

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO  
TE WHARE WĀNANGA O WAIKATO**

**ACADEMIC BOARD**

Minutes (Part 1) of the meeting held on 24 February 2026

**Present:** Professor N Quigley (Chair), Professor C Akroyd, Dr A Alvarez-Jimenez, Ms E Barber, Professor M Barbour, Ms M Blake, Ms E Broadley, Professor L Burrows, Ms J Campion, Dr B Dean, Dr K Edmonds, Dr L Gurney, Associate Professor K Hébert-Losier, Dr K Hemi, Dr W Jennings, Professor A Jones, Associate Professor T Karaka-Clarke, Associate Professor J Kingsbury, Dr V Kumar, Professor J Lane, Professor R Lawrenson, Mr S Lohrey, Professor B Masters-Awatere, Ms T P Maurirere, Professor C McLachlan, Professor J Milam, Associate Professor N Munn, Dr E Nicholson, Professor S Peters, Ms R Pittwood, Professor M Prinsep, Professor V Reid, Mr W Roberts, Professor S Serrao-Neumann, Professor J Shahzad, Professor T Smith, Dr R Sosa, Ms A Stephenson, Associate Professor H Tupaupiki, Professor G Wilson, Professor F Yang, and Associate Professor K Zegwaard.

**In attendance:** Mr B McGibbon, Mr K Holdsworth

**Secretariat:** Mr T O'Brien, Ms A Beardsmore

**26.01 APOLOGIES**

**Received**

Apologies for absence from Dr C Ackermann, Prof M Berryman, Professor R Braund, Associate Professor H Crocket, Prof C Eames, Professor A Hinze, Associate Professor L James, Professor J Koh, Professor F Scrimgeour, Dr A Stewart, and Dr S Tiakiwai.

**26.02 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING (PART 1) HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2025**

**Confirmed**

The minutes of the meeting (Part 1) held on 3 December 2025, as set out in document 26/50a.

**26.03 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 1)**

**Received**

The report of the Vice-Chancellor (Part 1), as set out in document 26/51a.

**26.04 REPORT FROM STUDENT MEMBERS**

**Noted in discussion**

1. That the Waikato Students' Union were in the process of hiring a support manager.
2. That Orientation Week was underway this week with the current focus on having an enjoyable time whilst keeping everyone safe.

3. That an academic committee was being stood up from divisional representatives.
4. That a second-hand store was being established to help support students which may include whiteware and electronic goods.

## **26.05 REPORT OF COUNCIL**

### **Received**

1. The report of the 9 December 2025 and 10 February 2026 meeting of Council, as set out in documents 26/52 and 26/53.
2. An oral report from the elected staff member to Council.

### **Noted in discussion**

1. That each Council member had been given a specific portfolio from across the University to report on according to an established schedule.
2. That the elected staff member on Council, Michelle Blake, would be providing an update to Council at every second meeting. Staff would have regular opportunities to share feedback to be brought to Council, and everyone was encouraged to participate in these.

## **26.06 REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE**

### **Received**

The report of the Research Committee meeting held on 4 February 2026, as set out in document 26/54.

### **Noted in discussion**

1. That Te Rautaki Rangahau, the University's Research Plan 2026-2030, had been approved by Council in December 2025, and thanks were conveyed to those who had contributed to this.
2. That the research landscape and the government's approach to research funding were undergoing substantial changes, with a shift towards purchasing outcomes rather than simply providing research funding. Decisions would increasingly be made by stakeholders focused on impact and by end users of research.
3. That there were plans over the next six months to develop divisional research plans, which it was recognised would differ from division to division, offer additional guidance on the Teaching Research Excellence Fund, and help researchers enhance their citation impact through support with post-publication planning.
4. That when divisions were recruiting academic staff they should take into account not only teaching requirements but also research strategy and the development of research capability.

## 26.07 REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### Received

The report of the Education Committee meeting held on 2 February 2026, as set out in document 26/55.

