

**Council Minutes Part A
(Open Minutes)
27.08.2025
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, Ms Kahina, Ms Kinser, Mr Mason, Mr Paitai, Mr Fia, Ms Skipper, Ms Quinn, and Mr McDonald	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs Cleland, Dr Lithander, Mr Bluett, Ms Cattanach, Mr Brandon and Ms Verschaeren Professor Young for item 4.1 in Part B via Zoom	
KARAKIA	The meeting started with a Karakia	
1. APOLOGIES	None	
2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS	2.1 Council Interest Register for 2025 – members were asked to advise the University Committee Executive (w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz), whenever changes were required. 2.2 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. The Chair and Mr McDonald declared an interest in item 2.4 in Part B, as they both had sent an Expression of Interest.	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Quinn): that the Council Interest Register for 2025 be received and the action taken regarding item 2.4 in Part B be endorsed .
3. COUNCIL MEETINGS	3.1 Council, Draft Minutes (Part A), 11.06.2025	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Skipper): that the Minutes (Part A), 11.06.2025 be taken as read and confirmed .
	3.2 Matters arising from the Minutes (Part A), 11.06.2025 not elsewhere on the agenda	

4. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT	The Report was taken as read. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Freshwater, presented this item. She supplemented the Report with the following additional information: Council was informed of ongoing Government engagement, including updates from the Vice Chancellors of Universities New Zealand. It was noted that the University Advisory Group and the Science System Advisory Group were expected to release outcomes imminently, with a new University Strategy Group being established to advance the Tertiary Education Strategy. The Strategy would include initiatives related to international education, quality assurance, and a more prescriptive approach to sector oversight. Council was advised of changes to research funding metrics, with a greater emphasis on impact measures, aligning with international trends. The redistribution of research funding was anticipated, with increased focus on emerging technologies, potentially affecting allocations to arts and humanities. The Auckland Technology Alliance, chaired by Simon Bridges, met for the first time this week with the aim to harmonise technology initiatives across the region. Attention was drawn to an update from the New Zealand Security Services providing new security and risk management guidance for research, including protocols for managing international delegations and overseas travel. Progress on the establishment of a third medical school was reported, with discussions ongoing regarding placements and funding. A positive meeting took place with representatives of the Universities of Waikato, Auckland and Otago. The Vice-Chancellor addressed sector-wide issues in academic publishing. She also emphasised the growing significance of artificial intelligence in education and the need for strategic discussion on its implications for higher education and student numbers. Council was informed of the recent report on grade inflation from the New Zealand Initiative which included data from 2006 to 2024. The Vice-Chancellor urged careful interpretation of the data and consideration of the broader context. The importance of evidence-based decision-making was emphasised, particularly in relation to student achievement, learning success, and retention. Updates were provided on upcoming graduation ceremonies and the upcoming Open Day. The recent staff survey showed engagement of 70% which was more	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Paitai): that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be noted.
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	than for the previous survey. A full report about the survey results would be provided later. In the following discussion, Council was reminded of the importance of monitoring sector developments and maintaining the University's position within the national and international context.	
5. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES	5.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE 5.1.1 Minutes, (Part A), 11.08.2025	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr McDonald): that the Finance Committee Minutes (Part A) 11.08.2025 be received .
	5.2 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE COMMITTEE 5.2.1 Minutes, (Part A), 14.08.2025	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Mason): that the Capital Expenditure Committee Minutes (Part A) 14.08.2025 be received .
	5.3 NAMING COMMITTEE 5.3.1 Minutes, (Part A), 11.08.2025	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Fia): that the Naming Committee Minutes (Part A), 11.08.2025 be received .
	5.4 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REVIEW AND EXECUTIVE REMUNERATION COMMITTEE (VCRERC) 5.4.1 Minutes 1 (Part A), 14.08.2025 – Skills Positions 5.4.2 Minutes 2 (Part A), 14.08.2025 – Alumni Position <i>Council noted that the appointment of the Māori representative was deferred to the meeting on 15.10.2025.</i>	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Kahina): that the VCRERC Minutes 1 (Part A) 14.08.2025 be received RESOLVED (Pro Chancellor/Professor Tolmie): that the VCRERC Minutes 1 (Part A) 14.08.2025 be received
6. SENATE MATTERS	6.1 REPORT OF SENATE MEETING 28.07.2025 Part A1, a-b: Policy and other matters requiring to be considered/received by Council Part A2,1-4: Matters requiring Council approval	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Kinser): that the recommendations in Part A of the Report of Senate, 28.07.2025 be adopted and Parts B and C be noted .

