

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO
TE WHARE WĀNANGA O WAIKATO**

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2021 (Part 1)

Present: Professor N Quigley (Chair), Professor M Barbour, Dr P Barrett, Professor B Barton, Professor M Berryman, Mr M Bolger, Associate Professor T Bowell, Dr J Bowen, Professor C Breen, Ms K Campbell-Kamariera, Ms J Campion, Associate Professor M Cheng, Professor E Collins, Professor B Cowie, Dr C Curtis, Associate Professor S Dillon, Professor M Dyer, Dr K Edmonds, Mr J Govers, Mr R Hallett, Dr K Hébert-Losier, Dr K Hemi, Associate Professor A Hinze, Professor G Holmes, Associate Professor M Houlahan, Professor B Jackson, Professor B James, Ms A Jolliffe-Simpson, Professor A Jones, Ms M Jordan-Tong, Associate Professor T Keegan, Professor D Klinger, Professor T Kukutai, Professor P Leman, Mr Z Liu, Ms M Lolaki, Professor R Longhurst, Professor M Manley-Harris, Mr M Oladejo, Dr S Peel, Associate Professor K Perszyk, Associate Professor K Petrie, Professor B Pfahringer, Associate Professor M Prinsep, Ms A Ranginui-Charlton, Professor A Rose, Professor A Roy, Professor F Scrimgeour, Professor S Strasser, Ms L Thebe, Professor M Thrupp, Dr J Waiti, Professor K Weaver and Professor I White.

In attendance: Ms A Beardsmore, Mr B McGibbon, Prof J Swan

Secretariat: Mr T O'Brien

21.39 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from Ms T Brown, Professor B Curtis, Associate Professor S Ellis, Ms K Fisher, Associate Professor G Khan, Associate Professor A Mohsin, Associate Professor S Morrison, Associate Professor S Peters, Professor K Pickering, Professor V Reid, Mr T M Rurehe, Associate Professor G Schott, Ms M Singh, Dr S Tiakiwai, and Professor M Walmsley.

21.40 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING (PART 1) HELD ON 28 APRIL 2021

Confirmed

The minutes of the meeting (Part 1) held on 28 April 2021, as set out in document 21/317a.

21.41 CORRESPONDENCE

Reported

1. That the University of Waikato Investment Plan 2022-2024 had been circulated to members of the Board for feedback out of session in June 2021.
2. That the Investment Plan had been revised accordingly and submitted to the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC).

21.42 REPORT OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR (PART 1)

Received

The report of the Vice-Chancellor (Part 1), as set out in document 21/318a.

21.43 MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY STUDENT MEMBERS

Noted in discussion

1. That academic staff were reminded to facilitate and utilise the class representative system for Trimester B. The Waikato Student Union were holding a number of class rep and tikanga training sessions over the coming weeks. In addition, Moodle pages for class reps had now been set up.
2. That new spaces for students around the campus were going well. The Student Union kitchen was now in operation. Staff were invited to visit this area and to use it as an opportunity to socialise with students.

21.44 REPORT OF COUNCIL

Received

1. The report of the 15 June 2021 meeting of Council, as set out in document 21/319.
2. An oral report from the elected staff member to Council.

Noted in discussion

That the last Council meeting had focused on the University Strategy and planning a way forward for the next few years.

21.45 REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Received

The report of the Education Committee meeting held on 13 July 2021, as set out in document 21/320.

Noted in discussion

That there would be publicity and a marketing launch for the new Bachelor of Climate Change proposal in the next few weeks.

21.46 REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Received

The report of the Research Committee meeting held on 23 June 2021, as set out in document 21/321.

21.47 REPORTS OF THE MĀORI ACADEMIC BOARD OF STUDIES

Received

The reports of the Māori Academic Board of Studies meeting held on 12 May 2021 and 24 June 2021, as set out in document 21/322.

21.48 REPORTS OF THE DIVISIONAL BOARDS

Received

The reports of the Divisional Board meetings held 3 - 7 May 2021 and 1 - 4 June 2021, as set out in documents 21/323-21/326.

