

COUNCIL Public Meeting Agenda Te Kaunihera o Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha



Agenda

DATE	Tuesday 24 March 2026
TIME	9:00am
VENUE	Council Chamber, 6th Floor, Matariki Building

Refer to Page No.
(matches Diligent).

WELCOME & KARAKIA

<i>Kia hora te marino</i>	<i>May peace be widespread</i>
<i>Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana</i>	<i>May the sea be like greenstone</i>
<i>Hei huarahi mā tātou i te rangi nei</i>	<i>A pathway for us all this day</i>
<i>Aroha atu, aroha mai</i>	<i>Let us show respect for each other,</i>
<i>Tātou i a tātou katoa</i>	<i>for one another</i>
<i>Hui e! Tāiki e!</i>	<i>Bind us all together!</i>

1. APOLOGIES
2. REGISTER OF INTERESTS 3
3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
Every Council Member has an obligation to declare any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest with any University of Canterbury activities and to ensure that such conflicts of interest are noted and managed appropriately.
4. MINUTES
4.1. Confirming minutes of meeting held on 25 February 2026 – For Approval 8
5. MATTERS ARISING
6. FROM THE CHANCELLOR
6.1. Degrees Conferred in Absentia – For Information -
7. FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
7.1. Vice-Chancellor’s Monthly Report – For Information 12
7.2. Academic Board Report (20 February 2026) – For Information 18
(Associate Professor Alison Griffith)
8. PUBLIC EXCLUDED MEETING
Motion by the Chancellor for resolution to exclude the public pursuant to s48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:

I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

Item on Public Excluded Agenda	General Subject Matter	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
4.0 4.1	Minutes Confirm public excluded minutes of 25 February 2026	These items concern matters that were previously dealt with during proceedings of Council from which the public was excluded.	Refer to previous minutes
5.0 5.1 5.2	Matters Arising Action Schedule Information Papers	To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(f)(i)
6.0	Council & Vice-Chancellor Only Time	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
7.0 7.1	Health & Safety Monthly Health & Safety Report	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
8.0 8.1 8.2 8.3	Audit & Risk Committee Audit & Risk Committee Report ARC Recommendations to Council Audit Clearance & Audit Opinion Report	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
9.0 9.1 9.2	Capital and Investment Committee Capital & Investment Committee Meeting Report Connectivity Refresh Programme Decision Business Case	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
10.0 10.1 10.2	Finance Monthly Financial Update (February 2026) 6-Monthly Annual Leave Liability Report	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
11.0 11.1	Digital Services Digital Enablement Programme 6-Monthly Update	To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
12.0 12.1 12.2 12.3 12.4	Other Freedom of Expression Statement Delegations Update Arbitration Matter Trust Amalgamation	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
13.0 13.1 13.2 13.3	From the Chancellor Council Skills Matrix Chancellor Meetings & Correspondence Updated Council Workplan	To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
14.0 14.1 14.2	From The Vice-Chancellor Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Report Academic Board Minutes (21 November 2025)	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
15.0	General Business	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
16.0	Council-Only Time	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	7(2)(h)

		To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
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I also move that staff identified by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor as having knowledge relevant to particular matters to be discussed be permitted to remain at this meeting.

9. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

11. NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday 26 May 2026 starting at 9.00am.

KARAKIA

Unuhia, unuhia

Te pou, te pou

Kia wātea, kia wātea

Āe, kua wātea

Remove, uplift

the posts

in order to be free.

Yes, it has been cleared.

University of Canterbury Council Register of Interests (24 March 2026)

Name (Council Member)	Date notified	Person and/or organisation with interest	Nature of interest
Amy ADAMS (Chancellor)	2021	AMDON Farms Limited	Director and Shareholder
	2021	AMDON Investments Limited	Director and Shareholder
	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2025	Crown Facilitator – Water Services	Specialist - Adhoc
	2025	Gas Industry Company Limited	Director
	2021	Hampton Downs Trust	Trustee and Beneficiary
	2021	Melanoma NZ	Director
	2021	Montford Trust	Trustee and Beneficiary
	2025	Ombudsman’s Assurance & Risk Committee	Chair
	2025	Police Commissioner’s Assurance Risk Committee	Member (Acting Chair to end of May 2026)
	2021	St John	Volunteer Ambulance Officer
	2025	Southern Cancer Society	Chairperson
	2022	University of Canterbury Foundation	Trustee
	Sina COTTER TAIT	2025	Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Review Panel
2025		Christchurch City Council	Aunt is a Councillor
2025		Christchurch City Holdings Ltd	Director
2025		Collective Success Ltd	Director, shareholder
2025		Consulting Engineers Advancement Society	Board member
2025		Cotter Tait Family Trust	Trustee
2025		Engineering NZ	Chartered Fellow
2025		Indemnity & General Ltd	Director
2025		Institute of Directors	Chartered Member
2025		KiwiRail Holdings Ltd	Director
2025		Lewis Bradford and Associates Ltd (local government)	Shareholder
2025		Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust	Trustee
2026		Russell McVeagh	Son is an employee
2025		Te Waihanga (The Infrastructure Commission)	Director
2025		University of Canterbury	Adjunct Researcher
2025		University of Canterbury – Building Innovation Partnership (Faculty of Engineering) Advisory Board	Advisory Board member
2025		Whitestone Contracting Limited	Director

