

**Council Minutes Part A
in(Open Minutes)
29.04.2026
Council Room – Level 2 ClockTower, Princes Street 22, Auckland
4:00pm**



PRESENT:	Ms Tarrant (Chair), Professor Bloomfield F (Interim 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 Holdaway, Dr Lithander, Ms Catanach, Mr Greenbrook-Held, and Ms Verschaeren	
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 Professor Frank Bloomfield, Interim Vice-Chancellor, as member of Council.	
3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS	<p>3.1 Council Interest Register for 2026 – members are asked to advise Wendy (w.verschaeren@auckland.ac.nz), as soon as possible when changes are required.</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>No further disclosures were made.</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Interim Vice-Chancellor) that the Council Interest Register for 2026 be received.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
4. COUNCIL MEETINGS	4.1 Council, Draft Minutes (Part A), 16.03.2026; and	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Mr Mason): that the Minutes (Part A), 16.03.2026 and special meeting, 20.02.2026 be taken as read and confirmed.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>

	<p>4.2 Special Council Meeting, Minutes (Part A), 20.02.2026</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Dugar): that the Minutes (Part A), of the special meeting, 20.02.2026 be taken as read and confirmed.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
	<p>4.3 Matters arising from the Minutes (Part A), 16.03.2026 and special meeting 20.02.2026 not elsewhere on the Agenda</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>5. VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT</p>	<p>The Report was taken as read.</p> <p>The Interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bloomfield, presented this item.</p> <p>He advised Council of significant developments in the external research funding environment, including proposed changes to the national research funding system and the establishment of Research Funding New Zealand, a new body to allocate research funding across multiple funding streams. Indicative sector analysis suggested a material reduction in funding to universities as a result of these changes, with a substantial impact anticipated for this University.</p> <p>The implications of this funding environment for institutional strategy were noted, including the increased importance of diversifying funding sources.</p> <p>Council was informed of progress in the development of the University's proposed signature research areas. It was noted that these had been developed over an extended period through a comprehensive and rigorous process involving data analysis and engagement with staff at the University and LSRI's, including focus groups. The proposals related to the signature areas would progress to Senate via Research Committee.</p> <p>In the discussion that followed, Council was advised that the proposals were intended to provide a strategic framework for prioritising research investment, while preserving full academic freedom for individual researchers. The proposed signature research areas would be considered through the University's academic governance</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Mr Irvine): that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be noted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>

	<p>processes, including Senate, and Council would have visibility of the outcomes through the Senate Report.</p> <p>Council discussed the purpose and scope of the proposed signature research areas and was advised that they were designed to be sufficiently focused to enable strategic investment and a compelling external narrative around the University's research strengths, while remaining broad enough to support transdisciplinary research across the University.</p> <p>The framework was intended to enhance institutional agility by enabling investment to respond to emerging priorities, rather than constraining research activity. It was noted that there had been extensive opportunities for academic input into the development of the proposals.</p> <p>Council was advised of progress of the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technology (NZIAT) bidding process relating to the establishment of an artificial intelligence research platform. It was noted that a proposal had been submitted and interviews had been completed, with outcomes expected shortly.</p> <p>Institutional guidance and adoption plans had been developed to support the appropriate use of artificial intelligence across key portfolios. Training and support initiatives for staff were being implemented, and the use of artificial intelligence was being promoted rather than mandated.</p>	
<p>6. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>7. SENATE MATTERS</p>	<p>7.1 REPORT OF SENATE MEETING 13.04.2026</p> <p>Part A1 : Policy and other matters requiring to be considered/received by Council - None</p> <p>Part A2,1-4: Matters requiring Council approval</p> <p>Part B, 1: Item to note by Council</p> <p>Part C, 1-2: Matters handled under Delegated Authority</p>	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Ms Pahina): that the recommendations in Part A of the Report of Senate, 13.04.2026 be adopted and Part B and C be noted.</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 16.03.2026 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 Accession – Admission of Wide Bay Hospital Service to the existing Collaboration Agreement 24.1.25 – University of Auckland, Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, Austin Health and Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service (the Parties to the Deed) • Deed of Rent Review – 6 Osterley Way, Manukau - Takahe Properties Ltd (the Landlord) and The University of Auckland (the Tenant) 	<p>RESOLVED (Chancellor/Mr Irvine): that the affixing of the seal to the listed document be noted.</p> <p>The motion was CARRIED unanimously.</p>
10. ELECTIONS - APPOINTMENTS	None	
11. GENERAL BUSINESS	None	
12. LEAVE OF ABSENCE	<p>(for the meeting of 10.06.2026)</p> <p>Professor Tolmie and Ms Quinn advised Council that they would be attending remotely.</p> <p>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>	

PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS

RESOLVED (Chancellor/ Ms Skipper): 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 16.03.2026
Item No. 1.2	Special Council Meeting Minutes Part B 20.02.2026
Item No. 2.1.1	Biological Safety Committee – membership
Item No. 2.2.1	Animal Ethics Committee – membership
Item No. 3	Correspondence referred by the Chancellor
Item No. 4.1	Student Enrolments - 2026 Early Outlook
Item No. 4.2	Memorandum regarding Esquires Bedell
Item No. 4.3	Appointment of a University of Auckland Trustee

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, Professor Holdaway, Dr Lithander, Tim Bluett, Helen Cattanach, Jeremy Greenbrook-Held, 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 5.15pm

The meeting went into Public Excluded session at 4.25pm

Approved as a true and correct record.