

COUNCIL

Public Meeting Agenda

Te Kaunihera o Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha



Agenda

DATE Tuesday 26 May 2026
TIME 9:00am
VENUE Council Chamber, Level 6, 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 24 March 2026 – For Approval 8
5. MATTERS ARISING
6. FROM THE CHANCELLOR
6.1. Degrees Conferred in Absentia – For Approval -
7. FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
7.1. Vice-Chancellor’s Monthly Report – For Information 12
7.2. Academic Board Report (10 April 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 24 March 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. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
7.0 7.1	Strategy & Planning Strategy Implementation Q1-2026 Update	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	Health & Safety Monthly Health & Safety Report	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)
9.0 9.1 9.2	Capital Projects Ilam Road Student Accommodation Safety & Enabling Works Decision Business Case & Request for Delegation Workday Project Status 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)
10.0 10.1	Finance Monthly Financial Update (April 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	Other Trust Amalgamation Verbal Update Proposed Council & Committee Dates 2027	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	From the Chancellor Draft July Strategy Day Agenda Canterbury Museum Trust Board 6-monthly Report Chancellor Meetings & Correspondence Updated Council Workplan	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 Vice-Chancellor Vice-Chancellor's Monthly Report Emeritus Professor Nominations Academic Board Minutes (20 February 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. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
14.0	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. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i)
15.0	Council-Only Time	To enable the free and frank expression of opinions by or between members of Council. To protect the privacy of natural persons. To enable the University to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, its activities. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)

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

- Wednesday 24 June 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 (26 May 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	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	2025	Christ Church Cathedral Reinstatement Review Panel	Panel member
	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)
Tumaru MATAIO	2026	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	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	Kaitiaki 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 Rangī 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 2026	Pokeka Poutini Ngai Tahu Ltd	CEO Community Clinical Learning Centre outreach submission (part of UC proposal)
	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

Name (Council Member)	Date notified	Person and/or organisation with interest	Nature of interest
Steven WAKEFIELD	2025	199 Johns Road Limited	Shareholder, Director
	2025	Accord Group Holdings Limited	Director, Shareholder
	2025	Brackenridge Services Limited	Director
	2025	Canterbury Educational Reserves Sale and Leasing Act 1876 (CERSLA)	Trustee and Trust Beneficiary
	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
	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
	2026	Mana Puaka Limited Partnership	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	

Name (Council Member)	Date notified	Person and/or organisation with interest	Nature of interest
	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
Adela KARDOS (General Counsel Registrar)	2023	UC Wellbeing Advisory Group	Member
	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	Tuesday 24 March 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 via Zoom, Ms Tumaru Mataio, Ms Rachel Robilliard, Ms Gillian Simpson, Ms Lisa Tumahai, Hon. Poto Williams (Pro-Chancellor) via Zoom, Mr Steve Wakefield, Ms Catherine Woods.
IN ATTENDANCE	Mr Michael Edmonds, Associate Professor Alison Griffith, Ms Stefanie Gutschmidt, 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), Ms Jess van Zelderen.
APOLOGIES	An apology for late arrival (9.35am) was received from Hon. Poto Williams, whose flight was returned to Wellington due to fog. An apology for early departure (10.30am) was received from Mr Bruce Irvine, who attended the meeting via Zoom from overseas.
WELCOME	The Chancellor opened the meeting with a Karakia.
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 Minutes of the Previous Meeting <u>Moved:</u> <i>That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2026 were confirmed as a true and correct record.</i>

Carried

MATTERS ARISING There were no matters arising.

FROM THE CHANCELLOR **Degrees Conferred in Absentia**

Moved:
That Council noted the list of degrees to be awarded in absentia for the public record were approved by the Executive Committee on 11 March 2026.

Carried

FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR **Vice-Chancellor’s Monthly Report**

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

Moved:
That Council noted the Vice-Chancellor’s monthly report.

Carried

Academic Board Report

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

Council briefly discussed the proposed changes to the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP), following from the University Advisory Group Report, including the suggestion that universities might move toward greater autonomy in programme approval, potentially enabling self-accreditation of new courses.

Moved:
That Council noted:

1. *the 20 February 2026 Academic Board Report.*
2. *the new curricula proposals endorsed by the Academic Board and reported to CUAP on 1 March 2026.*

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 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 8.2.1 8.2.2 8.2.3 8.2.4 8.2.5 8.3	Audit & Risk Committee Audit & Risk Committee Report ARC Recommendations to Council: Representation Letters Audit Fraud Questionnaire Annual Report 2025 Delegation of Authority to Approve Annual Report Internal Audit Plan 2026 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. To protect the privacy of natural persons.	7(2)(h) 7(2)(f)(i) 7(2)(a)
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 Arbitration Matter Verbal Update Trust Amalgamation Verbal Update Proposed Graduation Dates 2027 & 2028	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.	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 26 May 2026 at 9:00am in the Council Chamber.