Name (Council Member)	Date notified	Person and/or organisation with interest	Nature of interest
Cheryl DE LA REY (Vice-Chancellor)	2020	Association of Commonwealth Universities	Council Member
	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2019	Universities New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee	Member
	2025	Universities New Zealand Education Committee	Chair
	2019	University of Canterbury Foundation	Trustee (Ex-officio)
	2019	University of Canterbury Trust Funds	Vice-Chancellor
Jack HEINEMANN	2023	Academic Board (ex officio Council)	Member
	2022	Academic Freedom Aotearoa (TEU)	Member
	2023	American Society for Microbiology	Member
	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2023	Centre for Integrated Research in Biosafety (UC)	Director
	2023	Cluster for Community and Urban Resilience (UC)	Member
	2023	European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility	Honorary Member
	2023	Higher Education Academy	Fellow
	2024	Informal group of co-mentors for academics in governance roles	Member
	2023	Institute for Health and Environmental Research (Australia)	Board Member
	2023	International Brotherhood of Teamsters	Member
	2023	New Zealand Society of Microbiology	Member
	2023	Queenstown Molecular Biology Society	Member
	2021	Tertiary Education Union	Member
	2021 & 2023	University of Canterbury – Faculty of Science, School of Biological Sciences (and sub-committees) and biochemistry programme	Employee
2023	University of Wisconsin Alumni Association	Lifetime Member	
Bruce IRVINE	2024	Air Rarotonga Ltd	Director
	2024	B.R. Irvine Ltd	Director/Shareholder
	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2024	CSO Foundation	Trustee
	2024	Heartland Bank Ltd and subsidiaries	Director/Shareholder
	2024	House of Travel Ltd and subsidiaries	Director
	2024	John Britten Trust	Trustee
	2024	Market Gardeners Ltd and subsidiaries	Director
	2024	Scenic Hotels Ltd and subsidiaries	Director
	2024	Skope Industries Ltd	Director
	2024	University of Canterbury Innovation Medal	Judge

Name (Council Member)	Date notified	Person and/or organisation with interest	Nature of interest
	2024	University of Canterbury MBA Course	Presenter (occasional)
Tumarū MATAIO	2026	University of Canterbury Students' Association (UCSA)	President
Rachel ROBILLIARD	2025	Anderson Lloyd	Employee
	2022	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board	Board member / Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointee
	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2022	Kaihautū Matua, Executive Director, Office of Treaty Partnership UC	Aunty
	2023	Kōwhai Enterprises Limited	Shareholder
	2022	Mahaanui Kurataiao Ltd	Kaitaiki rep for Te Taumutu Rūnanga
	2023	Robby Robilliard Family Trust	Trustee
	2023	Tāwhaki Joint Venture	Riaka Te Aka Matua Rōpū
	2025	Southbridge Playcentre	Bi-Cultural Officer / Office Holder
	2022	Te Taumutu Rūnanga	Kaitiakitanga portfolio member
	Gillian SIMPSON	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)
2024		Christ's College	Board Deputy Chair
2019		Ministry of Education Statutory Services Provider	Independent Contractor
2019		New Zealand Education Scholarship Trust	Trustee
2022		Sport New Zealand Governance Services	Independent Consultant
2025		UC MBA Programme	Mentor
Lisa TUMAHAI	2023	Arahura Holding Ltd	Director
	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2023	Hauora Māori Advisory Group (Ministerial advisory)	Board Member
	2023	He Pou A Rangi Climate Change Commission	Deputy Chair
	2023	Hinemoana Halo Partnership Fund Ltd	Director
	2024	Manuka Charitable Trust	Trustee
	2023	Ngāi Tahu Research Centre (UC)	Advisory Board Member
	2023	Poutini Ngāi Tahu Pōkeka Ltd	CEO
	2023	Te Kura Taka Pini Ltd	Director
	2023	Te Niwha	Assurance Group Member
	2023	Te Runanga o Ngāti Waewae Inc	Trustee
	2023	Waitangi National Trust Board	Representative South Island
	2023	West Coast Health	Trustee
Steven WAKEFIELD	2025	199 Johns Road Limited	Shareholder, Director
	2025	Accord Group Holdings Limited	Director, Shareholder
	2025	Brackenridge Services Limited	Director
	2025	Carolina Homes Limited	Director, Shareholder
	2025	Christchurch Cathedral Reinstatement Limited	Director, Chairman
	2025	Christchurch Heritage & Arts Walking Tours Ltd	Director, Shareholder
	2025	Church Property Trustees of the Anglican Diocese of Christchurch	Trustee, Deputy Chair
	2025	Cookie Time Group	Director

