

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