MEETING CLOSED The public meeting closed with a Karakia at 12.49pm.

SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD: _____

DATE: _____

COUNCIL ACTION SCHEDULE
from the meeting held on 24 March 2026

	Action	By Whom	Due Date	Expected
1.	No actions			

Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council



May 2026

Introduction

The Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council have released a Report to the Prime Minister: *Prioritisation in New Zealand's Science, Innovation and Technology system*. This recommends that the system move to a mission-led framework focussed on four thematic areas in response to key issues facing New Zealand: Primary Industry and Bioeconomy, Technology for Prosperity, Environmental Sustainability and Resilience, and Healthy People and a Thriving Society. There will now be a total pool of funding to support science, innovation and technology with universities forming one part of that pool. The funding will be realigned so that 60% is mission-led, aligned to national priorities, and 40% is investigator-led.

Engagement

In April 3,192 graduates were recognised across the five graduation celebrations with 9,261 friends and whānau supporting them. The Autumn Graduation celebrations and Street Parade are estimated to have contributed close to \$5 million in economic activity through domestic and international visitation, accommodation and hospitality spending across the city.

On 16 April the Advancement team hosted a donor and alumni engagement event at Te Ara Ātea, Rolleston Library, in partnership with Selwyn District Council, centred on the Rita Angus: *He Haerenga ki Cass | A Trip to Cass* exhibition. The event connected UC graduate Rita Angus's artistic legacy with the University's long association with Cass field station, a place of enduring significance for generations of UC alumni. It also provided a valuable opportunity to engage donors, graduates, and regional partners around UC's cultural heritage and ongoing connection to Canterbury.

In early May the Business School's Department of Economics and Finance delivered an inaugural Indigenous Investment workshop in partnership with Ngāi Tahu Holdings, providing students with direct experience of intergenerational investment decision-making. Students applied commercial analysis alongside iwi values, governance, and long-term impact considerations, supported by Ngāi Tahu leaders and UC academics. The Department also strengthened industry engagement through its Professional Speaker Series, including Sharon Zollner, Chief Economist at ANZ, and Jim McElwain, Executive Director of INFINZ.

We hosted our annual STEM Careers Fair on 12 May, attracting strong student engagement with around 2,000 UC students connecting with employers across the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics sectors. The event featured 89 employer exhibitors from a wide range of local and national organisations, including Fulton Hogan, AECOM, Lumin, MainPower and Trimble, Inc., offering insights into career pathways, internships, and graduate opportunities.

Academic staff from the Faculty of Health participated in panel discussions alongside community leaders, rangatahi, and national and international contributors as part of the Te Papa Hauora series of events, sharing insights informed by their research and professional practice.

I participated in a panel discussion on 30 April at the South Island Zones 5-6 Local Government NZ Conference along with Professor Grant Edwards (Lincoln University). The discussion, which was facilitated by Waimakariri Mayor Dan Gordon, focused on partnerships between the tertiary sector and local government to attract technology, talent and international investment, and explored how these collaborations can boost local innovation and leverage academic partnerships to support regional development.

On 18 May I delivered an address to the U3A Avon Ōtākaro group, with many members being UC graduates, as part of their series *Our Christchurch City*. The focus was on UC as an “anchor institution” contributing to the growth and development of the city and Canterbury.

Education – Accessible, Flexible Future Focussed

Our leadership in Work Integrated Learning (WIL) was recognised at a global gathering of sector leaders during April. UC received two awards at the joint conference of WIL New Zealand and the World Association for Cooperative and Work-Integrated Education International Research Symposium. The Centre for Employability and Career Development received the Innovation and Excellence Award for sustained, high-quality practice, while the Collaboration Award recognised UC’s partnership with the Mastering Mountains Charitable Trust through the Professional and Community Engagement internship programme. This recognition reinforces UC’s contribution to international conversations on employability and the future of higher education.

UC is expanding work related opportunities for students. For example, Bachelor of Sport students supported New Zealand’s men’s 3x3 basketball programme through training camps hosted on campus, contributing across performance analysis, logistics and operational support alongside UC staff and national coaching personnel. This applied learning has supported students to develop professional capability in high-performance sporting environments.