Name (Council Member)	Date notified	Person and/or organisation with interest	Nature of interest
	2025	Court Theatre Trust	Chairman
	2025	Deloitte Limited	Former Partner
	2025	East Lake Trust	Trustee
	2025	EVNEX Limited	Director
	2025	Greater Christchurch Schools Network Trust	Chairman of Trustees
	2025	HealthOne (General Partner) Limited	Director
	2025	Innovative Software Limited	Director, Shareholder
	2025	Lincoln Medical (2024) Limited	Director
	2025	MastaPlex Limited	Shareholder
	2025	MedSalv Limited	Director
	2025	NZ Health Innovation Hub Limited (t/a NZ Health Ventures)	Chairman of Directors
	2025	Old Boys Collegians Cricket Club	President, Life Member
	2025	Paenga Kupenga Limited	Director
	2025	Performing Arts Parking Limited	Director
	2025	Ravenscar Capital Trust	Trustee
	2025	Ravenscar Trust	Chairman
	2025	St Barnabas Church (Fendalton Parish)	Vestry member
	2025	St Barnabas Fendalton Trust	Chairman
	2025	Steve Wakefield Services Limited	Shareholder and Director
	2025	Streamliners NZ Limited	Director
	2025	Swallowing Technologies Limited	Chairman, Shareholder
	2025	Syft Limited	Shareholder
	2025	Te Whata Limited	Director
	2025	Townsend Fields Limited	Managing Director
	2025	Wakefield Holdings Limited	Director
Poto WILLIAMS (Pro-Chancellor)	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2024	Eastern Community Sport & Rec	Board Member
	2024	John Macmillan Brown Estate Trust	Special Trust Advisor
	2024	New Brighton R.S.A.	Patron
	2024	South Island NRL Bid	Board Member (Community Engagement)
Catherine WOODS	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2023	Public Service Association	Member
	2023	Statistics New Zealand	Husband - Employee
	2026	UC Business School – Health & Safety Committee	Member
	2023	UC Student	Daughter
	2023	UC Wellbeing Advisory Group	Member

Name (Council Member)	Date notified	Person and/or organisation with interest	Nature of interest
Adela KARDOS (General Counsel Registrar)	2024	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trust Beneficiary (All Staff)
	2024	Christchurch Hungarian Club Incorporated	Executive Committee Secretary
	2020	University of Canterbury	Employee

COUNCIL

Public Meeting Minutes

Te Kaunihera o Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha



DATE	Wednesday 25 February 2026
TIME	9:00am
VENUE	Council Chamber, Level 6, Matariki Building
PRESENT	Hon. Amy Adams (Chancellor), Professor Cheryl de la Rey (Vice-Chancellor), Dr Sina Cotter Tait, Professor Jack Heinemann, Mr Bruce Irvine, Ms Tumaru Mataio, Ms Rachel Robilliard via Zoom, Ms Gillian Simpson, Ms Lisa Tumahai via Zoom, Hon. Poto Williams (Pro-Chancellor), Mr Steve Wakefield, Ms Catherine Woods.
IN ATTENDANCE	Associate Professor Alison Griffith, Professor Lucy Johnston, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Innovation), Mr Grantley Judge, Governance & Compliance Manager, Ms Adela Kardos, General Counsel & Registrar, Mr Keith Longden, Executive Director Planning, Finance & Digital Services, Professor Catherine Moran, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Mr Paul O’Flaherty, Executive Director People, Culture & Campus Life.
APOLOGIES	An apology for late arrival was received from Lisa Tumahai.
WELCOME	The Chancellor opened the meeting with a Karakia and welcomed Ms Tumaru Mataio to her first meeting as UCSA President for 2026.
REGISTER OF INTERESTS	The Chancellor requested that the Registrar be advised of any amendments to the Register of Interests.
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	No conflicts of interest were advised.
MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	Confirming the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2025 <u>Moved:</u> <i>That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.</i> <p style="text-align: right;">Carried</p>
MATTERS ARISING	The Academic Board terms of reference where to be considered by Council in May.

