

University of Otago Council

Venue - Council Chamber, First Floor, Clocktower Building



12 November 2024 01:00 PM - 05:00 PM

Agenda Topic	Presenter	Page
Agenda		1
Council Briefings These will take place prior to the meeting and include a Council only session.		
Opening Karakia - to be led by Mr Malcolm A Wong		
Part 1 - Open Committee		
1. Disclosure of Interests To receive the current Register of Interests for members of the University of Otago Council. Members are referred to Section 10 of the Council's Standing Orders relating to Disclosure of Interests and reminded to advise of any conflicts that might arise in relation to any items on this agenda.	Information	3
2. University Council Minutes To confirm Part 1 of the Minutes of the meeting of the University Council held on 8 October 2024.	Confirmation	6
3. Communications from the Senate To receive Communications from the Senate, dated 30 October 2024 and to consider the recommendations for approval for: (i) new prizes and scholarship and disestablished prize (ii) representation at Senate (iii) model for academic dates (iv) Honorary Degree procedure.	Decision	11
4. Finance and Budget		43
4.1 Minutes (October) To receive Part 1 of the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee held on 31 October 2024, to be confirmed at the first meeting in 2025.	Information	43
4.2 Financial Review To receive a verbal report from the Chief Financial Officer.	Information	45
4.3 Student Domestic Tuition Fees - 2025 To consider the recommendation, endorsed by the Finance and Budget Committee at its meeting on 31 October 2024 that all domestic tuition fees increase by 6% and that the PACR101 academic transition paper be zero-rated for domestic student tuition fees.	Decision	46

4.4	Compulsory Student Services Fee - 2025	Decision	52
	To consider the recommendation, endorsed by the Finance and Budget Committee at its meeting on 31 October 2024, that the 2025 Compulsory Student Services Fee:		
	1. for students at the Dunedin campus be set at \$11.52 per 0.01 EFTS or \$1,152.00 per 1 EFTS, capped at 1.05 EFTS.		
	2. for students at other non-Dunedin campuses be set at the following flat fees: Christchurch \$305.15, Wellington \$241.81, Invercargill \$168.43		
	(All fees are GST inclusive)		
5.	Vice-Chancellor's Business		58
	5.1 Vice-Chancellor's Report	Information	58
	To receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor.		
6.	Division of Commerce Te Kura Pākihi Update	Information	64
	The Pro Vice-Chancellor Commerce Te Kura Pākihi will provide a divisional update and will remain for a discussion in part 2 of the meeting.		
7.	Exclusion of the Public	Decision	65
	To approve a motion under Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, that the public be excluded from the specified parts of the proceedings of this meeting.		

**UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO COUNCIL
REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

(As disclosed on appointment to the Council and updated as necessary)

All University of Otago Council members are Trustees of The Hocken Collection

Professor Ralph W Adler

Entity	Nature of Interest
University of Otago	Employee
Adler Family Foundation	Trustee
Dunedin Community Accounting	Trustee
Roundtable of University-Elected Academic Councillors	Chair

Frazer B Barton

Entity	Nature of Interest
ALC Trustees No 1 Limited	Director / Shareholder
Anderson Lloyd Shareholding Company Limited	Director / Partner / Shareholder
Anderson Lloyd Partnership	Partner
Anderson Lloyd Trustee Company Limited	Director / Shareholder
Anderson Lloyd Trustee Company (2011) Limited	Director / Shareholder
Anderson Lloyd Trustee Company (2013) Limited	Director / Shareholder
Anderson Lloyd Trustee Company (No. 2) Limited	Director / Shareholder
Anderson Lloyd Trustee Company (No.3) Limited	Director / Shareholder
Calvert & Co Trustees Limited	Director / Shareholder
Naseby Development Trust	Trustee
New Zealand Law Society / Te Kāhui Ture o Aotearoa	President and Board Member
New Zealand Law Society / Te Kāhui Ture o Aotearoa – CLE Ltd (Continuing Legal Education)	Director
Otago Law Practitioners Benevolent Fund	Trustee
TCP Holdings Limited	Director / Shareholder
University of Otago Foundation Trust	Trustee

Brendan J Boyle

Entity	Nature of Interest
Brendan Boyle Limited	Director / Shareholder
Fairway Resolution Holdings Limited	Director
Fairway Resolution Limited	Director