21.49 ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENTS ROUND TWO 2021

Received

1. The current list of proposals for Round Two 2021 that had been signalled to date or deferred from previous rounds, as set out in document 21/40 (revised 16 July 2021).
2. Feedback with respect to the strategic and resource implications for the Round Two 2021 Academic Development proposals, as set out in document 21/251.

Noted in discussion

That there was an intention to introduce an undergraduate programme in Artificial Intelligence (AI). This would likely include a paper on ethics, data sovereignty and non-technical issues relating to AI.

Resolved

1. To approve the following Round Two 2021 Category 1-5 proposals:
 - a. Introduction of a minor in Kaupapa Māori Psychology, as set out in document 21/35a.
 - b. Introduction of a Graduate Certificate and minor in Business Analytics, as set out in document 21/35b.
 - c. Introduction of a minor in eSports, as set out in document 21/35c.
 - d. Introduction of a subject in Artificial Intelligence to the Master of Science, Master of Science (Research) and Postgraduate Diploma, as set out in document 21/35d.
2. To approve the following Round Two 2021 Category 6-9 proposal:
 - a. Rename Second Language Teaching to Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages for the Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate, as set out in document 21/240.

21.50 CATEGORY C AND SPECIALISATION PROPOSALS

Received

The list of Category C proposals that had been signalled for Round B 2021, as set out in document 20/535 (revised 16 July 2021).

Resolved

To approve the 40 Category C proposals, as set out in documents 21/277.1-21/277.40.

21.51 DRAFT UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO STRATEGY 2022 – 2024

Considered

Feedback to the Vice-Chancellor on the draft University of Waikato Strategy 2022-2024, as set out in document 21/309.

Noted in discussion

1. That the Strategy focused on the current environment, and had been confined to those areas where it was expected that tangible, well-defined shifts could be made over the next few years.
2. That a number of other strategic issues would be picked up in the other University plans currently being developed.
3. That feedback on the Strategy could be addressed directly to the Vice-Chancellor, or provided through the various consultation channels that were available.

Goal 2: Higher levels of learner success and innovation in teaching content and practice

4. That the learner success measure in Goal 2 implied that FLEXI papers were a key measure. Questions were raised about how successful these papers had been, and if increasing the number of FLEXI papers available was an appropriate target.
5. That anecdotal feedback from the Faculty of Law indicated that only about 15 per cent of students were attending class, with a further 45 per cent watching online or accessing a recording of the lecture. That there could be a risk of detachment and disengagement by some students. Decisions about FLEXI papers needed to be based on empirical work and a good understanding of what had been happening.
6. That further detail about the future development of FLEXI papers was to be included in the Academic Plan. There was an acknowledgment that more work was required to understand how FLEXI papers had performed for students and staff. Student feedback indicated that they value FLEXI papers being offered. However, further data would help inform decisions about how this could best be done for everyone.
7. That the TEC held us accountable for student success and, therefore, any issues with student success could impact on our TEC funding. Any practices we implement would need to support students to be successful.
8. That reference to the White Paper on Assessment in Goal 2 would be amended to reflect that progress would be measured through agreement on, and the operationalisation of, the Principles of Assessment. This would require ongoing engagement about assessment practices.

Goal 3: Progressing the Taskforce objectives

9. That the Research Plan included ideas about how we might address issues relating to fragmentation and agenda setting in national priorities.
10. That the Scholarships Committee had some questions, particularly in relation to the new scholarships detailed in the Strategy. That there would need to be further work on developing the detail of how these scholarships might operate in practice. At this stage, however, feedback was being sought on whether staff thought these scholarships were a good idea.

11. That, with respect to the scholarship for the Te Tohu Paetahi language immersion programme, it was noted that Te Reo Māori was only one component of cultural competency. It was questioned whether there would be an opportunity for staff to learn about broader aspects of cultural safety.
12. That the Te Tohu Paetahi programme includes a broader framework of cultural knowledge. In addition, there would be other opportunities for staff to develop cultural safety skills, and these were being developed as part of the Taskforce response.
13. That opportunities to engage in these initiatives would be available to all staff so that no one particular group would be privileged.

Other

14. That Goal 5 would be amended to include reference to the Tauranga campus expansion.
15. That it had been questioned whether the timing of the Strategy could be better aligned with the impending release of a number of sector-wide education strategies. That some elements of these wider strategies had already been incorporated into the Strategy and other plans, while others could take a considerable amount of time to implement. There would, therefore, be time to adjust to any signals coming out around educational strategies.

