerations are set out in the Sensitive Expenditure Policy
 - an outline of any proposed philanthropic or sponsorship or other external support, including specification of any minimum level which the proposal is contingent on
 - an outline of risks arising from the proposal, and risk management strategies
 - projected operating and cash flow statements
 - return on investment and/or net present value

Where realistic options to the recommended proposal exist and were considered, the Committee should also be provided with an outline of those options and a statement of the reasons for selecting the recommended option.

3.2 Financial Sustainability Reports

Each proposal must be accompanied by or incorporate a financial sustainability report prepared by and signed by the [Chief Operating Officer](#) ~~Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)~~ and Registrar.

This report should advise how the recommended level of expenditure compares with any provision made for the proposal in the University's capital budget for the current year, and the most recent revision of the Long-term Financial Plan (LTFP). If the proposal is recommended at a materially higher level of expenditure than provided for in the LTFP, then the report should

outline the impact of the proposal on the University's financial position and the University's capacity to fund the proposal. The financial sustainability report should also indicate whether or not there have been any changes in circumstances, since the last revision of the LTFFP, which have had or are expected to have a material adverse impact on the University's financial position. Where this is the case, the report should include an interim update of the University's projected debt profile demonstrating:

- the actual or expected impact of the change(s) in circumstances, and
- the impact on the University's financial position of the proposed capital expenditure, and
- the financial sustainability of the proposed capital expenditure in light of the change(s) in circumstances

If the proposal is contingent on a minimum committed level of new philanthropic or sponsorship support, the financial sustainability report must include a note from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Strategic Engagement outlining the proposed approach and confirming it is consistent with and integrated into the University's overall approach.

4. Review of Terms of Reference

The Committee shall review its Terms of Reference and report to Council the outcome of that review every three years.

5. Membership

The Committee shall comprise the Chancellor and Pro-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, and the Chairs of the Finance and Audit and Risk Committees.

Council may also appoint 1 or 2 of its lay members as additional members of the Committee. The Chancellor is the Chair of the Committee and the Chair of the Finance Committee is the Deputy Chairperson.

6. Term of Appointment

The term of office of each member of the Committee will be one year.

7. Meetings

A meeting of the Committee will be scheduled whenever there is a proposal to consider. With the agreement of the Chair, the Committee may meet via email circulation or electronically, provided the required papers accompany the proposed resolution and no Committee member requests a meeting.

8. Management Attendance

The following members of management will normally attend meetings of the Committee:

- the Chief Operating Officer ~~Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)~~ and Registrar,
- the Chief Financial Officer,
- the Chief Property Officer (in the case of proposals relating to property), and

- the member of the University Executive Committee sponsoring or otherwise directly responsible for the proposal to be considered.
- The Chief Digital Officer (in the case of proposals relating to IT)

9. Secretarial Support

The ~~Chief Operating Officer~~ ~~Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Operations)~~ and Registrar will provide secretarial support for the Committee, and ensure that a complete record of the proceedings of the Committee including agendas, minutes and papers, proposals, advice and reports provided to the Committee is maintained in permanent form.

10. Authority

The Committee has delegated authority to approve capital expenditure proposals greater than \$10 million and up to \$25 million. The Committee's delegated authority is subject to the condition that total capital expenditure in the current financial year, whether approved by the Committee or otherwise, shall not exceed by more than \$15 million the budgeted total capital expenditure for the year unless a budget variance is approved by Council.

Where a capital expenditure proposal exceeds \$25 million, the Committee shall make a recommendation to Council concerning approval of the proposal.

11. Reporting

Minutes of each meeting of the Committee, recording proposals approved and/or recommendations to Council shall be provided to the following meeting of Council. Where the Committee has approved a proposal under its delegated authority, a copy of all papers considered by the Committee relating to the proposal shall be retained by the Officer of the Vice-Chancellor for inspection on request by Council members.

12. Conflicts of Interest

Committee members must declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest in line with the requirements of the University's Conflicts of Interest Policy.