Mark Brunton

Entity	Nature of Interest
University of Otago	Employee
Edgar Diabetes and Obesity Research Centre	Board Member

Hon Clare E Curran

Entity	Nature of Interest
Curran Consultants Ltd	Director / Shareholder
Life Matters Suicide Prevention Trust	General Manager
Ōtākau Mental Health and Addictions Network	Chair

6 November 2024

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO COUNCIL
REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Allan H Dawson (Independent Chair)

Entity	Nature of Interest
University of Otago Holdings Limited	Chair
Electricity Authority – Te Mana Hiko	Director
Arlo Software Limited	Director
Connexionz Limited	Director
Winnow Software Limited	Director and Shareholder
Onfarm Solution Limited	Advisory Board member
Winnow Software Limited	Shareholder
University of Otago – family interest	Two children enrolled at the University and residents at Knox College and Te Rangihiroa

Suzanne L Ellison

Entity	Nature of Interest
Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki	Runaka Manager
Karitane Māori Tours Limited	Director

Ross D Jackson

Entity	Nature of Interest
McCulloch and Partners	Partner
Ross Jackson Family Trust	Trustee and Beneficiary
Great Southern Property Holdings Limited	Director/Shareholder
Invercargill City Council Risk and Assurance Committee	Independent Chair
Mackersy Five Mile GP Limited	Director and Shareholder
Invest South Limited	Director
McCulloch Trustees 2004 Limited	Director and Shareholder
McCulloch Trustees 2010 Limited	Director and Shareholder
Pacific Tristar Limited	Director
Southland Sports Services Limited	Director and Shareholder
Villas 1-36 Management Limited	Director and Chairman
Numerous Client Trustee Companies	Director and Corporate Trustee

Patricia (Trish) A Oakley

Entity	Nature of Interest
Forsyth Barr Limited	Employee / Shareholder
Financial Services Council - Investment and KiwiSaver Committee	Co-Chair
Institute of Directors NZ - Board	Director
Institute of Directors NZ – National Council	Vice President
Institute of Directors NZ – Otago Southland Branch	Committee Member
New Zealand Lotteries Commission - Board	Member
Global Women	Member
The Food Club Limited	Shareholder
University of Otago Holdings Limited	Director
University of Otago Foundation Trust	Board of Trustees (as Chancellor)
Pomegranate Trust	Trustee and Beneficiary

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO COUNCIL
REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Nicola E Riordan

Entity	Nature of Interest
Diabetes New Zealand	Trustee
Kordia Limited	Director
Real Estate Institute of New Zealand (REINZ)	Director
Realestate.co.nz	Director
Loan Market Group (Australia)	Director
New Zealand Financial Services Group (NZFSG)	Director
Nua Limited	Shareholder
NZQA Information Systems Committee	Independent member

Hon Grant M Robertson

Entity	Nature of Interest
University of Otago	Employee
University of Otago Foundation Trust	Ex officio Trustee
University of Otago Holdings Limited	Ex officio Director
NZ Vice-Chancellors' Committee (Universities NZ)	Committee Member
KMKT Trust (Family Trust)	Non-beneficial Trustee

Keegan L Wells

Entity	Nature of Interest
Otago University Students' Association	President
NZ Union of Students' Associations	Ex officio Board Member; Chair

Malcolm A Wong

Entity	Nature of Interest
Aylesbury Investments Limited	Director / Shareholder
CNW Trustees (2007) Limited	Director / Shareholder
CNW Trustees (2017) Limited	Director / Shareholder
CNW Trustees (2020) Limited	Director / Shareholder
CNW Trustees Limited	Director / Shareholder
Cook North & Wong Limited	Director / Shareholder
Dornoch Dunedin Investments Limited	Shareholder (Trustee)
Dunedin Casinos Charitable Trust	Trustee (Advisory)
Dunedin Chinese Gardens Trust	Trustee (Chairman)
Kotahitaka Trust Board	Trustee
Nasico Limited	Shareholder
Palmer Oliver Holdings Limited	Shareholder
Sun Gum Saan Limited	Director
P M Yelavich Anaesthetics Limited	Shareholder
Technology Holdings Limited	Shareholder
Wychwood Holdings Limited	Shareholder



