



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The following is a report of the Council meeting held on 31 March 2026

KARAKIA

The meeting was opened with karakia.

REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Council confirmed a register of its members' declared interests.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2026 (PART 1)

Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 February 2026 (Part 1).

REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 1)

Council received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council resolved, following her nomination by Te Arikinui Nga wai hono i te Po, to appoint Ms Parekawhia McLean as a member of Council for a four-year term ending 30 March 2030.

ACADEMIC BOARD CONSTITUTION CHANGE

Council resolved to approve a change to the constitution of the Academic Board to include membership by the Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee.

NEXT MEETING

Council noted that its next meeting would be held on 19 May 2026.

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 10 FEBRUARY 2026 (PART 2)

Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025 (Part 2).

TAURANGA SAFE CITIES CONCEPT

Council noted that, following its recommendation at its meeting on 10 February, the University had updated its Strategic Partnership Agreement with Tauranga City Council to incorporate the safe cities concept.

COUNCIL WORK PLAN

Council received its 2026 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 enrolments and the University's response to the fuel crisis.

A summary of proposed changes to the University's Design programme, which had been signalled in the Vice-Chancellor's report, was circulated to members on 1 April 2026 with the opportunity for members to provide feedback to the Vice-Chancellor on the proposal; no feedback was received from Council members in opposition to the proposed changes and the proposal was subsequently approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

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

MINUTES OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY, RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Council received the draft minutes of the Health & Safety, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 17 March 2026.

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Council resolved to adopt the 2025 University of Waikato Annual Report and, subject to minor editorial and proofing corrections, to approve its public release.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION DEVELOPMENT

Council resolved to approve the University proceeding with stage 2 of the Knighton Road townhouse student accommodation development.

UOW FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Council received the University of Waikato financial summary for the period ended 28 February 2026.

MINUTES OF THE CAPITAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council received the draft minutes of the Capital and Finance Committee meeting held on 13 March 2026.

NZGSM ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Council received an update on the New Zealand Graduate School of Medicine Establishment Programme.

A proposed programme of external assurance reviews of the NZGSM establishment programme was circulated to members on 1 April 2026. The majority of members approved adoption of the Audit NZ programme as proposed; no members had raised objections to the proposal.

DRAFT 2026-2030 TAURANGA PLAN

Council resolved to approve the proposed 2026-2030 Tauranga Plan.

Council resolved to request that reporting against the Plan include reporting about regional engagement and uptake.

KIA HAERE WHAKAMUA STRATEGY KPI REPORT

Council received a report with respect to the University's achievements of its 2025 targets against Kia Haere Whakamua.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: RECOGNISING AND CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

Council received a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research with respect to strategic priority 2 of Kia Haere Whakamua: Recognising and Celebrating Excellence.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 7: ENHANCED INTERNATIONALISATION

Council received a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Pro Vice-Chancellor International, Engagement and Partnership with respect to strategy priority 7 of Kia Haere Whakamua: Enhanced Internationalisation.

TERTIARY RESEARCH EXCELLENCE FUND

Council received a report from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research with respect to the Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF).

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORT: RESEARCH AND COMMERCIALISATION

Council received a report from Council member Erin Wansbrough with respect to research and commercialisation at the University of Waikato.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT MEMBER TO COUNCIL

Council received a report from the student member to Council.

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

Council received the draft minutes of the Academic Board meeting held on 24 February 2026.

POROPOROAKI

The meeting was closed with poroporoaki.

Brandon McGibbon
Secretary to Council