



REPORT OF COUNCIL

The following is a report of the Council meeting held on 27 June 2017.

KARAKIA

The meeting was opened with a karakia by Mr Richard Jefferies.

PRESENTATION BY A DELEGATION FROM THE 'SAVE THE WAIKATO CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC' GROUP

A delegation from the 'Save the Waikato Conservatorium of Music' group attended the Council meeting for this item.

1. Council received a presentation from Mr Jamie Strange, spokesperson for the 'Save the Conservatorium of Music' group, from which it was noted that:
 - a. the group was concerned that any changes to the staffing of the University's music programme had the potential to end the University's music programme overall and the University's interaction with the community through performances by its students and staff
 - b. the group had been disappointed by comments made in the media by the Vice-Chancellor with respect to students, the community supporters of the University music programme and the staff of the programme
 - c. the group felt that the output of the conservatorium had been understated in the documentation released by the Vice-Chancellor and that previous suggestions by staff intended to increase enrolments in the music programme had been ignored by University management; it was further claimed that the staff had been unaware of the alleged financial problems and need to increase enrolments
 - d. the group felt that the restructuring undertaken by the Vice-Chancellor since his appointment had created a culture of fear and uncertainty among staff and students
 - e. the group felt that the University should make additional investment in the conservatorium with a view to increasing its financial sustainability over the longer term
 - f. the group requested a full external audit of the University's music programme by an independent auditor and a moratorium on staff changes until such an audit had been conducted
 - g. the group pledged its support for the Conservatorium and was committed to finding a way forward in partnership with the University.
2. The Chancellor noted that the Vice-Chancellor had been denigrated in some of the correspondence received from the group and that this was unacceptable; Mr Strange accepted that language used in some correspondence had been inappropriate and apologised on behalf of the group.
3. The following additional claims were put forward by members of the 'Save the Conservatorium of Music' group in support of their position:
 - a. that staff from Music had been involved in teaching of the Bachelor of Media and Creative Technologies and this had not been recognised in the financial information released by the Vice-Chancellor.
 - b. that initiatives put forward by staff in Music had not been supported by management and the programme had received no assistance from the University's marketing department.
 - c. that staff were committed to increasing numbers and had a number of plans under development that would deliver increased enrolments in the future.
4. The Vice-Chancellor noted that there had been a number of reviews of the Music programme undertaken over the past 15 years; each review had included financial information and had recommended increased enrolments and the establishment of larger courses to cross-subsidise the performance programme - in each case the staff of Music had undertaken to make changes and introduce large courses but the required increases in student numbers had not occurred.

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was recorded from Mr Ian Fitzgerald.

WELCOME

Council extended a welcome to new Council members Ms Margaret Devlin and Mr Graeme Milne, both of whom had been recently appointed to the Council by the Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment.

REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Council confirmed a register of its members' declared interests.

MINUTES

Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2017 (Part 1).

REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 1)

Council received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor.

THANKS TO COUNCIL

Council received a letter from the family of student Mitchell Dillon that thanked the University for its posthumous award of a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours to Mitchell at a University graduation ceremony on 3 May 2017.

INTERESTS (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST) POLICY

Council resolved to approve a new Interests (Conflicts of Interest) Policy in accordance with a recommendation from the Audit and Risk Committee.

2018 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Council considered proposed 2018 meeting dates for Council and its committees.

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HONOURS COMMITTEE

Council received the 2015-2016 annual report of the Honours Committee.

CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND AWARD OF DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

Council resolved to confer a number of degrees and award a number of diplomas and certificates. The conferments and awards related to those students who had applied to have their qualifications conferred or awarded in absentia.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council would be held on Tuesday 22 August 2017 from 10.30am in the Council Room.

PUBLIC EXCLUSION

The public was excluded from Part 2 of the Council meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 MAY 2017 (PART 2)

Council confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2017 (Part 2).

REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 2)

1. Council received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor.
2. Council received a further oral report from the Vice-Chancellor with respect to:
 - a. EFTS achievement to date
 - b. Tainui Land Lease negotiations
 - c. Rental of campus space to the NZ Police
 - d. the Graduate Entry Medical School

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Council received a Health and Safety Report.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Council received a report of the Audit and Risk Committee meeting held on 26 May 2017.

2018 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TUITION FEES

Council resolved to approve increases to 2018 University of Waikato international student tuition fees following consideration of a detailed recommendation from the Chief Financial Officer and the Director of International.

DVC PORTFOLIO UPDATES

Council received portfolio updates from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research.

COUNCIL STRATEGY SESSION

Council resolved to hold a second 2017 Council strategy session on Monday 9 October 2017.

PROVISION OF SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

1. Council received a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic, Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori and Assistant Vice-Chancellor Students and Information Services with respect to the scope and nature of the student support services currently offered by the University of Waikato.
2. It was noted that while the paper provided information about centrally provided services, additional support was provided through the faculties.

CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

1. Council considered a draft Code of Student Conduct; the Code was intended to provide clarity to students around the University's expectations with respect to their behaviour.
2. Consultation on the draft Code with students would be undertaken in conjunction with the Waikato Students' Union.
3. Council supported the development of a Code of Student Conduct.

GRADUATE ENTRY MEDICAL SCHOOL

Council received a copy of the revised business case for a Graduate Entry Medical School that had been submitted to Government on 31 May 2017.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES CHANGE PROPOSAL

Council received the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences change proposal that had been approved by the Vice-Chancellor following consultation with the Academic Board; the final proposal had excluded changes to the Music programme.

CONSULTATION PAPER FOR MUSIC PROGRAMME

1. Council received a copy of additional financial information with respect to the University's Music programme that had been made publicly available by the Vice-Chancellor in response to claims made through consultation feedback.
2. As recorded under the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Change Proposal item, Council noted that changes to the Music programme had been excluded from that change proposal and a further round of consultation would be undertaken around Music prior to the development of any further change proposal.

QS RANKINGS

Council received a fact file and analysis of the University's performance in the 2017/2018 QS Rankings exercise.

COUNCIL EVALUATION

Council received a presentation from Propero who had been contracted to undertake an evaluation programme with Council members.

TAURANGA CBD CAMPUS PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

1. Council received a progress report on the Tauranga CBD Campus project.
2. Council received a further oral report from the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor from which it was noted that the construction contract for the Tauranga CBD Campus had been let to Hawkins Construction following a competitive tender process.

TE AKA MĀNEA – STUDENT LEARNING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

Council received a progress report on Te Aka Mānea – the Student Learning and Management System Project.

REPORTING FROM COUNCIL

Council resolved to approve a recommendation with respect to more transparent public reporting from Council.

GOVERNMENT BUDGET 2017/2018

Council received a report on funding implications for tertiary education of the 2017/2018 Government Budget.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

Council received the draft minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 13 June 2017.

REPORT OF THE HONOURS COMMITTEE

Council resolved to approve the award of an honorary doctorate of the University of Waikato in accordance with a recommendation by the Honours Committee.

Brandon McGibbon
Secretary to Council