### Noted in discussion

1. That to support the development of a student-centred and more strategic timetable a Timetable Manager has been appointed. A steering group including divisional academic staff had been formed to support the timetabling project. Improved data collection tools would enable the University to take a more strategic approach to timetabling beyond simply scheduling lectures.
2. That the restructuring of the academic integrity process aligned to the work being developed around AI in teaching and learning. Guidelines have been generated following feedback. Changes also include an academic integrity tab in Moodle, a three-lane approach to communicate expectations to students, and a template to standardise declaration of AI use. There was an acknowledgement that the University can't "just say no" to the use of AI, instead there is a shift from policing to education. It is expected that where AI use is prohibited in assessment, that assessment would be designed to prevent misuse of AI.
3. That further work was underway to improve the Feasibility Reports for academic development proposals, aiming to provide better business insights, especially for new programmes. Although there was still some flexibility to launch programmes this year, the timeframe would be tighter. It was observed that certain developing programmes needed accreditation, which could only be pursued during specific periods. This should be considered for qualifications like the Master of Social Work.
4. That concerns were raised about limited resources from Te Puna Ako, with the Faculty of Law noting that many Paper Outlines had not been approved. There were also comments on issues and delays with Moodle and Paper Outlines. Ask Me Anything was discontinued as multiple sessions running each day with multiple staff was not an effective or efficient resource use. Individual appointments with Te Puna Ako staff remained available as needed and the demand was being actively monitored and reviewed. It was observed that reduced support from Te Puna Ako may increase workloads for other staff. More forward planning was required across a wide range of activities including timetabling, Moodle, and Paper Outline release so that issues could be resolved before students arrived.
5. That having data from the Student Discipline Committee reported by ethnicity would help the University ensure accountability and identify any potential disadvantages or over-representation for students. While careful data collection and interpretation were necessary, it was important to be able to address questions about Māori and Pacific learners with supporting data. This included being able to respond to external stakeholders and identify opportunities to produce better outcomes.

## **26.08 REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONAL BOARDS**

### **Received**

The reports of the Divisional Board meetings held on 24 – 28 November 2025, as set out in documents 26/56 - 26/60.

## **26.09 REPORT OF THE PACIFIC STRATEGIC COMMITTEE**

### **Received**

The report of the Pacific Strategic Committee meeting held on 8 December 2025, as set out in document 26/61.

## **26.10 REPORT OF THE MĀORI ACADEMIC BOARD OF STUDIES**

### **Received**

The report of the Māori Academic Board of Studies meeting held on 4 December 2025, as set out in document 26/62.

## **26.11 TAURANGA PLAN 2026-2030**

### **Reported**

1. That the draft Tauranga Plan 2026-2030 had been considered by the Divisional Boards, the Māori Academic Board of Studies, the Pacific Strategic Committee, Education Committee and the University of Waikato College.
2. That the plan has been updated in accordance with the feedback received. A copy of this feedback, and a response to it, is set out in Appendix 3 of document 25/504.

### **Noted in discussion**

1. That thanks were given to everyone who had provided feedback on the Tauranga Plan. This feedback had been reviewed and incorporated, as summarised in the cover memo.
2. That a condensed one-page version and key performance indicators would be developed from the Plan as Council had also expressed a strong interest in having measurable and tracked metrics.

### **Recommended**

That Council approve the Tauranga Plan 2026-2030, as set out in document 25/504 (revised 16 February 2026).

## **26.12 GUIDELINES FOR GEN AI IN POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES**

### **Reported**

1. That the guidelines were considered out of session by the Postgraduate Research Committee in January 2026, and the Research Committee, Divisional Boards, Māori Academic Board and the Pacific Strategic Committee in February 2026. They will be considered by the Education Committee in March 2026.

2. That the current version reflects the Research Committee's feedback; other committees' feedback will be included later.

**Considered**

Feedback and a recommendation to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research on the Guidelines for Generative Artificial Intelligence in Postgraduate Research Degrees, as set out in document 26/38 (revised 9 February 2026).

**Noted in discussion**

1. That workshops for supervisors and students would be provided to support the Guidelines for Gen AI in Postgraduate Research Degrees.
2. That, as students may collaborate with peers who are subject to different Gen AI policies or guidelines, they should be informed of the need to be aware of any differences or nuances in approach.
3. That there had been substantive feedback on the guidelines from several Boards and, therefore, the Guidelines would be revised and subsequently resubmitted to the Research Committee on 1 April 2026 for further consideration.
4. That members could send any additional feedback on the guidelines to Professor Nicholson.