	Part B,1-2: Part C, 1-3:	Items to note by Council Matters handled under Delegated Authority	
7. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR	None		
8. OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING	8.1	SEAL • Deed of Renewal of Lease - Ngapouri Station, 2739 State Highway 5 Reporoa, Graeme David Hathaway, Yvonne Therese Hathaway, and Steven James Bignell as Trustees of the Hathaway and Dekker Family Trust (Landlord) and the University of Auckland (Tenant) • Confidentiality Deed - Ministry of Primary Industries and the University of Auckland • Deed of Renewal and Rent Review - Tamaki Innovation Campus, 261 Morrin Road, St. Johns, Shundi Tamaki Village Ltd (Lessor) and the University of Auckland (Lessee). • Deed of Renewal and Variation Lease – Level 3, 50 Devon St New Plymouth (UniServices – IMAC), Taradise Holdings 2004 Ltd (Landlord) and the University of Auckland (Tenant)	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Mason): that the affixing of the seal to the listed document be noted .
	8.2	DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AND SCHOLARLY SERVICES Memorandum, 01.08.2025 from the Vice-Chancellor regarding the Director of Student and Scholarly Services: authority to discharge functions of the Director of Student and Academic Services role	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor): that that with effect from 28 August 2025 Council : • Resolve that all powers and duties vested in the Director of Student and Academic Services as of 27 August 2025 in statutes and regulations made by Council, and in policies, procedures, and standards approved by Council, will be vested in the Director of Student and Scholarly Services; and • Delegate to the Vice-Chancellor the power to approve the amendment of all such statutes, regulations, policies, procedures, and standards to give effect to this resolution.
	8.3 8.3.1	DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR EDUCATION Memorandum, 01.08.2025 from the Vice-Chancellor regarding the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education: authority to discharge functions of the Provost role	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Skipper): that with effect from 28 August 2025 Council : • Resolve that all powers and duties vested in the Provost as of 27 August 2025 in statutes and regulations made by Council, and in

		policies, procedures, and standards approved by Council, will be vested in the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Education (DVCE); and • Delegate to the Vice-Chancellor the power to approve the amendment of all such statutes, regulations, policies, procedures, and standards to give effect to this resolution.
	8.4 RESCINDMENT 8.4.1 Memorandum 11.08.2025 from the Graduation Office regarding the rescindment of a diploma and re-award with merit	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Quinn): that Council rescind the Postgraduate Diploma in Science, as per the memorandum and re-award it with Merit.
	8.5 FACULTY OF ARTS & EDUCATION SCHOOL STRUCTURE CHANGE 8.5.1 Memorandum, 22.07.02025 from the Dean, Professor Gregory regarding the Arts and Education New School Structure	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Paitai): that Council note the Arts and Education New School Structure, as per the memorandum.
	8.6 FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION 8.6.1 Memorandum, 11.08.2025 from the Deputy Vice- Chancellor & Registrar, Mrs Cleland including the draft Freedom of Expression Statement Council noted that formal advice was being sought from Senate, with further input to be gathered from staff and the wider University community. Council agreed to note the progress report and approved the draft Freedom of Expression statement as the basis for consultation. It was clarified that the approval pertained to consultation only, and that the final statement would be subject to further consideration following feedback from Senate and the broader community	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Fia): that Council: • Note the progress report relating to the planned introduction of the Education and Training Amendment Bill, which if enacted will require the University Council to (i) adopt a statement on freedom of expression, as set out under the proposed Section 281A, (ii) to survey staff and students with respect to freedom of expression and academic freedom and (iii) to establish a complaints mechanism; and • Approve the draft Freedom of Expression Statement as the basis for consultation with the wider University community and for seeking formal advice from Senate.
12 ELECTIONS - APPOINTMENTS	none	

13 GENERAL BUSINESS	None
14 LEAVE OF ABSENCE	(for the meeting of 15.10.2025) Mr Rob McDonald requested leave for the meeting of 15.10.2025. The Chancellor asked that if other members could not attend to let the Secretary of Council know and copy the Chancellor in.

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 11.06.2025
Item No. 2.1.1	Finance Committee – Minutes Part B 11.08.2025
Item No. 2.1.2	Financial Performance 2025 to 2027
Item No. 2.2.1	Capital Expenditure Committee Minutes Part B 14.08.2025 and 10.03.2025
Item No. 2.2.1	Naming Committee Committee Minutes Part B 11.08.2025.2025
Item No. 2.4.1	Vice-Chancellor's Review and Executive Remuneration Committee Minutes 1 14.08.2025
Item No. 2.4.2	Vice-Chancellor's Review and Executive Remuneration Committee Minutes 1 14.08.2025
Item No. 2.5.1	Honours Committee – Professores Emeriti
Item No. 3.	Letters to Council
Item No. 4.1	Interim report Waipapa Taumata Rau courses

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 Adrienne Cleland, Professors Sarah Young and Frank Bloomfield; Andrew Phipps, Tim Bluett, Helen Cattnach, 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 6.05pm

The meeting went into Public Excluded session at 5.00pm

Approved as a true and correct record.

Cecilia Tarrant, Chancellor

Date