

**Council Minutes Part A
(Open Minutes)
16.03.2026
Council Room – Level 2 ClockTower, Princes Street 22, Auckland
4:00pm**



PRESENT:	Ms Tarrant (Chair), Professor Freshwater (Vice-Chancellor), Ms Quinn, Professor Tolmie, Mr Mason, Mr McDonald, Ms Pahina, Ms Skipper, Mr Ricketts, Mr Irvine and Ms Dugar	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr Gregory, Mr Bluett, Professor Young, Professor Bloomfield, Ms Catanach, Mr Michael, Mr Neale, and Ms Dharmawardana Mr Clarke and Mr Bentley for item 2.3.2 in Part B	
COUNCIL BRIEFINGS	The briefings took place prior to the meeting.	
KARAKIA	The meeting started with a karakia.	
1. APOLOGIES	Ms Kinser	RESOLVED (Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor): that the apologies, be noted .
2. WELCOME	The Chancellor welcomed Mr Tom Irvine, as the Māori representative to Council.	
3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS	<p>3.1 Council Interest Register for 2026 – members are asked to advise Wendy (w.verschieren@auckland.ac.nz), as soon as possible when changes are required.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All Council members declared their conflicts of interest regarding the Council fees item in Part B, agenda item 7. It was agreed that these declared conflicts would not preclude the members participating in the discussions and voting.</p> <p>No further disclosures were made.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Professor Tolmie): that the Council Interest Register for 2026 be received and the action taken regarding item 7 in Part B be endorsed.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>

<p>4. HONOURS/AWARDS-NEW YEAR HONOURS</p>	<p>The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor have sent congratulatory letters to those persons with links to the University.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Mr Mason): 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> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
<p>5. COUNCIL MEETINGS</p>	<p>5.1 Council, Draft Minutes (Part A), 10.12.2025</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Pahina): that the Minutes (Part A), 10.12.2025 be taken as read and confirmed.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
	<p>5.2 Special Council Meeting, Minutes (Part A), 20.02.2026</p> <p>The draft minutes of the Special Council meeting of 20.02.2026 were not available for this meeting and will be presented for adoption at the next meeting.</p>	
	<p>5.3 Matters arising from the Minutes (Part A), 10.12.2025 and special meeting 20.02.2026 not elsewhere on the Agenda</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>6. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>The Report was taken as read.</p> <p>The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Freshwater, presented this item.</p> <p>She provided the following supplementary information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The University's strong enrolment outcomes for the year were highlighted, noting that these reflect sustained, strategic effort over a number of years. While enrolment growth is contributing positively to the University, continued focus is required to support the maintenance of academic quality and the student experience as scale increases. 	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Mr Ricketts): that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be noted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of active management of Size, Shape and Composition was emphasised, particularly in relation to discipline-level capacity, staffing, workload pressures, and the ability of services and facilities to support a larger student cohort. Deans and academic leaders are engaged in this work. • Early indications point to a positive outcome in the forthcoming QS World University Rankings by Subject, with results expected to reflect the University's established areas of global strength. • National reforms to intellectual property settings and the research system were noted as ongoing, with associated implications for institutional policy settings. Eligibility for the future Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF) will require universities to apply the national intellectual property policy across all research activity, and developments are being monitored closely. • An update was provided on the external funding environment, including correspondence from the TEC relating to planning for 2027. This indicated future funding constraints, including implications for research funding, discipline prioritisation aligned to national priorities, and learner success, and reinforced the need for the University to continue making deliberate choices about its academic and research portfolio while balancing comprehensiveness. • Developments within Universities New Zealand were noted, including structural changes arising from a consultation process and their implications for sector-level coordination and support. The University continues to engage actively in national processes while reviewing its ongoing commitments. <p>Council also discussed the Finance ERP Modernisation project, noting the value of drawing on independent perspectives for quality assurance and advisory support, as well as lessons from previous large-scale programmes, particularly Hono, as planning progresses.</p>	
<p>7. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES</p>	<p>7.1 FINANCE COMMITTEE</p> <p>7.1.1 Minutes, (Part A), 26.02.2026</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Skipper): that the Finance Committee Minutes (Part A) 26.02.2026 be received.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>

	<p>7.1.2 Terms of Reference</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Dugar): that the amended terms of reference be adopted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
	<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>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Mr Irvine): that the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes (Part A) 03.03.2026 be received.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p> <p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Quinn): that the amended terms of reference be adopted, replacing "ensuring" with "having", such that the risk-management clause reads:</p> <p>The Committee is responsible for confirming the University Risk Appetite, monitoring the management of all material business risks and having appropriate procedures in place to mitigate or manage those risks.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
	<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>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Mr McDonald): that the Capital Expenditure Committee Minutes (Part A) 05.03.2026 be received.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p> <p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Vice-Chancellor): that the amended terms of reference be adopted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>