**FROM THE
CHANCELLOR**

Degrees Conferred in Absentia

Moved:

That Council notes the list of degrees to be awarded in absentia for the public record were approved by the Executive Committee on 18 February 2026.

Carried

**FROM THE VICE-
CHANCELLOR**

Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Report

The Vice-Chancellor presented her report, including an update on health and safety matters, and responded to questions from Council.

Council discussed enrolment growth, the areas in which growth was occurring, and any emerging pressure points, including the availability of student study space.

Moved:

That Council notes the Vice-Chancellor's monthly report.

Carried

Academic Board Report

Associate Professor Alison Griffith presented the Academic Board Reports and responded to questions.

The draft Freedom of Expression Statement was considered by the Academic Board at its meeting on 13 February 2026. Members discussed a range of matters relating to both the proposed amendments to the Academic Freedom Policy and the draft Statement itself. Further feedback from the Academic Board was invited to be submitted to the Chair of the Academic Board by 1 March for collation. The consolidated feedback would be presented to Council in March, when it considered the draft Freedom of Expression Statement.

Moved:

That Council notes the Academic Board report from 21 November 2025.

Carried

**PUBLIC EXCLUDED
MEETING**

Moved:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of this meeting, pursuant to section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:

Item on Public Excluded Agenda	General Subject Matter	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Grounds under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
4.0 4.1	Minutes Confirm public excluded minutes of 19 November 2025	These items concern matters that were previously dealt with during proceedings of Council from which the public was excluded.	Refer to previous minutes

5.0 5.1 5.2	Matters Arising Action Schedule Information Papers	To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(f)(i)
6.0	Council & Vice-Chancellor Only Time	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
7.0 7.1	Health & Safety Monthly Health & Safety Report	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
8.0 8.1	Strategy & Planning UC Planning & Reporting Outline for 2026	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
9.0 9.1 9.2	Audit & Risk Draft Annual Report 2025 (SSP & Financials) Audit New Zealand Fee Proposal Letter (Audit Fees 2025-2027)	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
10.0 10.1 10.2	Finance 31 December 2025 Q4 University Actuals vs Budget Report Monthly Financial Update January 2026	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
11.0 11.1 11.2 11.3	Honours & Appointments Committee Committee Meeting Verbal Update Revised Council Skills Matrix & Council Member Term Expiries Honorary Doctorate 2026 Recommendation	To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
12.0 12.1 12.2 12.3 12.4 12.5 12.6 12.7 12.8	Other Council Constitution Proposed Changes UCTF & UCF Amalgamation Proposed Amendments to Trust Deed Proposed Changes Arbitration Matter Update Student Accommodation Development Update Capital & Investment Committee 2026 Chair Election Council Policies Annual Update ICT Building Renaming Executive Committee Decisions over Recess	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities. To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
13.0 13.1 13.2 13.3	From the Chancellor Chancellor Meetings & Correspondence Verbal Update Council Self-Review Timing Update Updated Council Workplan	To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
14.0 14.1	From The Vice-Chancellor Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Report	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	7(2)(h)

14.2	Emeritus Professor Nomination Academic Board Minutes (10 October)	To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(f)(i)
14.3		To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(a)
15.0	General Business	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	7(2)(h)
		To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(f)(i)
16.0	Council-Only Time People Committee Update	To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.	7(2)(h)
16.1		To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members or officers or employees of the University.	7(2)(f)(i)
		To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(a)

and that staff identified by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, as having knowledge relevant to particular matters to be discussed, be permitted to remain at this meeting.

Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS There were no items of general business.

NEXT MEETING The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 9:00am in the Council Chamber.

MEETING CLOSED The public meeting closed with a Karakia at 1.15pm.

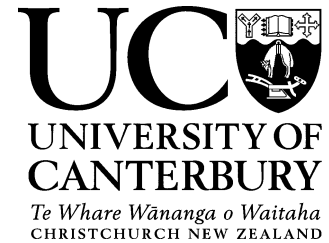
SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD: _____

DATE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION SCHEDULE
from the meeting held on 25 February 2026

	Action	By Whom	Due Date	Expected
1.	Academic Board terms of reference review – suggest date that the review paper could be presented to Council for consideration.	Ms Kardos	Feb 2026	May 2026

Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council



March 2026

Introduction

UC is experiencing another year of strong enrolments with the latest figures indicating the total is 6.8% higher than the same time last year. The overall trend reflects continued demand for UC's programmes and the ongoing appeal of Ōtautahi Christchurch as a study destination for both domestic and international students.