In response to student demand, on-campus study spaces have been enhanced and new silent study pods have been installed in the Puaka-James Hight Library. For students studying more remotely, a partnership with WellSouth Primary Health Network has enabled students employed in rural health settings to complete their studies while remaining based in their home regions.

Curriculum development is ongoing with new offerings having been successful in the first Committee of University Academic Programmes (CUAP) round. Of note, are the Masters of Applied Artificial Intelligence and the PGDipPsychAssist, which is the new qualification for Psychology Assistants.

UC’s TEC-funded He Kokonga project, aligned to the Tertiary Education Strategy 2026, is gaining momentum with multiple initiatives now underway to strengthen data-informed approaches to student success. In April a university wide roadshow attracted strong engagement from academic and professional staff, reflecting growing institutional commitment to improving student outcomes.

Research – Impact on a Changing World

The demonstration plant for Zethos (formerly Zincovery), a UC Spinout Company, at Bromley was formally opened in April by the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. The company uses selective reduction and electrochemical technology to extract in-demand critical minerals from varied sources, including feedstocks, ores, and industrial waste. Compared to traditional extraction methods, Zethos is 50% cheaper, uses 70% less energy and reduces 95% fewer emissions. Zethos joins another critical mineral extraction company developed from UC-based research – Aspiring Materials – in Bromley.

Distinguished Professor Geoff Chase (Mechanical Engineering) had his 100th PhD student completion, a remarkable milestone for any academic and noteworthy not only for the number but for the impact of the research conducted.

Three UC professors - Paul Millar (Humanities), Natalia Chaban (Political Science), and Andy Nicol (Earth and Environmental Sciences) - were selected as 2026 Fellows of the Royal Society Te Apārangi, recognising the international impact and excellence of their work.

The installation of an earthquake sensor in Christchurch's new stadium, Te Kaha – One NZ Stadium, received wide media attention. The installation by SenseiQ, a UC Spinout company, supports the stadium's safety monitoring capability and demonstrates the positive local impact of UC research.

Dr Alex Grabham, Professor Ximena Nelson (Biological Sciences) and international collaborators published research on Bruce, a kea with a disability who used innovation to thrive in his social group and developed a unique jousting fighting technique. The study received wide media coverage.

Professor Dan Zhou (Mechanical Engineering) is the first academic from Oceania to be awarded the America Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Per Bruel Gold Medal for Noise Control and Acoustics. Professor Zhao's award for 2026 is for *groundbreaking discoveries enabling control of carbon-free-fuelled thermoacoustic instabilities; and for inventing transformative actively passive noise control methods and computational tools that yield quieter, cleaner aerospace and energy technologies.*

Dr Ella Guy (Mechanical Engineering) has won the 2026 Asia-Pacific Association for Biomechanics Yamaguchi Medal, an early career award from the Japanese Society for Mechanical Engineers (JSME).

Professor Sarah Masters (Chemistry) has been elected as the President-Elect of the Federation of Chemical Sciences Societies - Commonwealth Chemistry. The Federation champions equal opportunity, drives innovation and promotes excellence in chemical sciences for the benefit of the Commonwealth nations and their people.

UC PhD student Vincent Lomas (Ngāi Tahu, Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe) from Mathematics was awarded a Royal Society Te Apārangi NZUK Link Foundation scholarship to advance his research tackling inequities in infectious disease outcomes. Vincent will travel to the United Kingdom for two to three months to collaborate with leading researchers.

Two PhD students from Mechanical Engineering (Alice Cerdeira, Ben Robertson) have won National Science Foundation (NSF, USA) funded places to the 23rd International Summer Leadership Academy on Bio-X: AI in Healthcare, Medicine, and Biology to be held in June 2026. Alice has also been awarded the A.H. Couch Trust Heart Foundation Scholarship from the NZ National Heart Foundation to support her spending a year at the University of Liege as part of a UC-Liege dual-award doctoral degree.

UC was one of three recipients of the new Kiwi Space Activator pilot programme funding, aligned with the New Zealand Space and Advanced Aviation Strategy Objectives, which aims to support local space technology research. Associate Professor Sarah Kessans received a grant of \$600 000 for her research into demonstrating biological microgravity experimentation on a spaceplane.

People – Nurturing Staff, Thriving Students

Free flu vaccinations were made available to all staff and students from 1 April. The new option for staff of a walk-in service at the University Pharmacy is proving popular and increasing uptake and is a good complement to the Health Centre's bookable service.