	<p>7.4 STUDENT APPEALS COMMITTEE</p> <p>7.4.1 Report for 2025</p> <p>Council noted two minor amendments to the report: that the first reference to 13 cases should read 14 cases, and that the name “Julia Arnott-Neenee” should be updated to “Julia Pahina”.</p> <p>Council expressed its appreciation to the Council members of the Student Appeals Committee, acknowledging their contribution.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Mr Mason): that the 2025 Student Appeals Committee Report be received as edited.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
	<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>Council noted the updated honorary doctorate framework, which provides flexibility and enables more appropriately aligned honorary degrees, as well as the addition of an eligibility criterion for exceptionally distinguished service.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Professor Tolmie): 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 <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
<p>8. SENATE MATTERS</p>	<p>8.1 REPORT OF SENATE MEETING 23.02.2026</p> <p>Part A1, a-b: 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 : Item to note by Council</p> <p>Part C, 1-3 : Matters handled under Delegated Authority</p> <p>Council noted the update from Senate on proposed changes to the University’s suite of health-related programmes and associated admissions settings, including the adoption of a consistent rank score of 200 across the BBiomedSc, BHSc, and specified BSc health majors, as outlined in the Senate materials. The overall intent is to provide clearer and more coherent pathways into the clinical programmes, recognising the curriculum redevelopment supporting these proposals. Rank scores, while informative, do not always strongly predict student performance across cohorts, and a more unified approach was presented as a pragmatic way to support consistency across the health pathways.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Quinn): that the recommendations in Part A of the Report of Senate, 23.02.2026 be adopted and Part B and C be noted.</p> <p>Each of the matters in the motion was carried unanimously, apart from Part A2, item 3: Matters requiring Council approval, with Ms Skipper voting against.</p>

	<p>In the course of discussion, Council observed that the revised approach involves recalibrating rank scores across programmes—lifting requirements in some areas and easing them in others—to support a more balanced and coordinated entry profile. This work forms part of a two-year comprehensive review and reflects common international practice, with ongoing monitoring of enrolment patterns expected to guide future adjustments as needed.</p> <p>Council also noted broader comments on enrolment management and programme capacity, with reference to the ongoing Size, Shape and Composition discussion and the need for flexibility in how the University responds to growth across disciplines. Future adjustments may involve the use of various levers to help manage demand in a sustainable manner, alongside operational considerations such as staffing, timetabling, and the balance between on-campus and flexible delivery. While the discussion was generally supportive of the proposed direction, Council also noted views reflecting some concern about potential enrolment volatility and the degree to which the University can moderate demand within current entry-setting arrangements, noting that the proposal reflected a pragmatic balance of the various considerations involved.</p>	
<p>9. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>10. OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING</p>	<p>10.1 SEAL</p> <p>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:</p> <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 	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Dugar): that the affixing of the seal to the listed document be noted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>

	<p>for Business Innovation and Employment and Chief Executive Te Tumu Whakarae mō Hīkina Whakatutuki</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 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>Council recorded its appreciation to Ms Quinn for her valuable contribution during her tenure as Pro Chancellor, and congratulated Mr McDonald as he assumes the role.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Quinn): that the Council approve the appointment of Mr McDonald as Pro-Chancellor for the period 17.03.2026 to 31.12.2026, in place of the predecessor, Ms Quinn, in accordance with Schedule 11, clause 15 of the Education and Training Act 2020.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
12. GENERAL BUSINESS	None	
13. FAREWELL		<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Mr McDonald): that Council thank the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dawn Freshwater, for her contribution to the work of Council.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
14. LEAVE OF ABSENCE	<p>(for the meeting of 29.04.2026)</p> <p>No requests for leave were received. The Chancellor asked that if other members could not attend or not attend in person to let the Secretary of Council know and copy the Chancellor in.</p>	

	On a separate note, Council noted that, this being Professor Freshwater's final Council meeting, Professor Bloomfield will act as Vice-Chancellor and will present the Vice-Chancellor's report at the next meeting.
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PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS

RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Pahina): 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 Cattanach, Julian Michael, Simon Neale, 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 meeting closed at 5.55pm

The meeting went into Public Excluded session at 5.10pm

Approved as a true and correct record.

Cecilia Tarrant, Chancellor

Date