Engagement

The first of the UC Business School's 2026 Thought Leadership Series was hosted at The Piano on 26 February. *The Meritocracy Paradox: The Benefits of a Diverse Workplace* featured three visiting Erskine Fellows: Professor Michelle (Mikki) Rae Hebl from Rice University, Associate Professor Remi Trudel from Boston University, and Associate Professor Clifford Lewis from Charles Sturt University in Australia. The free event was well attended, with approximately 170 members of the public (including industry representatives, employers and alumni) and UC staff.

On 19 March the University hosted two Careers Fairs on campus – one for Business and Arts and one for Law. The events were attended by hundreds of current students and featured 45 organisations from around the country. The fairs provide a platform for students to meet employers, explore career options, and build confidence in professional interactions, while offering employers access to UC's diverse talent and recruitment opportunities. The STEM Careers Fair will be hosted on 12 May.

Following its selection at the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival in 2025, the documentary *MOKOMOKO: The Otago Sanctuary – Restoring a Lost Lizard Population*, directed by Digital Screen lecturer Ellie Adams, was released for open public access to extend its reach and impact beyond the festival context. The film translates long-term ecological research and community-led conservation practice into an accessible creative work, supporting public understanding of environmental restoration and biodiversity protection in Central Otago.

On 6 March there was an appreciation morning tea to recognise donors who supported the Biomedical Engineering Service Trip to Tonga. The event provided an opportunity for students to share their experiences, learning, and impact, while demonstrating the outcomes of donor support and strengthening engagement between donors, students, and the University community.

Education – Accessible, Flexible Future Focussed

Students are well underway with their study as we reach the mid-way point of the first term.

Orientation and early-semester support programmes recorded significantly higher engagement than the previous year, reflecting both strong student demand and the effectiveness of targeted wellbeing, advising, and peer-assisted learning initiatives. Peer Assisted Learning Support (PALS) continues to expand with 78 PALS leaders, including 20 Māori and Pacific Leaders across 21 courses. PALS has been shown to improve academic success in courses, setting students up to succeed in their degree. Record participation in discipline-based welcome events and industry engagement opportunities was also noted. The increased participation reflects the value students place on early connection to academic communities and professional pathways.

The Te Kakau a Maui (TKAM) programme is now entering its fourth year after launching in 2023. For 2026, there are 104 new scholars. Retention remains high for the TKAM scholars, with over 90% retention across the years. The end of 2025 saw the first intake of the TKAM scholars, who were enrolled in three-year degrees, reach graduation eligibility. The 2023 (TKAM) cohort completed their qualifications at a rate of 5% higher than matched pairs and with a lower dropout rate. A number of the cohort are in four-year degrees so will be eligible for graduation at the end of 2026.

Having career goals is an important part of student success. In the last month, the Centre for Employability and Career Development was launched. The Centre focuses on developing career readiness by partnering with faculties, employers, and students to provide a comprehensive approach to career readiness. Already, there has been growth in the number of students seen individually for career coaching, including peer mentoring.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

Some of the new research grants awarded are included below, noting how each demonstrates our commitment to undertaking research with Impact in a Changing World, as specified in Tangata Tū, Tangata Ora.

New grants awarded include to Taylor Winter (Mathematics and Statistics) from Oranga Tamariki to investigate the prevalence of mental health conditions among children in out-of-home care, with the research expected to provide new insights to inform policy and service responses. Dr Ali Reza Nazmi (Product Design) from the NZ Bioeconomy Science Institute (Scion) received a grant to investigate the potential for high-value personal care ingredients derived from Black Soldier Fly extracts, exploring novel applications of bio-derived compounds for sustainable personal care products. Professor Angus McIntosh (Biological Sciences) is collaborating with the Cawthron Institute to develop tools to support the conservation of river-resident galaxiid species.

Further positioning UC and New Zealand as a global leader in earthquake risk modelling, Professor Brendon Bradley (Civil and Environmental Engineering) received funding from the Royal Society | Te Apārangi for a project looking at Next-generation seismic risk analysis using New Zealand as a natural laboratory. Dr Camilla Penney (Earth and Environmental Sciences) and Dr Robin Lee (Civil and Environmental Engineering) received funding from the Natural Hazards Commission | Toka Tū Ake respectively for projects looking at new statistical models to enhance the accuracy of earthquake modelling and to create high-resolution maps to help identify areas where local soil or rock conditions could make earthquake shaking stronger and more likely to cause damage in New Zealand.

A team of researchers within Chemical and Process Engineering, led by Professor Daniel Holland, are partnering with KnowYourStuffNZ (KYSNZ) and Public Health and Forensic Science to undertake a research trial exploring an innovative analytical approach to reduce the harm associated with consumption of illicit drugs. The trial software, developed at UC, analyse samples presented to KYSNZ's drug checking services in the Canterbury region, including at the weekly UCSA clinics run by KYSNZ and donated samples from clients at Electric Avenue event.