13. Confidentiality

Committee members have a responsibility to treat all information with appropriate confidentiality. This includes matters tabled or discussed at the Committee meetings, as well as any additional issues that are raised outside meetings.

STUDENT APPEALS COMMITTEE
REPORT FOR 2025

This Student Appeals Committee report covers cases heard from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025. During this period, the following members served on the Student Appeals Committee:

Chairs: John Paitai

Members (or acting members):

Cecilia Tarrant

Julia Tolmie

Gemma Skipper

Julia Arnott-Neenee

FaAhufia Fia (until 30 October 2025)

Sunisha Dugar (from 1 November 2025)

In 2025, the Committee met 8 times and heard 13 cases.

Three appeals were submitted in late November; therefore, the hearings will be scheduled for 2026. Hence, these have not been included in this report.

- *The Committee upheld the Discipline Committee's Decision and Penalty against students in 14 cases.*
- *The Committee upheld the Discipline Committee's Decision but modified the Penalty in 7 cases.*
- *The Committee upheld the Discipline Committee's Decision but modified the Penalty against students in 6 cases.*
- *The Committee overturned the Discipline Committee's Decision and Penalty in 1 case.*

Most cases took 1 hour for the Committee to hear.

Summary of Cases Heard by the Student Appeals Committee in 2025			
Type	Subtype	Discipline Committee decision on penalty	Student Appeals Committee decision
Academic misconduct in assignment	Unauthorised collaboration, contract cheating	Expulsion	The decision and penalties were upheld in full.
General misconduct	Harassment and sexual harassment	Expulsion, letter of reprimand.	The decision and penalties were upheld in full.
Academic misconduct in tests	Using unauthorised resources	Fail for the courses; letter of reprimand	The decision was overturned.
Academic misconduct in examination	Contract cheating	Fail for the course; letter of reprimand; suspension for two semesters.	The decision and penalties were upheld in full.
Academic misconduct in examinations	Contract cheating; using generative AI tools	Fail for the courses; suspension for Summer School; letter of reprimand.	The decision was upheld, with the start date of the suspension changed.
Academic misconduct in examinations	Contract cheating	Fail for the courses, suspension for Summer School and Semester One	The decision was upheld with the suspension start date changed.
Academic misconduct in assignment	Unauthorised collaboration with a third party	Fail for the course, letter of reprimand	The decision and penalties were upheld in full.
Academic misconduct in assignment	Using unauthorised tools/generative AI	Fail for the course; suspension for one semester; letter of reprimand	The decision was upheld with the suspension lifted.
Academic misconduct in assignment	Contract cheating; using unauthorised tools	Fail for the course, letter of reprimand	The decision and penalties were upheld in full.
Academic misconduct in examinations	Misrepresenting illness in Aegrotat applications for examinations	Fail for the courses, letter of reprimand, expulsion	The decision was upheld with expulsion replaced by suspension.

<i>Academic misconduct in examinations</i>	<i>Contract cheating</i>	<i>Fail for the courses, letter of reprimand, suspension</i>	<i>The decision and penalties were upheld in full.</i>
<i>Academic misconduct in examinations</i>	<i>Using unauthorised software</i>	<i>Fail for the courses, letter of reprimand, expulsion</i>	<i>The decision was upheld with expulsion replaced by suspension</i>
<i>Academic misconduct in examinations</i>	<i>Wrong positioning in mode B examinations, using unauthorised materials/notes</i>	<i>Fail for the courses, letter of reprimand, suspension</i>	<i>The decision and penalties were upheld in full.</i>
<i>Academic misconduct in examinations</i>	<i>Using an extra device in the Mode B examination</i>	<i>Fail for the course, suspension, letter of reprimand.</i>	<i>The decision was upheld with the suspension end date changed and a fine.</i>



Internal Memorandum

7.5

Date: 04.03.2026

To: Council

From: Chancellor

Subject: Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute, Guidelines and Honours Committee Terms of Reference - update