Minutes of a meeting of the University Council

8 October 2024

- Present** The Chancellor (in the Chair), the Pro-Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor R W Adler, Mr M Brunton, Hon C E Curran, Ms S L Ellison, Mr R Jackson, Ms N E Riordan, Ms K L Wells, and Mr M A Wong.
- In attendance** The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Māori), the Chief Financial Officer, Mr J Hayes (acting Chief Operating Officer), the Director of Communications, the Director of Strategy, Analytics and Reporting, the Registrar and Secretary to the Council, and the Manager, Copyright and Open Access (acting as Deputy Secretary to Council).
- Associate Professor M Gibbons (Pro-Vice-Chancellor Health Sciences) attended for a divisional report, items 7 and 9. Mr R O'Brien (Tumaki, Sustainability) attended for item 12.1.2. Ms C Gallop (Director, Student Services) and Ms J Oranje (Manager, Student Pastoral Care) attended for item 15. Ms N Weaver (Manager, Business Case Development) attended for item 16.
- Welcome** Mr R Jackson was welcomed to his first meeting as a Council member.
- Congratulations** The Chancellor congratulated Mr Boyle on his appointment as Pro-Chancellor. She also offered congratulations to Ms Riordan on becoming a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors NZ.

Part 1: Open Committee

Opening Karakia led by Mr Jackson

1. Disclosure of Interests and Register of Interests

The Council received the current Register of Interests for members of the University of Otago Council, and the Chancellor reminded members to declare any changes to the Deputy Secretary to the Council.

It was noted that on becoming Chancellor, Ms Oakley would also be joining the University of Otago Foundation Trust Board of Trustees.

2. University Council Minutes

Part 1 of the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 September 2024 were confirmed.

3. Communications from the Senate

The Council received Communications from the Senate, dated 25 September 2024, and

APPROVED the following recommendations:

- i) academic proposals, to be submitted to the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP):
 - To consolidate the Energy Science and Technology and Energy Management subjects into a single subject to be renamed Sustainable Energy Engineering, including an amendment to recode EMAN papers as ENRG papers.
 - To delete the Postgraduate Certificate in Children's Issues (PGCertChIs) and Postgraduate Diploma in Child-Centred Practice (PGDipCCP), including the deletion of CHIC papers.
- ii) a proposal to split the Department of Women's and Children's Health in the Dunedin School of Medicine (DSM) into two departments, the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Women's Health and the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health

and, in addition, the Council **noted** the following matters approved by Senate under delegation through the University Statute:

Academic Proposals

Boards of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies

In addition to minor and consequential amendments, the Senate approved the following:

Commerce

- MART 570 Marketing for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (approved special topic)

Standardising Postgraduate Admissions Regulations & Requirements

A proposal to standardise admissions regulations and requirements for postgraduate programmes.

Graduating Year Reviews

Graduating Year Review (GYR) reports, to be submitted to CUAP, for the following programmes:

Health Sciences

- Master of Advanced Nursing Practice (MAdvNP)

Commerce

- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) for the BCom/BCom(Hons)

Humanities

- Criminology endorsement for DipGrad
- Master of Arts (Coursework) MA(Coursework), including Buddhist Studies and PHPE subjects

Sciences

- Data Science for BSc
- Exercise and Sport Science for BSc
- Physical Education, Activity and Health for BSc
- Sport Development and Management for BSc and BA

4. Finance and Budget

4.1 Minutes (July)

The Council received Part 1 of the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee held on 3 July 2024, confirmed at the September meeting.

4.2 Minutes (September)

The Council received Part 1 of the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee held on 26 September 2024, to be confirmed at the November meeting.

4.3 Financial Review

The Council received a verbal report from the Chief Financial Officer on the period to the end of August. The Council noted that the University's position was generally more favourable than forecast, while also noting the high degree of variability over the coming months.

5. Capital Development

5.1 Minutes (September)

The Council received Part 1 of the minutes of a meeting of the Capital Development Committee held on 24 September 2024, to be confirmed at its November meeting.

