

Reasons Your Executive are recommending the University of Auckland Society be Dissolved

1. When the Alumni Association was established in 1989 it was the principal body providing services for University of Auckland Alumni. Since then the University department, Alumni Relations, has been established and has steadily provided more extensive and professional services for Alumni in all areas of activity previously undertaken by the Alumni Association and then the University of Auckland Society.
2. We conducted a survey of all of our 302 members contactable by email and 62 responded. We found their six most important ways on engaging with the University in order of priority were:
 1. Attending events such as Golden Graduates, Raising the Bar, and Distinguished Alumni Awards
 2. Reading the Ingenio magazine
 3. Reading the Society e-newsletter
 4. Reading the @auckland newsletter
 5. Connecting with fellow alumni
 6. Attending Public Programmes and Courses, particularly through Continuing Education

Very little of this activity is carried out by the Society itself. We found just 8 people in the survey who only took part in activities organised by the Society. We rang them and others and most of them could not really distinguish the Society's activities from those of Alumni Relations and other parts of the University.

3. When the Alumni Association was established in 1989 an Education Amendment Bill before Parliament proposed drastic changes to the Governance, Autonomy and Role of Universities. Then, and since, a number of the members, most active in the Association and then the Society, were particularly keen that the organisation have a key role in defending academic freedom, the role of critic and conscience of society and university autonomy. People still care about these issues but they are mainly active as individuals or through the faculties with which they identify.
4. Recent changes to the Charities and Incorporated Societies legislation make it much more difficult for a society to continue to operate in a low-key way.
5. Your executive engaged in a number of working meetings with a group of formerly active members who approached us to help and who were keen to find a way for the Society to reinvigorate itself and continue effectively and sustainably. After a number of searching discussions, research about universities overseas, and analysis, we came to a consensus that there was no longer a significant role the Society could play. To the extent there was a continuing role for an organisation of Alumni, this would be better carried out by establishing an Alumni Advisory Group.
6. We recommend strongly to the University that it establish an Alumni Advisory group to carry out any significant roles that could benefit the University and its Alumni, in particular advocacy, advice and support for the University.

Richard Northey , President
26 September 2023