Council Minutes Part A
in(Open Minutes)
10.06.2026
Council Room – Level 2 ClockTower, Princes Street 22, Auckland
4:15 pm

Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland

PRESENT:	Ms Tarrant (Chair), Professor Bloomfield F (Interim Vice-Chancellor), Mr Mason, Mr McDonald, Ms Pahina, Ms Skipper, Mr Ricketts, Mr Irvine, Ms Dugar and online Ms Quinn	
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr Gregory, Professors Young and Stinear, Mr Scott, Mr Bluett, Ms Catanach, Mr Greenbrook-Held, Mr Brandon, Ms Verschaeren	
KARAKIA	The meeting started with a karakia.	
1. APOLOGIES	Professor Tolmie and Ms Kinser. The latter had requested leave of absence from Council starting 31 May 2026 due to her standing for Parliament as the next election as the National party candidate for Auckland Central.	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Interim Vice-Chancellor) that the apologies, be **noted**.
2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS	2.1 Council Interest Register for 2026 – members are asked to advise Wendy (w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz), as soon as possible when changes are required. 2.2 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. No further disclosures were made.	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Ms Skipper) that the Council Interest Register for 2026 be **received**. **The motion was CARRIED unanimously.**
3. CONFERMENT OF DEGREES	With the authority of Council, the Chancellor **conferred** the degrees as per the attached list.	
4. AWARD OF DIPLOMAS	With the authority of Council, the Chancellor **awarded** the diplomas as per the attached list.	
5. HONOURS/AWARDS	The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor will send congratulatory letters to those persons with links to the University.	

6. COUNCIL MEETINGS	6.1 **Council, Draft Minutes (Part A), 29.04.2026**	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Mr McDonald): that the Minutes (Part A), 29.04.2026 be taken as **read** and **confirmed.** **The motion was CARRIED unanimously.**
	6.2 **Matters arising from the Minutes (Part A), 29.04.2026 not elsewhere on the Agenda** None.	
7. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT	The Report was taken as read. The Interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bloomfield, presented this item. He advised Council of recent Government budget announcements relevant to the University and the wider sector. Key updates included changes to funding settings. Council noted policy developments relating to international doctoral students, including the capping of domestic-level funding and indications that future fees for international PhD students may move to international rates. The potential implications for revenue, student demand, and the University's research workforce were acknowledged, and Council noted that the University was engaging with the Government and sector partners on these matters. Council was informed of proposed changes to donor tax credit settings, including the introduction of caps on individual tax rebates, and the potential uncertainty regarding the impact on philanthropic giving. An update was provided on changes to the Performance-Based Research Fund, now to be called the Tertiary Research Excellence Fund, including a shift towards more metrics-based evaluation, and it was noted that these changes were expected to be broadly beneficial to the University. Council discussed aspects of the report, including clarification of data presentation, progress on major projects, and financial implications arising from funding changes. It was noted that work was underway to	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Mr Mason): that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be **noted**. **The motion was CARRIED unanimously.**

	gather evidence to support sector advocacy, particularly in relation to international doctoral provision.	
8. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES	8.1 **FINANCE COMMITTEE** 8.1.1 **Minutes, (Part A), 18.05.2026**	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/ Ms Dugar): that the Finance Committee Minutes (Part A) 18.05.2026 be **received**.
	8.2 **AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE** 8.2.1 **Minutes, (Part A), 21.05.2026**	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/ Mr Irvine): that the Audit and Risk Committee Minutes (Part A) 21.05.2026 be **received**.
	8.3 **UNIVERSITY EQUITY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE (UELC)** 8.3.1 **June 2026 Report** Council was informed that UELC had not formally considered recent public commentary relating to transgender people. However, it was noted that members of the Committee and relevant networks had engaged informally and that the University had communicated directly with the University's student and staff Rainbow Community to reaffirm its support. The University's approach had been to prioritise support for its communities rather than issuing a public statement which was consistent with the University Statement on Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression. Council was also informed that workshops were being provided to support staff and students to make submissions and exercise their rights to freedom of expression.	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/ Ms Skipper): that the Equity Leadership Report – June 2026 be **received.**
9. SENATE MATTERS	9.1 **REPORT OF SENATE MEETING 25.05.2026** Part A1, a-b: Policy and other matters requiring to be considered/received by Council Part A2,1: Matters requiring Council approval Part B, 1-6: Items to note by Council Part C, 1-2: Matters handled under Delegated Authority	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Ms Pahina) that the recommendations in Part A of the Report of Senate, 25.05.2026 be **adopted** and Part B and C be **noted.**