**26.13 AMENDMENTS TO THE PACIFIC STRATEGIC COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION**

**Reported**

1. That, following the creation of several new roles for Pacific staff, and the identification of more permanent academic Pacific staff members, a further update of the Pacific Strategic Committee's constitution was required.
2. That these amendments had been supported by the Pacific Strategic Committee at their meeting on 17 February 2026.

**Resolved**

To approve the revisions to the Pacific Strategic Committee constitution, as set out in document 25/556.

**26.14 AMENDMENT TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD CONSTITUTION**

**Recommended**

That Council approve the revision to the Academic Board constitution to add the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee as an ex officio member, as set out in document 26/63.

**26.15 AMENDMENT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION**

**Reported**

That the amendment to the Education Committee constitution had been recommended to Academic Board by the Education Committee at their meeting on 2 February 2026.

**Resolved**

To approve the amendment to the Education Committee constitution to add the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee as an ex officio member, as set out in document 26/22.

**26.16 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Reported**

That the 2025 Annual Report of the Student Discipline Committee and Academic Integrity Committee had been considered by the Education Committee on 2 February 2026.

**Received**

The 2025 Annual Report of the Student Discipline Committee and Academic Integrity Committee, as set out in document 26/19.

**26.17 DELETION PROPOSAL**

**Reported**

That the Curriculum Committee had recommended the deletion proposal to Academic Board at their meeting on 20 January 2026.

**Resolved**

To approve the deletion proposal for multiple qualifications and subjects, as set out in document 25/454.

**26.18 GRADUATING YEAR REVIEWS**

**Reported**

That a list of GYRs due and pending, a copy of the GYR timeline, handbook and other relevant information was available on the [Academic Office webpage](#).

**Received**

The list of GYRs due in 2026, as set out in document 25/462.

**26.19 INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC AGREEMENTS**

**Reported**

1. That the Chair of the Education Committee had executively approved:
  - a. A Progression Agreement between Hanoi Law University and the Division of Arts, Law, Psychology and Social Science for the Master of Laws.
  - b. A Progression Agreement between Shanxi Agricultural University and the Division of STEM for the Master of Science majoring in Computer Science.
  - c. A Guaranteed Credit Agreement (GCA) between Shanxi Agricultural University and the Division of STEM for the Bachelor of Computer Science or the Bachelor of Science majoring in Computer Science.

- d. A GCA between Bennett University, India and the Division of STEM for the Bachelor of Computer Science or the Bachelor of Science majoring in Computer Science.
  - e. A GCA between Bennett University, India and the Division of Management for the Bachelor of Business.
2. That copies of these agreements would be made available on Raiser's Edge and MyWaikato, or by contacting the Partnerships team at [global@waikato.ac.nz](mailto:global@waikato.ac.nz).

## **26.20 DOMESTIC ACADEMIC AGREEMENTS**

### **Reported**

1. That, at their meeting on 2 February 2026, the Education Committee approved a domestic GCA between Cavalli College and the Division of Education for the Bachelor of Teaching (Early Childhood).
2. A copy of this agreement would be made available on the Academic Office Agreements [webpage](#).

## **26.21 OFFSHORE AGREEMENT**

### **Reported**

That the Universities New Zealand Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) Sub-committee on Offshore Programmes approved a proposal from the University of Waikato to offer the Bachelor of Business in Economics, Digital Business, and Supply Chain Management and a PhD in Economics, Supply Chain Management, and Tourism Management in partnerships with Shandong University, China.

## **26.22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

### **Reported**

That the next meeting of the Academic Board would be held on Friday 24 April 2026 at 10.00am.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The Board resolved that the public be excluded from the matters reported in the minutes 26.23-26.26 below.

- 26.23 Minutes (Part 2) of the Academic Board meeting of 3 December 2025
- 26.24 Matters arising from the minutes (Part 2) of the Academic Board meeting of 3 December 2025
- 26.25 Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Part 2)
- 26.26 Change Proposal

**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:**

1. Minutes 26.23 and 26.24 affected material previously dealt with in a meeting from which the public was excluded.
2. Minutes 26.25 and 26.26 affected the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage and to protect the commercial interests of the University.

Tim O'Brien  
Alison Beardsmore  
**Academic Office**