Attached is the marked-up draft revision of the Statute. The proposed changes are:

1. Clause 2a – Re-inclusion of the provision for award of a “Doctor of the University”. The title of “Doctor of the University of Auckland” was removed in 2019, as this had not been used since 2001. However, reintroducing this generic Honorary Doctorate would provide flexibility and address concerns regarding the appropriateness of conferring honorary degrees in disciplines not directly aligned with recipients’ backgrounds. In addition, and for the same reason, it is recommended to also add an “Honorary Doctorate in any discipline in which a doctorate is offered by the University”.
2. Clause 7.1a – Addition of a subclause iv to include the possibility of an Honorary Doctor’s degree for a person who “has rendered exceptionally distinguished service to the University or to society”.

The proposed amended Statute was submitted to Senate with the request to provide advice on possible academic consequences of the proposed amendments and no advice or comments were offered.

Should these revisions be adopted by Council there will be other minor revisions (bringing the Statute in line with the format of other Statutes at the University by adding its application and purpose).

The changes to the Guidelines include the provision for two meetings of the Honours Committee per year and the possibility for the Chair to call for a special meeting if necessary. In addition, a minor correction of the Honours Committee Terms of Reference is proposed.

Recommendation: That Council approve the amended Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute, Guidelines and adopt the updated Honours Committee Terms of Reference.

DRAFT - The Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute 20~~25619~~
(subject to legal review)

Application

Staff members and Council members nominating, or reviewing nominations for, honorary degrees and awards.

Purpose

To govern the awarding of honorary degrees and other distinguished awards for the purpose of recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions to academia, society, and the advancement of knowledge, thereby upholding the values and strategic goals of the University.

Statute

Pursuant to sections ~~282192~~ and ~~284194~~ of the Education and Training Act 20201989 and section 20 of the University of Auckland Act 1961 Council of the University makes the following statute:

1. This Statute may be cited as the Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute 20~~25619~~ and shall come into force on the 22-October 20~~25619~~.
2. Council may at its discretion:
 - a. Confer the following honorary degrees:
 - Doctor of Laws
 - Doctor of Science
 - Doctor of Literature
 - Doctor of Music
 - Doctor of Engineering
 - Doctor of the University
 - And
 - a Doctorate in any discipline in which a doctorate is offered by the University
 - b. Award the title 'Fellow of the University' ('Fellowship').
3. University Honours Committee of Council shall consider nominations and make recommendations to the Council for the conferring of any honorary degree or fellowship under this Statute.
4. University Honours Committee shall henceforth consist of:
 - a. the Chancellor who shall be the Chair of the Committee
 - b. the Vice-Chancellor
 - c. the Pro-Chancellor
 - d. one member appointed by Council
 - e. two members of Senate elected by Senate
 - f. the student member of Council.

5. Council may, from time to time, approve guidelines for the award of honorary degrees and fellowships and, in making its recommendations, University Honours Committee shall ensure that it complies with all those guidelines.
 6. Council may also, in its discretion and on the recommendation of University Honours Committee:
 - a. award the title 'Professor Emeritus' to a retired member of the academic staff who held the office of a Professor of the University immediately before their retirement
 - b. award the title 'Distinguished Professor Emeritus' to a retired member of the academic staff who held the office of a Distinguished Professor of the University immediately before their retirement
 - c. award the title 'University Librarian Emeritus' to a retired member of staff who held the office of University Librarian immediately before their retirement and who has a record of long and distinguished service to the University as the University Librarian.
- 7.1 University Honours Committee may recommend to Council, for the conferment of an Honorary Doctor's degree:
- a. Any person who:
 - (i) is academically distinguished, or has made a distinguished contribution in fields relevant to the University, and has, or has had, some intimate connection with the University
or
 - (ii) has shown strong interest in the well-being of the University by benefactions, or in other appropriate ways
or
 - ~~(iii)~~ (iii) is of international repute and is visiting, or has visited the University in an official capacity or
 - ~~(iii)(iv)~~ or has rendered exceptionally distinguished service to the University or to society.
- 7.2 The contribution a current or retired staff member has made to the University in the course of their employment shall not be grounds for the award of an Honorary Doctor's degree.
- 7.3 University Honours Committee may recommend to Council, for the conferment of a Fellowship, a person who:
- a. has made a unique and valuable contribution to the University
and
 - b. is not a permanent member of staff.
8. A nomination for the conferment of an honorary degree or a fellowship may be made by any three persons each of whom is a member of Council or of Senate or of both these bodies; and shall be made confidentially to the Vice-Chancellor in accordance with the relevant provisions of the guidelines in force under Clause 5 of this Statute.
9. The Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute ~~2025191998~~ is hereby repealed.