	This item was presented by the Interim Vice-Chancellor who advised Council of the progress on the development of Signature Research Areas (SRAs), including the completion of a comprehensive consultation and analysis process. The SRAs will provide a framework to articulate research strengths and guide future investment without limiting existing research activity. It was emphasised that the SRAs did not constitute the creation of new research priorities, nor did they alter, direct or limit individual research activities. Rather, they provided a strategic framework to articulate and communicate (internally and externally) existing areas of strength and to guide investment decisions within the Internal Research Investment Portfolio. Faculties would continue to retain control over their own research development funds including on how they decide to set strategic imperatives for funds within their faculty. The University Research Committee has been updated on the SRAs on several occasions, noted in the minutes of that committee which are tabled at Senate. Feedback from Senate had highlighted that not all areas of research would be explicitly reflected within the SRAs; however, it was acknowledged that this was consistent with the intent of identifying a defined set of areas of distinction rather than representing the full breadth of research activity. After Senate, the SRAs were submitted for approval to the University Executive Committee (UEC) and, after endorsement, communicated to staff through the all-staff forum; they would be launched shortly. A communications and marketing plan was being developed to support the formal launch and external positioning of the SRAs. Further work was planned to develop implementation frameworks within each SRA, including academic led planning for future investment and development. Council also discussed aspects of health, safety and wellbeing, including evacuation procedures and planned improvements to emergency preparedness.	

10. CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR	10.1 Letter, 22.05.2026, from Hon Penny Simmonds	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Interim Vice-Chancellor that Council **note** the listed correspondence **The motion was CARRIED unanimously.**
11. OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING	11.1 **SEAL** Since the Council meeting on 29.04.2026 the seal has been applied to the following document in accordance with the Council resolution of 18.02.1991: • Deed of Renewal of Lease- 1- 11 Short Street, Auckland - Sunshine Capital Ltd (Landlord) & University of Auckland (Tenant)	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Ms Quinn) that the affixing of the seal to the listed document be **noted.** **The motion was CARRIED unanimously.**
	11.2 **RESCINDMENT** 11.2.1 **Memorandum, 25.05.2026 from the Graduation Office** regarding the rescindment of a degree and re-award with the First Class Honours milestone, as per the memorandum	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Mr McDonald) that **Council rescind** the Master of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Degree and **re-award it** with the First Class Honours milestone, as per the memorandum **The motion was CARRIED unanimously.**
	11.3 **UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND RESPONSE TO TEC DOCUMENT*: Research activities template for investment in 2027*** 11.3.1 Memorandum, 27.06.2026 from the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation regarding Research Activities for Investment in 2027. 11.3.2 University of Auckland response to Research activities template For Investment in 2027 11.3.3 TEC-Research-activities-template-investment-2027 Council noted that the document complemented the University's existing investment plan and had been developed within a constrained word limit. Feedback was provided that	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Mr Mason) that **Council:** • **Approve in principle** the response to the Research Activities for Investment in 2027 for submission to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC); • **Note** that TEC have issued a Supplementary Plan Guidance and Research Activities Template that responds to priorities signalled in the 23 May 2025, Government Budget, that were not available when the Plan documents were prepared for Council • **Delegate** to the Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and

	the document could be made clearer and more accessible in its presentation, including consideration of structure, readability, and the potential inclusion of a concise summary.	Chief Operating Officer approval to finalise and approve the final document for submission to TEC **The motion was CARRIED unanimously.**
12. ELECTIONS - APPOINTMENTS	None	
13. GENERAL BUSINESS	13.1 **COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES MEETING DATES 2027** **Council Meeting dates:** 10.03.27 – 21.04.27 – 09.06.27 – 16.08.27 – 20.10.27 – 06.12.27 **Finance Committee dates:** 22.02.27 – 13.05.27 – 02.08.27 – 22.09.27 – 19.11.27 **Audit and Risk Committee dates:** TBC **Capital Expenditure Committee dates:** 15.03.27 – 05.08.27 – 08.10.27 Potential conflicts with the above dates should be advised to the Secretary of Council.	**RESOLVED** (Chancellor/Ms Dugar) that Council **note** the Council and Committee Meeting dates for 2027 **The motion was CARRIED unanimously.**
14. LEAVE OF ABSENCE	(for the meeting of 24.08.2026) No leave of absence was requested The Chancellor asked that if members could not attend or not attend in person to let the Secretary of Council know and copy the Chancellor in.	

PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS

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

The general subject of each matter was considered while the public was 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 29.04.2026
Item No. 2.1.1	Finance Committee Minutes, 18.05.2026
Item No. 2.1.2	Financial Performance and forecast
Item No. 2.2.1	Audit and Risk Committee Minutes, 21.05.2026
Item No. 2.2.2	Pastoral Care Code of Practice 2025 Attestation Report
Item No. 2.3.1	Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee – Annual report
Item No. 2.4.1	University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee – Annual Report
Item No. 2.4.2	University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee - membership
Item No. 2.5.1	Animal Ethics Committee – membership

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 Holdaway, Tim Bluett, Gavin Scott, Helen Cattanach, Jeremy Greenbrook-Held, Anthony Brandon, and Wendy Verschaeren 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 5.30pm

The meeting went into Public Excluded session at 5.10pm

Approved as a true and correct record.

Cecilia Tarrant, Chancellor **Date**