



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WAIKATO
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

REPORT OF COUNCIL

The following is a report of the Council meeting held on 7 July 2026

The meeting was preceded by a mihi whakatau for Mr Donald Turner and Ms Te Aute Sam-Turner who had been appointed by Kuini Nga wai hono i te po as the University's Pou Tikanga.

KARAKIA

The meeting was opened with karakia.

REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Council confirmed a register of its members' declared interests.

RECOGNITION OF DAME SUSAN HASSALL

Council congratulated Susan Hassall for her King's Birthday DNZM honour.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2026 (PART 1)

Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 May 2026 (Part 1).

REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 1)

Council received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor.

CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND AWARD OF DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

Council resolved to confer a number of degrees and award a number of certificates and diplomas.

NEXT MEETING

Council noted that its next meeting would be held on 25 August 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 19 MAY 2026 (PART 2)

Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 May 2026 (Part 2).

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 International PhD policy changes, domestic enrolment funding, the Ministry of Education's review of governance settings, applications and enrolments, and transnational education.

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 minutes of the Health & Safety, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 23 June 2026.

UOW FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Council received the University of Waikato financial summary for the period ended 31 May 2026.

BORROWING FACILITIES RENEWAL

Council resolved to approve a recommendation from the Capital and Finance Committee with respect to the structure of the University's borrowing facilities.

MINUTES OF THE CAPITAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council received the minutes of the Capital and Finance Committee meeting held on 17 June 2026.

ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT

Council received a presentation with respect to the University's Enterprise Risk Management approach.

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO INVESTMENT PLAN 2027-2029

Council resolved to approve the draft University of Waikato Investment Plan 2027-2029 for formal submission to the Tertiary Education Commission.

NZGSM ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

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

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: A WHOLE OF INSTITUTION FOCUS ON STUDENT RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND LEARNER SUCCESS

Council received a report from the Vice-Chancellor and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic with respect to strategic priority 1 of Kia Haere Whakamua: A whole of institution focus on student recruitment, retention and learner success.

NZGSM ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

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

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TUITION FEES

Council resolved to approve a recommendation from the Assistant Vice-Chancellor International, Engagement and Partnerships with respect to 2027 and 2028 international student tuition fees, namely:

1. To approve an increase of up to 5% to undergraduate and postgraduate international student tuition fees for 2027.
2. To approve an increase of up to 5% to foundation, international diploma and pre-masters international student tuition fees for 2027
3. That study abroad fees would not be increased for 2027.
4. To approve a further 5% increase to undergraduate and postgraduate international student tuition fees for 2028.
5. To delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor, acting on the recommendation of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor, International, Engagement and Partnership, to approve increases in the 2028 international student tuition fees of up to 10% for those programmes that were in demand and fell well below the NZ and Australian average following market review.
6. To delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor, acting on the recommendation of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor, International, Engagement and Partnerships, to approve international student tuition fee discounts on a case-by-case basis for individual students or specific cohorts where there is a clear strategic or commercial rationale.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICE

Council received a portfolio update from the Chief Operating Officer.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR

Council received a portfolio update from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR ACADEMIC

Council received a portfolio update from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR MĀORI

Council received a portfolio update from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori.

PORTFOLIO UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR RESEARCH

Council received a portfolio update from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research.

CHANGES IN THE NATIONAL RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Council received a report for the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research with respect to changes in the national research environment.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT MEMBER TO COUNCIL

Council received a report from the student member to Council.

REPORT OF THE STUDENT DISCIPLINE APPEALS COMMITTEE

Council received a report from the Student Discipline Appeals Committee.

POROPOROAKI

The meeting was closed with poroporoaki.

Brandon McGibbon
Secretary to Council