Guidelines for the Award of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships

1. A nomination for an honorary degree or for the award of a fellowship shall be made confidentially in writing to the Vice-Chancellor or delegate and signed by three persons each of whom shall be a member of the Council or of Senate or of both these bodies.
2. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a statement outlining in sufficient detail the career, standing and qualifications of the nominee and the grounds under Clauses 7.1, 7.2 or 7.3 for conferring the degree or awarding the fellowship.
3. After consideration, the Vice-Chancellor shall refer each nomination that meets the requirements specified in the Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute together with its accompanying statement to the Chair of the University Honours Committee of Council (the Honours Committee).
- ~~4. The Honours Committee shall meet twice a year to consider Honorary Degree nominations. These meetings shall be in-person either in-person, virtual or hybrid. A special meeting of the Honours Committee may be called by the Chair of the Committee if the Chair considers it appropriate.~~
4. Where the Honours Committee agrees to support an Honorary Degree nomination, that nomination shall be presented to the next Council meeting.
5. The conferring of honorary doctorate degrees shall not be confined to a graduation ceremony but shall be arranged at the discretion of the Council.
6. The award of a fellowship shall be arranged at the discretion of the Council.

University Honours Committee

Terms of Reference

- Established under the Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute 2025~~61~~¹⁹
- To consider nominations and make recommendations to the Council for the conferring of Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and other honours.
- The University Honours Committee is a committee of Council.

Note:

1. Conflicts of Interest
Committee members must declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest in line with the requirements of the University's Conflicts of Interest Policy.

2. Confidentiality

Committee members have a responsibility to treat all information with appropriate confidentiality. This includes matters tabled or discussed at the Committee meetings, as well as any additional issues that are raised outside meetings.

Membership

- Chancellor - Chair
- Pro-Chancellor
- Vice-Chancellor
- One member appointed by Council
- Two members of Senate elected by Senate
- The student member of Council

~~The University Honours Committee reports to Council.~~

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND

MATERIAL FOR COUNCIL FROM the MEETING OF SENATE 23.02.2026

PART A:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE REQUIRING TO BE CONSIDERED/RECEIVED BY COUNCIL

- a) **Review of Philosophy**
Senate 23.02.2026 RECOMMENDS to Council that it receive the Review of Philosophy
- b) **Review of Teaching Catalyst - Year-on Progress Report**
Senate 23.02.2026 RECOMMENDS to Council that it receive the Review of the Teaching Catalyst - Year-on Progress Report

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATE REQUIRING COUNCIL CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL

1. Senate Membership change

Senate, 23.02.2026 RECOMMENDS that Council approve the proposed change of membership and remove the role of Deputy Vice-Chancellor Operations and Registrar and replace it by Chief Operating Officer and Registrar, as ex-officio member of Senate.

ACADEMIC MATTERS AND REGULATIONS

2. REGULATION AMENDMENTS

Senate, 23.02.2026 RECOMMENDS that Council approve the following Regulation Amendment:

- a) **Regulation Amendment 2026-900: – Academic and General Statutes and Regulations – Enrolment and Programme Regulations**
To add authority to amend or waive the AELR requirement.