5.2 Capital Projects Report

The Council received a Capital Projects Report, dated 10 September 2024, with the following being noted verbally:

Construction work

- Arana College – on track to be ready for Semester 1 2025.
- CApSc Building – the seismic strengthening phase of the project was complete, with the exception of some minor variations. A contractor had been appointed for the next phase.

Information Technology

- Property+ - property management software now in use.

Strategic Projects

- The new University homepage and study match tool went live on 23 September.

The Council sought clarification about some of the budgetary details in the report. Management noted that one significant factor was price changes in suppliers of information technology systems. It was reported that the University negotiated hard with suppliers and did enter into consortium deals with other universities where appropriate.

6. Vice-Chancellor's Business

6.1 Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Council received a written report from the Vice-Chancellor, dated 2 October 2024. The report covered: notable recent developments, operational performance highlights, recent staff appointments and awards/recognition, recent stakeholder engagement, and upcoming events.

In his verbal comments, the Vice-Chancellor welcomed Ms Oakley in her new role as Chancellor and Mr Boyle as Pro-Chancellor. He also took to the opportunity – having been an apology for the previous meeting of Council – to acknowledge the departure of Mr Higgs as Chancellor and his contribution to the University.

The Vice-Chancellor also took time to praise staff for their extraordinary efforts in keeping the University running in the face of flooding (in Dunedin), an earthquake (in Wellington) and a fire in a Dunedin North street. No damage of note was reported, systems worked effectively.

The Vice-Chancellor also acknowledged the release that morning of the Coronial inquiry into the death of Sophia Crestani.

7. Division of Health Sciences | Te Wāhanga Matua Mātau Hauora Update

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor Health Sciences | Te Wāhanga Matua Mātau Hauora provided a divisional update for the Council.

8. Exclusion of the Public

The Council

APPROVED

a motion, under Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, that the public be excluded from the remaining parts of the proceedings of the meeting as appended to the Minutes.

The Chancellor moved that the public be excluded from the whole of the proceeding of this meeting/the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, —

Item 9	Division of Health Sciences Te Wāhanga Matua Mātau Hauora Update (Continued)
Item 10	Pt 2 of the Minutes of the meeting of the University Council held on 10 September 2024
Item 11	University Council Work Plan 2024 and Action Follow-Register
Item 12	Vice-Chancellor's Business
Item 13	Finance and Budget
Item 14	Health, Safety and Wellbeing
Item 15	Code of Pastoral Care
Item 16	Digital Learning Environment
Item 17	Honorary Degrees
Item 18	Committee Reports
Item 19	Industry Papers
Item 20	Council Information Pack
Item 21	Council Only Business

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows: -

General Subject	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground under Section 48(1)(a) for the passing of this resolution
Items 9 - 21 Confidential Minutes and Reports	Good reason for withholding information under the Official Information Act	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Sections 6,7 and/or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 (except Section 9(2)(g)(i)) as the case may require. The interests which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows (all references are to Section 9 of the Official Information Act):

Item 9	Division of Health Sciences Te Wāhanga Matua Mātau Hauora Update (Continued)	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 10	Pt 2 of the Minutes of the meeting of the University Council held on 10 September 2024	ss 9(2)(a), (i), and (k)
Item 11	University Council Work Plan and Action Follow-Register	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 12	Vice-Chancellor's Business	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 13	Finance and Budget	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 14	Health, Safety and Wellbeing	ss 9(2)(a), (ba) and (c)
Item 15	Code of Pastoral Care	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 16	Digital Learning Environment	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 17	Honorary Degrees	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 18	Committee Reports	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 19	Industry Papers	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 20	Council Information Pack	ss 9(2)(a), (i), and (k)
Item 21	Council Only Business	ss 9(2)(a), (i), (j) and (k)

AND THAT for Items 9 - 21 Professors S Brock, R Blaikie, J Palmer, J Ruru, Mr J Hayes, Mr D Thomson, Mr B Trott, Ms M McPherson, for item 12 Mr Chris Hale and Mr R O'Brien, for item 15 Ms Claire Gallop and Ms Jo Oranje, for item 16 Ms Naomi Weaver, be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because it relates to aspects of the administration and/or knowledge of specific capital projects of the University of Otago for which these people are responsible. The Registrar and Secretary to the Council and the Manger, Copyright and Access (on behalf of the Deputy Secretary to the Council) are also permitted to remain at the meeting to provide secretarial support and advice.



COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE
30 October 2024

The Senate recommends for approval:

• **Scholarships and Prizes**

The following new prizes and scholarship and disestablished prize, as outlined in a manatu from Te Pae Karahipi, Te Pae Taoka - the Scholarships and Prizes Committee dated 18 October 2024 (attached):

New prizes

- Delta Sigma Delta Charlie Dickens Prize
- Iti Rearea Prize in Mathematics & Statistics for First-Year Taurira Māori
- Mana Ola Prize in Mathematics & Statistics for First-Year Indigenous Pacific Students

New scholarship

- Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust Mana Tangata Scholarship

Disestablished prize

- Chartered Secretaries New Zealand Incorporated Prize

• **Representation at Senate – Expertise in Sustainability and Equity**

An amendment to the Senate Statute 2021, adding the Convener of the Equity Advisory Committee and the Head of Sustainability to the Composition of Senate to contribute expertise regarding the Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework and Sustainability Strategic Framework, respectively, as outlined in a manatu dated 10 October 2024 (attached), noting that Senate endorsed the establishment of a formal expectation that academic proposals brought to Senate for consideration address all four for the University's Strategic Frameworks, with further consideration needed to determine the scope and mechanism for this expectation.

• **Model for Academic Dates**

A new model for the University's academic dates – to take effect from 2027 – incorporating 12-week semesters and two-week mid-semester breaks, as outlined in a manatu from the Director of Student Experience and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (attached), noting that further consideration is needed by Senate regarding which option to recommend for the Pre-Christmas Summer School Period.

- **Honorary Degree Procedure**

The proposed Procedure for the Nomination and Conferral of an Honorary Degree and corresponding amendments to the Degrees and Other Awards Statute, as outlined in a manatu from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and the Registrar and Secretary to the Council dated 21 October 2024 (attached).

Memorandum



To Senate
From Scholarships and Prizes Committee
Date 18 October 2024
Re **New, Disestablished and Amended Awards**

Preamble

The recommendation of the Senate is sought for the following new prizes, new scholarship and disestablished scholarship to proceed to the University Council for its consideration.

Please also note that the Scholarships and Prizes Committee has approved amended prizes and an amended scholarship.

1. NEW PRIZES

a) Delta Sigma Delta Charlie Dickens Prize

- **Department:** Faculty of Dentistry
- **Value:** \$500
- **Background:** Sponsored by Mr Charlie Dickens and the New Zealand chapter of the Delta Sigma Delta Dental Fraternity, this prize aims to foster an attitude of altruism, cooperation and community-mindedness amongst Year 3 students in the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme. Valued at \$500, the prize will be awarded annually to the student deemed by their peers and teaching staff to best embody a spirit of collegiality and community engagement in Year 3 of the BDS degree. Factors such as financial or other personal hardship faced by candidates during the year may be taken into account.
- **Recommended by:**
 - Professor Paul Cooper, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, Division of Health Sciences
 - Associate Professor Megan Gibbons, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Division of Health Sciences

Proposed Regulations

Delta Sigma Delta Charlie Dickens Prize

Established by the University of Otago in 2024 through a generous donation from Charlie Dickens and the Delta Sigma Delta Dental Fraternity, this prize recognises the student who most demonstrates a spirit of altruism, cooperation and community connection in Year 3 of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery.

The prize will be awarded annually by the University Council, on the recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, to the student judged by their peers and teaching staff to be

the best exemplar of collegiality and community engagement in Year 3 of the Bachelor of Dental Surgery programme. Nominees who also experience significant financial or other personal hardship during the year will be given extra consideration for this award.