21.52 REVISIONS TO HIGHER RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS AND HIGHER DEGREE COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS REGULATIONS

Reported

1. That the Regulations were considered by the Boards of Studies, the Divisional Boards, the Māori Academic Board of Studies, Curriculum Committee, Research Committee, and the Education Committee in June and July 2021.
2. That the Regulations had been revised accordingly. A summary of the changes made to the Regulations was provided in document 21/135.

Received

A summary of the proposed revisions to the Higher Research Degree Regulations, Regulations for Higher Doctorates, and Higher Degree Appeals and Complaints Regulations, as set out in document 21/135.

Resolved

To approve the revisions to the:

1. Higher Research Degree regulations, as set out in documents 21/136 - 21/141.
2. Regulations for Higher Doctorates, as set out in document 21/142.
3. Higher Degree Complaints and Appeals Regulations, as set out in document 21/143.

21.53 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Reported

That the proposals to amend the English language entry requirements were considered and recommended by the Divisional Boards and Māori Academic Board of Studies in June 2021, and the Education Committee in July 2021.

Resolved

1. To approve the proposal to update the undergraduate English language scores for Indian high school qualifications, as set out in document 21/234.
2. To approve the proposal to update a number of English Language entry requirements, as set out in document 21/235.

21.54 STUDENT DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE MEMBER NOMINATION

Reported

That the amendments to the Student Discipline Committee constitution, approved by the Academic Board in December 2020, had resulted in a requirement to appoint four additional staff members to the committee.

Resolved

To approve the nomination of the one staff member to the Student Discipline Committee panel, as set out in document 21/327.

21.55 MANAV RACHNA INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES (MRIIRS) GUARANTEED CREDIT AGREEMENT (GCA)

Reported

1. That the Education Committee had approved a GCA between the Waikato Management School and MRIIRS, subject to a review of the English papers by the Director of English Language Development.
2. That a copy of the GCA would be made available on the [Partnerships Database](#).

21.56 ANNUAL REPORT

Reported

That the 2020 Annual Report of the Scholarships Executive had been considered by the Research Committee on 23 June 2021.

Received

The 2020 Annual Report of the Scholarships Executive, as set out in document 21/154.

21.57 EXECUTIVE APPROVAL

Reported

That the Chair of the Academic Board executively approved a proposal in relation to the University's English language entry requirements that extended the acceptance of online language tests for offers for 2022 and ceased the acceptance of IELTS and TOEFL tests beyond their published validity period.

21.58 GENERAL

Rototuna High School students

1. That Rototuna Senior High School students would be using facilities in the Division of Education for the next two to three years while building works were being undertaken at their school campus.
2. That this was a good opportunity for the University to strengthen its relationship with the high school as they were experiencing strong growth in student enrolments.
3. That transport for students to and from the campus had been arranged by the school.

Other

4. That it might be beneficial to conduct some analysis of the impact on student performance of changes made to admissions practices in 2020 in response to COVID-19. Further, that a project was being established by the New Zealand (NZ) Qualifications Authority and Universities NZ to look at the implications of the changes made to entry requirements across all NZ universities.
5. That the pastoral support programme that was put in place for all students during 2020 had now been replaced with a study advisory programme for first year, new to Waikato students.
6. That there had been an acknowledgment of the success of a number of athletes at the Tokyo Olympic Games who had a connection to the University.

21.59 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Reported

That the next meeting of the Academic Board would be held on 29 September 2021 at 2.10pm in the Council Room.

AGENDA PART TWO – CONFIDENTIAL

Resolved:

That the public were excluded from the meeting to allow consideration of the following items:

1. Minutes (Part 2) of the Academic Board meeting of 28 April 2021
2. Report of the Vice-Chancellor (Part 2)
3. Honorary Awards

The interests protected under the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 and/or the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the public conduct of these proceedings were:

Item 1 affected material previously dealt with in a meeting from which the public was excluded.

Item 2 affected the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage and to protect the commercial interests of the University.

Item 3 affected the privacy of natural persons.

Tim O'Brien
Academic Office
2 August 2021