Over 200 students and staff took part in the City to Surf in March, with both UC red t-shirts and the UC barbeque tent prominent throughout.

The staff professional development offerings for 2026 have a focus on leadership development, now extended to those who are aspiring leaders. The range of practical workshops include Managing

Recruitment and Onboarding, Managing Performance, Managing Remuneration and Benefits, Managing Leave, and Navigating Conflict.

In April the Faculty of Engineering hosted a team from Fonterra, many of whom are our alumni, where they ran an Assessment Centre for recruiting the next group of student interns. This innovation supported Fonterra and our students to more easily connect with each other.

Congratulations to Dr Piet van Hasselt of the School of Health Sciences who is the coach of the New Zealand men's 3x3 basketball team which won the Asia Cup in April and has secured a spot in the World Cup in Poland in June.

Following the Government's introduction of the National Fuel Plan, a Business Continuity Coordinating Group was convened to monitor developments and ensure appropriate business continuity plans are in place. UC is operating as usual, with teaching, research and campus activities continuing as planned. There is currently no immediate impact on UC operations, and we will continue to follow Government guidance as it evolves.

Health and Safety

After a lengthy period of discussions the City Council has agreed to install a zebra crossing on Ilam Road, near the junction of Homestead Lane. Works will commence in July.

A training programme for the Senior Leadership Team, facilitated by HSE Global, is completed. Training is now underway for Heads and Managers who report to the Senior Leadership Team.

Internationalisation – Locally Engaged, Globally Networked

On 30 March we formalised a new partnership with IIT-Madras, India, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement strengthens UC's engagement with India and supports our developing Transnational Education (TNE) initiatives, establishing a framework for collaboration across degree programmes, online education, research, and academic exchange. A key feature of the partnership is a structured Master's pathway, enabling IIT-Madras Bachelor of Science students to progress into our Master of Applied Data Science, including flexible study options through Tuihono UC | UC Online.

International conversations focused on partnerships in the Online and on-campus space in the past month. In April UC signed MoUs with 4 overseas Universities (IIT Madras, Anurag University, Sri Sri University and Fiji University) to partner in the delivery of hybrid TNE programmes. UC Online also launched the Bachelor of Criminal Justice and Bachelor of Health in this time adding to the suite of online offerings.

Professors Kathryn MacCallum and Cheryl Brown (Education) jointly hosted a symposium on Pacific Voices in AI with Fiji National University and Commonwealth of Learning in Suva in April. Participants comprised educators from the Fijian tertiary sector, NGOs, and Ministry departments, who collaborated on future directions.

A Joint Satellite Laboratory was launched in April on the campus of our research partner, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia. Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation, Lucy Johnston, represented UC at formal launch events that were attended by Ministerial and other senior leaders in Malaysia. Both institutions commit to jointly develop capability in priority areas including AI, immersive technologies, extended reality (XR), and advanced computing.

On 24–25 March, University of Canterbury welcomed Tuvalu Prime Minister Feleti Teo during his visit to Christchurch, where he met with Vice-Chancellor Professor Cheryl de la Rey, Tuvaluan students and members of UC's Pacific community. The visit included the panel discussion *our whenua, our waters*, co-hosted by UC, the Tuvalu Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which explored how Indigenous knowledge and science can work together to strengthen climate resilience and support communities facing rising seas.

Another notable international connection in education has involved Antarctic Studies. Professor Daniela Liggett visited Monaco on invitation by the University of the Arctic and the Prince Albert I of Monaco Foundation for the 3rd Monaco Polar Symposium and an event on Antarctic academic collaboration. As part of these events, the International Antarctic Institute (IAI) was relaunched. This is a global multi-campus educational consortium that offers specialised cryosphere science programs. With partners from nine countries, it allows students to take cross-accredited courses in polar studies (such as ice sheets, glaciers, and permafrost) at various participating universities worldwide.

In March the Faculty of Law, in cooperation with the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), and the Hague Conference on Private International Law, organised the Christchurch Conference on International and Transnational Legal Frameworks. The conference addressed issues relating to cross-border business-to-business transactions, agricultural trade, investment, artificial intelligence, cross-border family law, and modern slavery, with an emphasis on legal instruments of importance to Pacific Island nations. Keynote speakers included Justice David Goddard (Singapore International Commercial Court; former Judge of the New Zealand Court of Appeal), Ignacio Tirado (Secretary-General, UNIDROIT), and Justice Vui Nelson (UC alumnus; Judge of the Supreme Court of Samoa).

