



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL**

The following is a report of the Council meeting held on 9 December 2025

### **KARAKIA**

That, at the request of the Chancellor, the outgoing President of the Waikato Students' Union had developed a new karakia for the University Council.

The meeting was opened with that karakia.

### **REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

Council confirmed a register of its members' declared interests.

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 OCTOBER 2025 (PART 1)**

Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 October 2025 (Part 1).

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

Council received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Council resolved to appoint the 2025/2026 President of the Waikato Students' Union, Mr Seamus Lohrey, as a member of the University of Waikato Council with effect from 1 January 2026.

Council extended its thanks to the 2025 President of the Waikato Students' Union, Mr Temepara Smith, for his contributions to Council and his advocacy for the University's students.

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Council resolved to make changes to the membership of its committees as set out below:

- To appoint Mr Seamus Lohrey as a member of the Health & Safety, Risk and Assurance Committee and the Student Discipline Appeals Committee (replacing Mr Temepara Smith).
- To appoint Ms Fiona Michel as a member of the People and Culture Committee (replacing Ms Parekawhia McLean).
- To appoint Ms Parekawhia McLean as a member of the Health & Safety, Risk and Assurance Committee.
- To appoint Dr Joan Forret as a supplementary member of the Capital and Finance Committee.
- To appoint Ms Mary-Anne Macleod as a supplementary member of the Health & Safety, Risk and Assurance Committee.

### **ACADEMIC BOARD CONSTITUTION CHANGE**

Council approved a change to the constitution of the Academic Board to reflect the revised constitution of the Waikato Students' Union.

### **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.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Council noted that its next meeting would be held on 10 February 2026.

## **PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

Council noted that, following between-meeting approval by Council members, the University had entered into a sale and purchase agreement to acquire the Bongard Building in Tauranga from the Crown under Section 50 of the Public Works Act.

## **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 28 OCTOBER 2025 (PART 2)**

Council confirmed the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 October 2025 (Part 2).

### **COUNCIL WORK PLAN**

Council received its 2025 Work Plan and a draft 2026 Work Plan.

Council members would be asked to identify an area of interest across the University's activities which they would investigate and report back to Council on during 2026.

### **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 philanthropic support for the New Zealand Graduate School of Medicine.

### **SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT**

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

Council resolved to request a summary of the reporting that had been provided to Council with respect to the July 2022 serious health and safety event that had led to the University's Enforceable Undertaking and a review of the process that had been undertaken.

### **MINUTES OF THE HEALTH & SAFETY, RISK AND ASSURANCE COMMITTEE**

Council received the minutes of the Health & Safety, Risk and Assurance Committee meeting held on 11 November 2025.

### **UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

Council received a University of Waikato financial summary for the period ended 31 October 2025.

#### **MINUTES OF THE CAPITAL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Council received the minutes of the Capital and Finance Committee meeting held on 25 November 2025.

Council resolved to delegate authority to the Chancellor to sign the Audit Engagement and Audit Proposal Letters with Audit New Zealand for the University's year-end audits for the period 2025-2027.

#### **2026 UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO BUDGET**

Council resolved to approve the 2026 University of Waikato Budget.

#### **I & J BLOCK UPGRADE PROJECT**

Council resolved to approve the proposed I & J Block upgrade project.

Council resolved to delegate authority to the Vice-Chancellor to sign the construction contract for the project.

Council noted that seismic strengthening works would be completed in parallel with the upgrade works for I & J Blocks.

#### **NZGSM ESTABLISHMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Council received an update on the establishment of the New Zealand Graduate School of Medicine programme.

#### **RESEARCH PLAN 2026-2030**

Council resolved to approve Te Rautaki Rangahau, the University of Waikato Research Plan 2026-2030.

#### **PORTFOLIO UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

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.

Council noted that the University's annual Kīngitanga Day would be held on 11 September 2025.

#### **PORTFOLIO UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR RESEARCH**

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

#### **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S KEY OBJECTIVES 2025-2026**

Council resolved to approve a set of key objectives for the Vice-Chancellor for the period 2025/2026.

*The Vice-Chancellor and non-members of Council left the meeting at this point.*

#### **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S TERM**

Council resolved to extend Professor Neil Quigley's term as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waikato until 31 March 2028 to enable Professor Quigley to oversee the establishment of the New Zealand Graduate School of Medicine, including the commencement of the first intake of students.

#### **PROCESS AND TIMELINE FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF THE NEXT VICE-CHANCELLOR**

Council considered and supported a proposed process and timeline for the recruitment of the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Waikato.

#### **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REMUNERATION**

Council noted that a job-sizing exercise for the Vice-Chancellor's role had been completed following Government's approval for the establishment of the New Zealand Graduate School of Medicine.

Council considered guidance that had been provided by the Public Service Commission with respect to the Vice-Chancellor's 2026 remuneration and resolved to approve a recommendation from the People and Culture Committee that the Vice-Chancellor's remuneration be increased to \$601,000 with effect from 1 January 2026.

Subsequent to Council's resolution, agreement had been obtained from the Public Service Commissioner for Professor Quigley's 2026 remuneration to be set at \$601,000.

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER REMUNERATION**

Council noted that the Minister for Universities had written to the Chancellor advising of a revised remuneration range for University of Waikato Council members.

Council resolved to increase remuneration for Council members with effect from 1 January 2026 at the following per annum rates:

- Chancellor: \$75,000
- Pro-Chancellor: \$50,000
- Members: \$35,000 + a 10% loading for chairs of sub-committees (up to a maximum of 20% for chairing two or more sub-committees).

#### **CLOSING KARAKIA**

The meeting was closed with a karakia.

Brandon McGibbon  
**Secretary to Council**