

THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
TE WHARE WĀNANGA O WAIKATO

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2024

Present: Professor A Jones (Chair), Dr A Alvarez-Jimenez, Associate Professor K Barbour, Professor M Barbour, Ms M Blake, Associate Professor T Bowell, Associate Professor J Bowen, Professor K Bryan, Professor B Cowie, Professor T Daya-Winterbottom, Associate Professor S Dillon, Dr D Forbes, Associate Professor W Fox-Turnbull, Professor M Garry, Associate Professor K Hébert-Losier, Professor G Holmes, Professor M Holmes, M Jordan-Tong, Dr J Kingsbury, Professor J Lane, Professor P Leman, Mr G Liu, Associate Professor M Low, Mr M Memon, Associate Professor J Mullarney, Professor M Parsons, Dr S Peel, Professor S Peters, Associate Professor K Petrie, Prof V Reid, Professor T Rewi, Professor A Roy, Mr T Smith, Professor A Strutt, Dr S Tiakiwai and Professor G Wilson.

In attendance: Mrs R Alexander, Mr B McGibbon

Secretariat: Mr T O'Brien, Ms A Beardsmore

24.22 APOLOGIES

Received

Apologies for absence from Professor M Berryman, Mr M Bolger, Ms J Champion, Professor M Duke, Dr K Edmonds, Dr K Hemi, Professor A Hinze, Professor M Harcourt, Mr Z Isaac, Associate Professor T Keegan, Dr F McCormack, Professor C McLachlan, Mr N Moeono, Professor N Quigley, Professor F Scrimgeour, Professor N Starkey and Mr F Yazici.

24.23 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING (PART 1) HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2024

Confirmed

The minutes of the meeting (Part 1) held on 26 February 2024, as set out in document 24/146a.

24.24 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 1)

Received

The report of the Vice-Chancellor (Part 1), as set out in document 24/147a.

24.25 REPORT OF COUNCIL

Received

1. The report of the 27 February 2024 meeting of Council, as set out in document 24/148.

2. An oral report from the elected staff member to Council.

Noted in discussion

That the Council meeting on 16 April 2024 had focused on the development of the University's strategy and a review of the University's Vision statement. This work would continue at the June meeting of Council.

24.26 REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Received

The report of the Education Committee meeting held on 9 April 2024, as set out in document 24/149.

24.27 REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Received

The report of the Research Committee meeting held on 27 March 2024, as set out in document 24/150.

Noted in discussion

1. That Associate Professor Michael Mucalo would be acting Dean Te Mata Kairangi School of Graduate Research, until a replacement could be appointed.
2. That, whilst the 2026 PBRF round had been cancelled, there would still be an assessment process at some stage. The format of this was not known however, in the meantime, it would still be important for researchers to continue to collect research evidence and build their research evidence portfolios. Work was being done to investigate whether IRIS could be utilised more fully to maintain evidence portfolios.
3. That the Smart Ideas application process would now only consist of one step, and each organisation would have a quota of applications that they could submit. There would be a limit of 150 applications across New Zealand (NZ) and only 50 of these would be funded. As a consequence, the University would need to implement an internal process for determining which proposals should be submitted.
4. That there would be increasing pressures on available research funding within NZ, however, there were opportunities to target the very large pool of funding available through Horizons Europe. Recruitment was underway for a research developer to help with understanding the various requests for proposals required for Horizon Europe applications.

24.28 REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONAL BOARDS

Received

The reports of the Divisional Board meetings held on 19 – 23 February 2024, as set out in documents 24/151 - 24/154.

24.29 REPORT OF THE PACIFIC STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

Received

The report of the Pacific Strategic Committee meeting held on 29 February 2024, as set out in document 24/155.

24.30 REPORT OF THE MĀORI ACADEMIC BOARD OF STUDIES

Received

The report of the Māori Academic Board of Studies meeting held on 28 February 2024, as set out in document 24/156.

24.31 ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENTS 2024

Received

The current list of Academic Development proposals and reviewers for 2024, as set out in document 23/269 (revised 16 April 2024).