The High Altitude and Long-Range Observatory (HALO)-South mission brought together researchers from seven German research institutes, Carnegie Mellon University, UC (led by Professor Adrian McDonald, Chemical and Physical Sciences) and the New Zealand MetService to improve the representation of aerosols, clouds, and precipitation in climate modelling. The German team chose Ōtautahi Christchurch and UC as their research base for several key reasons: it has access to the clear skies of the Southern Ocean, the City has logistical experience as an Antarctic Gateway city to support crews, and local climate change experts are available to enhance the project. Alongside the research flights, extensive ground-based measurements were carried out at the Tāwhaki National Aerospace Centre, south of Christchurch, and in Invercargill. More than 50 weather balloons were launched on HALO flight days, involving students from UC who gained invaluable experience working in the field. HALO-South is part of the goSouth-2 campaign and runs from 2025 to 2027. Together, these efforts are supported by more than €9 million in international investment from German research agencies, alongside New Zealand Government funding through MBIE.

UC Botanist, Professor Pieter Pelser (Biological Sciences), has been recognised with one of the highest honours in taxonomy, with a newly established South American daisy genus named *Pelseria* in acknowledgement of his decades-long contribution to studying the family tree of plants. While new species are named regularly, the recognition of a new genus is far less common. Professor Pelser also has a Philippine orchid species named in his honour — *Bulbophyllum pelseri*, while his wife Dr Julie Barcelona (Biological Sciences) is also recognised with as many as three species names.

Chemical and Process Engineering PhD student, Glen McClea has been awarded an Andrew Fellowship from the UK Institute of Chemical Engineers (IChemE). The Fellowship requires research to be industrially relevant, and a partnership between academia and industry. In his fellowship Glen will explore how plasma spray additive manufacturing can be used to optimise the structure of electrocatalytic materials. He will be working with Ternary Kinetics Ltd, seeking to decarbonise heavy transport and other industries using electrochemistry.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

First year students arriving into our halls of residence had a full induction and social programme in the days leading to Orientation Day. The Thrive lectures which provide an introduction to on-campus and academic life were well attended. The Halls and the UCSA provided a range of social functions, with up to 1500 people attending some UCSA events.

A number of UC departments worked with the UCSA and the Halls to provide health and safety information and services to students attending Electric Avenue, and UC Security worked closely with Police and Noise Control. In response to high volumes of foot traffic going to and from the festival, Facilities Management ensured our grounds were kept clean and tidy, and the UCSA coordinated a programme of volunteers to assist with the cleaning of the surrounding streets.

A series of monthly leadership webinars is being run for current and aspiring academic and professional leaders. These are being offered in partnership with Victoria University of Wellington and the University of Otago. Examples are *Resilience as a Leader*, *Strategies to focus attention and manage distractions*, and *Creating a culture of feedback*.

Induction sessions for the 2026 cohort of the Academic Mentoring programme have been conducted. The programme matches academic staff with a senior colleague outside of their School/Department, and this year saw a record number of 39 partnerships formed. A code of conduct and mentoring agreement uphold an environment of trust, respect, and confidentiality.

UC continues to provide encouragement to various Communities of Practice (CoP):

- TechCoP (Community of Practice for UC Technical Staff): Recent workplace visits included the Psychology, Speech and Hearing Research Facility, the Rose Centre for Stroke Recovery, and the Physical and Chemical Sciences Cryogenic Lab. These visits enable Technical Staff to network, while seeing facilities and equipment in use in other areas which are often not accessible. A workshop was also attended by nearly 70 staff and included a showcase of technical staff innovation and equipment, as well as presentations on projects that are of interest to this group.
- Academic Mentors CoP: An event held for the community for senior Academic Staff who act as mentors in Academic Mentoring, focussed on wellbeing with an interactive discussion led by Professor Sarah Wright, UC Business School, on her research into tackling loneliness at work and how mentors can support building belonging. There was also an update on the UC staff wellbeing plan.
- Academic Heads' Forum: This celebrated its fourth year of bringing those in this critical role together each month, for collaboration and collegial support.

Health and Safety

The online Health and Safety training module for staff has been refreshed, with one of the themes being the just and fair health and safety culture highlighted in the recently renewed Health and Safety Policy. All staff are being asked to complete this revised module. A Fire Safety training module has also been completed and is being rolled out online.

HSE Global has completed Health and Safety training for the Senior Leadership Team. The team has found this informative and practical.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

Several international delegations were hosted at UC over the past month.