3. NCEA Rank Scores required for entry in 2027 - BBioMedSci, BHSc and BSc

Senate, 23.02.2026 RECOMMENDS that Council approve the NCEA Rank Scores required for entry in 2027 - BBioMedSci, BHSc and BSc

PART B: ITEMS FROM SENATE FOR NOTING BY COUNCIL

1. Honorary Degrees and Awards Statute - amended

This Statute was submitted to Senate, 23.02.2026 to seek Senate’s advice on any academic consequences of the proposed amendments.

Senate did not offer any advice nor made comments

PART C: MATTERS RECEIVED AND APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

1. CUAP AMENDMENTS

Senate, 23.02.2026 advises Council that the following Amendments be approved for submission to CUAP:

Business and Economics

2026-104	MBM, PGCertBM, PGDipBM	Introduces a new specialisation into MBM, PGCertBM, and PGDipBM; amends the schedules for the MBM, PGCertBM, and PGDipBM; adds new course BUSMAN 753 to the MBM schedule.
----------	------------------------	---

Medical and Health Sciences

2025-644	BHSc	Introduces two new majors in (1) Community Health and (2) Health Systems and Data Analytics in the Bachelor of Health Sciences; Suspends the Population Health major; Introduce the following new courses: POPLHLTH 112, 113, 217, 218, 219, 220, 299, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 398 and 399; Consequentially amends the BHSc conjoint components schedule.
2025-645	MClined	Amends the Duration and Total Points Value clause from 240 to a 180-point requirement for the MClined.

2025- 646	MBChB, BOptom, BPharm and BMIH	Amends the admissions regulations for the following programmes: Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBChB), Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm), Bachelor of Optometry (BOptom) and Bachelor of Medical Imaging (Honours) BMedImag(Hons).
2025- 648	MHSc, PGCertHSc	Introduces a new specialisation in Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) under the existing Postgraduate Certificate in Health Sciences; introduces a new subject code, POCUS and also introduce POCUS 701, 702, 703 and 704, and consequentially amends the MHSc and PGCertHSc regulations and schedules.

Science

2026- 700	BSc	Amends the regulations for the BSc, introduces majors in Biodiversity, Ecology and Evolution, Cell and Molecular Bioscience, Food Science, Medicinal Chemistry, and Nutrition; Suspends the major in Biological Sciences and specialisations in Biomedical Science, Food Science and Nutrition, and Medicinal Chemistry; Amends the majors in Chemistry, Exercise Science, Logic and Computation, Marine Science, Pharmacology, Physiology and Psychology and the specialisation in Applied Exercise and Sports Sciences; Introduces new subject code NUTRTN and new courses CHEM 190, CHEM 290, EXERSCI 208, FOODSCI 104, FOODSCI 204, MEDSCI 207, MEDSCI 322, NUTRTN 399.
2026- 702	BPsych	Introduces a Bachelor of Psychology (BPsych)

Interfaculty

2025- 810	BBiomedSc	Introduces a Bachelor of Biomedical Science (BBiomedSc); Introduces the following conjoint programmes: Bachelor of Arts/ Bachelor of Biomedical Science, Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Communication, Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Engineering (Hons), Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Fine Arts,
--------------	-----------	---

	<p>Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Global Studies, Bachelor of Biomedical Science/ Bachelor of Health Sciences, Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Laws (Hons), Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Biomedical Science/Bachelor of Sport, Health and Physical Education; Introduces BIOMED 101, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 301, 302, 303 and 398.</p>
--	---

2. Alternative English Language Evidence for Study Abroad and Exchange Students

Senate, 23.02.2026 advises Council that it approved the Alternative English Language Evidence for Study Abroad and Exchange Students

3. Disestablishment of the Board of Graduate Studies

Senate, 23.02.2026 advises Council that it approved the disestablishment of the Board of Graduate Studies