Reported

That the Business Units involved in the Academic and Business Case process had been sent the final proposals for review; no feedback was received.

Resolved

1. To approve the following Round Two 2024, Category 1-5 proposals:
 - a. Addition of 'Structural Engineering' and 'Geotechnical Engineering' as endorsements to the Master of Engineering, as set out in document 24/04a.
 - b. Introduction of a Graduate Diploma in Engineering Management, as set out in document 24/04b.
2. To approve the following Round Two 2024, Category 6-9 proposals:
 - a. Amendment to the requirements for the Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood), as set out in document 24/05a.
 - b. Amendment to the regulations for the Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Accounting, as set out in document 24/05b.

24.32 CATEGORY C AND DELETION PROPOSALS

Received

The list of Category C proposals signalled to date for 2024, as set out in document 24/01 (revised 9 April 2024).

Resolved

1. To approve the six Category C proposals signalled to date for 2024, as set out in documents 24/60a-b and d-g.
2. To approve the two Deletion proposals, as set out in documents 24/65a-b.

24.33 TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT DRAFTING PRINCIPLES – PROPOSED REVISIONS

Reported

1. That the Academic Office has reviewed the principles that guide the development of the University's teaching and assessment dates and have identified some proposed amendments to the Drafting Principles, and the Personal Programmes of Study Regulations.
2. That the feedback received from committees, and a response to this feedback, is set out in Appendices 3 and 4 of attached document 24/44. The Personal Programmes of Study Regulations (Appendix 2) have been revised accordingly.

Noted in discussion

1. That the proposed changes reflected the teaching and assessment date arrangements that had been approved by Academic Board over the last few years. One of the key changes proposed was the establishment of a defined workload of 15 points for teaching periods G and H. However, flexibility had been incorporated to ensure that exceptions could be made to this, where appropriate.
2. That future iterations of the Teaching and Assessment dates would include a schedule of key cultural and religious events to help with planning teaching and assessment activities.

Resolved

1. To approve the proposed amendments to the Teaching and Assessment Drafting Principles, as set out in Appendix 1 of document 24/44.
2. To approve the proposed amendments to the Personal Programmes of Study Regulations, as set out in Appendix 2 of document 24/44 (revised 19 March 2024).

24.34 AMENDMENTS TO ACADEMIC BOARD CONSTITUTION

Recommended

That Council approve the amendments to the constitution of the Academic Board, as set out in document 24/157.

24.35 ANNUAL REPORTS

Received

1. The 2023 annual report of the Scholarships Executive, as set out in document 24/81.
2. The 2023 annual report of the Student Discipline Committee, as set out in document 24/120.

24.36 EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

Reported

That the Chair of the Academic Board had executively approved the extension of Dr Rob Torrens' term on the Student Discipline Committee for a further three years.

24.37 GENERAL

Noted in discussion

1. That outgoing Board member, Professor Karin Bryan, had been thanked for her contribution to the Board.
2. That Professor Sir Peter Gluckman, who was currently undertaking University and Research sector reviews, would be holding meeting for all University staff on Wednesday 1 May. Further details would be communicated shortly.
3. That the University was required to submit the 2025-2027 Investment Plan to the Tertiary Education Commission by 4 July 2024. Consultation with the Board on the draft Investment Plan would be undertaken, out of session, in June 2024.

24.38 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported

That the next meeting of the Academic Board would be held on Thursday 25 July 2024 at 2.10pm.

PROCEEDINGS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Resolved

That the public be excluded from this meeting to allow consideration of the following items:

1. Minutes (Part 2) of the Academic Board meeting of 26 February 2024
2. Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Part 2)
3. Honorary Award

The interests protected under the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 and/or the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the public conduct of these proceedings were:

Items 1 affected material previously dealt with in a meeting from which the public was excluded.

Items 2 affected the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage and to protect the commercial interests of the University.

Item 3 affected the privacy of natural persons.

Tim O'Brien

Alison Beardsmore

Academic Office