Professor Orlando del la Vega Luna, Director General of International Affairs at the Pontifical Catholic University of Valparaíso, Chile, met with academics from the Faculties of Engineering, Science and Education regarding enhancing various ongoing research projects. This visit also builds on the work of the Research Committee of Universities New Zealand to build research and teaching connections across Latin America.

A senior delegation from Estonia, including the Director General of the Estonian Research Council, and the Rectors of all five of Estonia's universities, met with researchers from across the university focusing on the themes of space and aerospace, energy transition, sustainability and resilience and

biomed and MedTech, areas of mutual strength and ambition. Research collaboration mechanisms and potential funding sources (including Horizon Europe opportunities) were discussed in mutual areas of research strength. UC already has several joint research projects, including a Horizon Europe project, with Estonian universities.

A delegation from the University of Fort Hare, South Africa, met with researchers from Science, Engineering and the Ngāi Tahu Research Centre to discuss potential areas of research collaboration. A tripartite agreement including Lincoln University is being developed along with an industry partner to create a hub supporting diary science, including the hosting of doctoral scholars.

UC hosted a senior Malaysian government and university delegation in February, led by the Chair and Director General of the Malaysian Government Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (MARA). The delegation included Her Excellency, Ms Mazita Marzuki, High Commissioner of Malaysia, Wellington, and the Vice-Chancellors of two MARA funded universities. The delegation met representatives from Engineering, Arts, Business, the UC International Team and 200 of our Malaysian students, a number funded through MARA scholarships.

On 23 February, our first 2026 cohort of Erskine Fellows were welcomed at a morning tea. The cohort includes academics from Australia, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Their research specialties span ornithology, tectonic geomorphology, neurolinguistics, and many other areas of expertise.

Dr Hamish Avery (EPECentre) was part of the MBIE Science and Innovation delegation to Europe to participate in an international research collaboration summit in Brussels, to meet with Ambassadors and to visit the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in Ispra, learning how science informs policy in Europe.

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

An operationally smooth start to Semester 1 saw our front-line Digital Service desk staff support a record number of students. In February, the Digital Service Desk team delivered high-volume frontline support for students and staff through phone, walk-in, and ticketing channels.

UC's Student Mobile App was relaunched for Semester 1 and has seen an encouraging early uptake, with over 15,000 active users within the first two weeks of students returning to campus. An in-app survey has received more than 3,000 responses, providing useful insight into how students are using the app and where improvements are needed. Some of the features available to students included calendar, maps, notifications, student news and a first year "getting started" student checklist.

Environmentally Sustainable

In the annual Aotearoa Bike Challenge, UC was the winning organisation for Canterbury, and second nationally. UC's final points tally of 121,664 was greater than Health NZ - Canterbury (102,574), the University of Auckland (97,900) and Christchurch City Council (89,996). 294 people from the UC community took part in the challenge, cycling over 55,000 km in 5,052 cycle trips made during February. Compared to if these trips had been made by fossil-fuel-powered cars, 6 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent emissions were saved. UC has now won the Canterbury competition for four years in a row.

The UC Biodiversity Plan and Waterways Plan have been updated. These new plans cover the period 2026 to 2030 and have been published on the UC Website. The Biodiversity Plan includes a review of recent progress, highlighting extensive native plantings and improvements to Waiutuutu/Okeover Stream. Monitoring by Biological Sciences staff shows strong gains in native birds and plant diversity. The future focus is on further improving stream health, doubling native bird populations, expanding canopy cover to 30%, and strengthening predator suppression across all campus land. The Waterways Plan summarised the progress in monitoring stream health, improving riparian plantings, upgrading stormwater systems and trialling restoration projects, and with the future focus being physical restoration projects such as sediment removal, daylighting sections of stream, improving stormwater treatment, and upgrading degraded structures like the Ilam Homestead weir.

A major global review led by UC's Professor Jonathan Tonkin was published in Nature Reviews Biodiversity, warning that increasingly severe floods, droughts and heatwaves are reshaping river ecosystems worldwide. The study calls for a shift from reactive, local interventions to catchment scale, resilience focused strategies such as floodplain reconnection, nature-based solutions and improved monitoring. It's news now because the publication provides urgently needed guidance as extreme climatic events accelerate, placing UC at the forefront of global river resilience science.

