



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The following is a report of the Council meeting held on 28 October 2025

KARAKIA

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

WELCOME

Council extended a welcome to Mr Seamus Lohrey who had been elected as President of the Waikato Students' Union for 2025/2026; Mr Lohrey would attend Council alongside Mr Temepara Smith for the remainder of the year.

REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Council confirmed a register of its members' declared interests.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2025 (PART 1)

Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 September 2025 (Part 1).

REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 1)

Council received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor.

2025 DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES STATUTE

Council resolved to approve the 2025 Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates Statute.

2026 COMPULSORY STUDENT SERVICES FEE

In accordance with a recommendation from the Student Services Governance Committee, Council resolved to increase the 2026 Compulsory Student Services Fee to \$9.25 per credit point, a 2.7% increase.

NEXT MEETING

Council noted that its next meeting would be held on 9 December 2025.

PUBLIC EXCLUSION

Council resolved to exclude the public from the meeting from this point.

The following items were considered following the exclusion of the public from the meeting:

PART 2

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2025 (PART 2)

Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 September 2025 (Part 2).

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Council received its 2025 Work Plan.

REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 2)

Council received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor.

Council received a further oral report from the Vice-Chancellor with respect to the New Zealand Graduate School of Medicine, the Tertiary Education Commission, the University Strategy Group, engagements with Waikato-Tainui, and the Bongard building adjacent to the University's Tauranga CBD campus.

Council noted the advice of the Vice-Chancellor that, where approval existed from the TEC for the University to enrol beyond 105% of its funding cap, the University was unlikely to turn away unfunded students in 2026 as it would receive tuition fees and the Compulsory Student Services Fee from unfunded students and increased economies of scale would mean marginal increases in the cost of delivery.

SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

Council received a report with respect to the University's safety and wellbeing.

SURVEY OF CASUAL AND SESSIONAL STAFF

Council received an update from the Director of People and Capability with respect to Council's July 2025 request that a survey of casual and sessional staff be undertaken.

2025 STAFF SURVEY

Council received a report from the Director of People and Capability setting out results from the 2025 University staff survey.

Council noted that a programme of action stemming from the 2025 survey would be developed in conjunction with senior managers.

UOW FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Council received the University of Waikato financial summary for the period ended 30 September 2025.

MINUTES OF THE CAPITAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council received the minutes of the Capital and Finance Committee meeting held on 7 October 2025.

HEALTH PRECINCT STAGE 1 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Council resolved to delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor to sign the construction contract for the Health Precinct Stage 1, subject to specified conditions being met prior to signing.

REPORT AGAINST KIA HAERE WHAKAMUA, UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO STRATEGY 2025-2029

Council received a progress report against Kia Haere Whakamua, University of Waikato Strategy 2025-2029 from the Director of the Vice-Chancellor's Office.

Council resolved to request that, from 2026, regular reports against the strategic priorities set out in Kia Haere Whakamua be scheduled for each meeting of Council; one or two priorities would be focused on at each meeting.

GEN AI TASKFORCE UPDATE

Council received an update from the University's GenAI Taskforce with respect to the responsible, strategic, and ethical adoption of GenAI across learning, research and operations.

Council noted that further consideration would need to be given to how the business of universities might change due to GenAI, and that this would remain an ongoing work programme for the University.

Council extended its thanks to the members of the GenAI Taskforce for the work it had undertaken to date.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT DISCIPLINE APPEALS COMMITTEE

Council received a report from the Student Discipline Appeals Committee.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

Council received the draft minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 24 September 2025.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION OPPORTUNITY

Council received an update on a third potential student accommodation development in Tauranga.

Council resolved to delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer authority to enter into a formal agreement to lease with the developer a planned student accommodation development in Tauranga, subject to specific conditions having been met.

CLOSING KARAKIA

The meeting was closed with a karakia.

Brandon McGibbon
Secretary to Council