

**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	7.1	<p>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	9.1	<p>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>
	9.2	<p>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 SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES STATUTE N2025 - DELEGATIONS</p> <p>9.3.1 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>
12 LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Ms Kinser requested leave of absence for the meeting of 16.03.2026

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 Cattanach, 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