Organisational Efficacy – of a sustainable scale by 2030

The Jack Mann Auditorium and Cinema received a Gold Award at the 2026 NZ Commercial Projects Awards on Friday 15 May. Keith Lilley, Gareth Jones, and Annarose Smith from the Facilities Management Capital Development team attended the event.

The build of Takurua, the new Recreation Centre, is on time and on budget.

The Connectivity Refresh programme, which is a refresh of UC's network, has started and will enable a transformation in the security, agility, resiliency and performance of UC's network over the next 3 years. The connectivity team has also continued work in refreshing the Wireless and Wired networks in our Halls of residence, providing a significant leap in experience for our students in Halls. Over the Easter break the team completed the Tupuānuku hall, with the remaining halls scheduled to be completed by end of June.

The Higher Degree and Ethics management project has also commenced. The preferred solution is to scale the existing Endpoint IQ platform, successfully implemented recently in partnership with Research and Innovation. This project is planned to go live in 2027.

Along with the Executive Director – Planning, Finance and Digital Services, I hosted two all staff hui on 30 April and 6 May to provide an overview of the 2025 UC Annual Report. The first hui was also recorded and published on the intranet. An overview of 2025 financial and non-financial results was provided, including in comparison to other Universities, and there was an opportunity for staff to ask questions. The events were well attended and well received, with attendees valuing having a greater understanding of UC's financial position and associated demands and trade-offs, particularly at the outset of 2027 budget planning.

Early in May several New Zealand universities were impacted by a worldwide cyber security attack which affected their learning management systems and caused delays in course timelines. UC's use of an open source learning management system safeguarded the University against the attack by keeping data in-house, and learning operations were unaffected.

Environmentally Sustainable

A recent study led by PhD candidate David Pedley and Professor Justin Morgenroth used AI, aerial imagery and LiDAR data to map urban tree canopy loss across Christchurch with unprecedented precision. Their research found that nearly 14.5% of the city's urban tree canopy disappeared between 2016 and 2021, most of it on residential land. By identifying tree loss at the scale of individual properties, the tool could help

councils and communities make more informed decisions about protecting urban forests, which play a vital role in cooling cities, improving air quality, supporting biodiversity and enhancing wellbeing.

UC researcher Daniel Hernández-Carrasco has been internationally recognised in the 2026 Frontiers Planet Prize for research examining how climate change is disrupting Earth's natural seasons. His work explores how shifts in snowmelt, river flows, migration patterns and breeding cycles can ripple through ecosystems, affecting biodiversity and food systems. The research also highlights practical strategies for environmental management, particularly in New Zealand's river ecosystems.

Together, these projects demonstrate how UC researchers are developing science-based tools and knowledge to help communities respond to environmental change and build more sustainable futures.

Memorandum/Pukapuka

Report To:	Council
Date of Meeting:	26 May 2026
Report Title:	Academic Board Report
Date of Report:	20 April 2026
Report Author:	Professor C de la Rey, Associate Professor A Griffith, Eleri Nugent
For:	Information

Executive Summary

Council is asked to note:

- *the 10 April 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 May:*
 - Proposal to introduce a Diploma in Postgraduate Preparation and Certificate in Postgraduate Preparation
 - Proposal to introduce named PGDip and Masters Education qualifications
 - Proposal to restructure the Master of Engineering Management including introducing a Postgraduate Certificate in Engineering Management and a 120-point Master of Engineering Management alongside the current 180-point degree
 - Proposal to add Agile as an endorsement to the Master of Project Management
 - Proposal to introduce a Master of Transport Planning, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate in Transport Planning
 - Proposal to introduce a new major in Earth Science in the Bachelor of Science
 - Proposal to delete the Computational Linguistics major from the Bachelor of Data Science
 - Proposal to introduce a minor in Criminal Justice
- (all to be found in Diligent attachment 2)

Recommendation

That Council notes the Academic Board Report from 10 April 2026.

Attachments

1. Academic Board Report from its meeting on 10 April 2026
2. Diligent Reference - 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 10 APRIL 2026

REPORT FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

Professor de la Rey updated members on the latest developments including the appointment of Penny Symmonds as tertiary education minister, the report on Prioritisation in New Zealand's Science, Innovation and Technology system and the MBIE and TEC task force which will be set up to advise on fuel supplies.

REPORT FROM THE UCSA

Evangeline Rong took her report as read. She noted that success of student feedback sessions and recruitment of class reps and also commented on the rise in student hardship and the help provided to students by the UCSA.