Memorandum/Pukapuka

Report To:	Council
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2026
Report Title:	Academic Board Report
Date of Report:	2 March 2026
Report Author:	Professor C de la Rey, Associate Professor A Griffith, Eleri Nugent
For:	Information

Executive Summary

Council is asked to note:

- *the 20 February 2026 Academic Board Report*
- *the following new curricula proposals which were endorsed by the Board, and were reported to the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP) on 1 March:*
 - To introduce an MBA with specialisations (MBAS) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration
 - To amend the titles of the current MBA and PGDipBA to Executive Master of Business Administration and Postgraduate Diploma in Executive Business Administration
 - To introduce a Master of Teaching and Learning (Early Childhood) and a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning (Early Childhood)
 - To introduce a Master of Applied Artificial Intelligence, Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Artificial Intelligence and a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Artificial Intelligence
 - To introduce a Master of Renewable Energy Engineering
 - To introduce a Master of Health Leadership and Management, Postgraduate Diploma in Health Leadership and Management, Postgraduate Certificate in Health Leadership and Management
 - To amend the Master of Laws by thesis
 - To restructure the Master of Laws (International Law and Politics)
 - To introduce a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology Assistance
(all to be found in Diligent attachment 2)

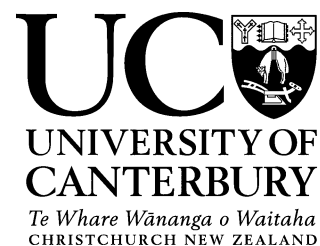
Recommendation

That Council notes the Academic Board report from 20 February 2026.

Attachments

1. Academic Board Report from its meeting on 20 February 2026
2. Diligent Reference - 9 CUAP Proposals – Diligent folder: “Academic Board Reference Papers”

ATTACHMENT ONE



TE POARI AKORANGA | ACADEMIC BOARD

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

FROM A MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

HELD ON FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2026

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor de la Rey updated members on the latest developments regarding the new Tertiary Education Strategy and monitoring framework, the Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF) and discussions around the future of CUAP. She gave a presentation on 2026 enrolments. She reported that the TEC has indicated that if there are subject areas which are identified as non-priority and with poor performance, these run the risk of disinvestment.

REPORT FROM THE UCSA

Evangeline Rong took her report as read. She said that the recent four-day induction training for the new Exec team had gone well. They had developed their priorities for the year which were based on student feedback. These are:

- to continue to advocate for clarity and consistency around the use of GenAI,
- to provide input on assessment in particular marking consistency and quality,
- to focus on support for work-integrated learning and internships and
- to monitor any proposed changes to examinations.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION STATEMENT

The Vice-Chancellor reminded members that the government has passed amendments to the Education and Training Act 2020 requiring University Councils to adopt a Freedom of Expression statement within stated parameters. Council is seeking Academic Board's advice on a draft statement which must be in place by May. Faculties have been asked to provide feedback directly to Adela Kardos.

As the draft statement also has implications for the existing Critic and Conscience of Society and Academic Freedom Policy, a draft updated version is also under consideration noting that the changes are minor and not substantive

Following discussion, several members noted the following:

- The proposed change to the Critic and Conscience of Society and Academic Freedom Principles and Policy stated that: "In the event of any inconsistency between this policy and the [Freedom of Expression] Statement, the Statement will take precedence." Academic Freedom however is guaranteed by the Education and Training Act 2020 and there is no expectation that the Freedom of Expression statement will take precedence. The statements prepared by the University of

Auckland and Victoria University Wellington do not include this information. Members felt that this proposed clause should be deleted.

- The Board wished to advise the Council that detailed procedures need to be developed to implement the proposed Freedom of Expression statement. For example, the statement does not make clear who will be the decision maker in terms of proposed action of “the University” regulating the time, place and manner of any expression and of “the University” deciding to “restrict expression that is “(a) likely to be unlawful; or (b) likely to disrupt the ordinary activities of the university”. This decision maker will also be essential to the required complaints procedure which is yet to be defined.

During discussions the following other matters were raised:

- Clarification is needed as to what the statement covers, for example does it include posters, music, art installations, badges, insignia etc and will the decision maker have the competence and knowledge to decide on these forms?
- UC should clearly state that there are different realms of activity: in the classroom, teaching and research, academic freedom prevails whereas outside these settings the Freedom of Expressions statement applies.
- Where do UC values sit in relation to these changes? Freedom of Expression may impact staff and student wellbeing in future.
- The definition of members of the UC community in the Freedom of Expression statement includes visitors to the University but not all visitors will be members of the UC community (eg alumni) so this needs to be clear.
- UC adopts a position of institutional neutrality in the Freedom of Expression statement which does not appear to be a requirement of the legislation. It is not clear how UC’s Treaty Partnership and its MoU with Ngāi Tahu relate to institutional neutrality.

FINAL OUTCOME OF THE CAUL NEGOTIATION

Kat Cuttriss the University Librarian thanked staff for their support and said that the strong collective stance had strengthened the combined libraries position in negotiations and led to such a good outcome.