The value of the prize will normally be \$500.

b) Iti Rearea Prize in Mathematics & Statistics for First-Year Tauira Māori

- **Department:** Department of Mathematics and Statistics
- **Value:** \$500
- **Background:** This new department-funded award recognises outstanding achievement by a first-year tauira Māori enrolled in at least one 100-level MATH, STAT or COMO paper. The prize will be awarded to a student who has demonstrated exceptional performance in Mathematics and/or Statistics at 100 level. In addition to receiving \$500, the winner will have their name added to a dedicated wall plaque in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. In determining the winner, the Head of Mathematics and Statistics will consult a panel of department academics, the Associate Dean Māori for Sciences, and the departmental Kaiāwhina Māori. As well as a candidate’s grades, factors such as evidence of academic improvement, perseverance and effort will also be taken into consideration. Under University policy, the successful candidate must provide verification of their Māori ancestry to be awarded this prize. In tandem with this award, an equivalent prize for first-year indigenous Pacific students is also being put forward, on essentially the same terms.
- **Recommended by:**
 - Professor Sarah Wakes, Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Division of Sciences
 - Professor Richard Barker, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Division of Sciences

Proposed Regulations

Iti Rearea Prize in Mathematics & Statistics for First-Year Tauira Māori

Established in 2024 by the University of Otago, this prize recognises outstanding achievement by tauira Māori, and is awarded annually to a first-year student who has demonstrated exceptional performance in Mathematics and/or Statistics at 100 level.

“Iti rearea teitei kahikatea ka taea.” (Even the small rearea (bellbird) can fly to the top of the kahikatea tree.) - This whakataukī (proverb) conveys the wisdom that people can overcome challenges and reach great heights, whatever their stature or status. It serves as encouragement that remarkable accomplishments are possible, regardless of perceived limitations. The rearea also symbolises the small number of tauira Māori enrolling in Mathematics and Statistics, while the kahikatea symbolises the large institution they have come to. Applying the whakataukī, there is every reason to believe that despite their small numbers, tauira Māori can reach great heights at the University of Otago.

This prize will be awarded annually by the University Council, on the recommendation of the Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics, following consultation with:

- (i) a panel of academics from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics
- (ii) the Associate Dean Māori (Sciences) or their nominee, and

- (iii) the departmental Kaiāwhina Māori.

The recipient shall be a first-year tauira Māori enrolled in at least one 100-level MATH, STAT or COMO paper at the University of Otago, who is deemed to have attained a high standard of achievement. Factors to be taken into consideration will include the total number of MATH, STAT and COMO papers taken, the applicant's combined marks for these papers, and the degree of improvement evident in the applicant's overall academic progress. Furthermore, perseverance and effort will be deemed to be as important as raw grades.

In the event that a clear winner is difficult to identify, the departmental panel may recommend a joint award to be shared by two eligible students.

To be awarded the prize, the recipient(s) must provide [verification of Māori ancestry](#).

The value of the prize will normally be \$500, and the student's name will be placed on the *Iti Rearea* plaque hanging in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

c) Mana Ola Prize in Mathematics & Statistics for First-Year Indigenous Pacific Students

- **Department:** Department of Mathematics and Statistics
- **Value:** \$500
- **Background:** This new department-funded award recognises outstanding achievement by a first-year indigenous Pacific student enrolled in at least one 100-level MATH, STAT or COMO paper. The prize will be awarded annually to a student who has demonstrated exceptional performance in Mathematics or Statistics at 100 level. In addition to receiving \$500, the winner will have their name added to a dedicated wall plaque in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. In determining the winner, the Head of Mathematics and Statistics will consult a panel of department academics, the Associate Dean Pacific for Sciences, and the departmental Pacific Liaison. As well as candidates' grades, factors such as evidence of academic improvement, perseverance and effort will also be taken into consideration. Under University policy, the successful candidate must provide verification of their indigenous Pacific ancestry to be awarded this prize. In tandem with this award, an equivalent prize for first-year tauira Māori is also being put forward, on essentially the same terms.
- **Recommended by:**
 - Professor Sarah Wakes, Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Division of Sciences
 - Professor Richard Barker, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Division of Sciences

Proposed Regulations

Mana Ola Prize in Mathematics & Statistics for First-Year Indigenous Pacific Students

Established in 2024 by the University of Otago, this prize recognises outstanding achievement by indigenous Pacific students, and is awarded annually to a first-year student who has demonstrated exceptional performance in Mathematics and/or Statistics at 100 level.

The word Mana is commonly used throughout Polynesia, and is defined as "power" or "strength". Ola, meaning "life" or "outcome", is also widely used and understood. Mana

Ola may therefore be translated as “a powerful outcome”, an aspirational expression that encourages students to show qualities of perseverance, dedication and academic courage.

This prize will be awarded annually by the University Council, on the recommendation of the Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics, following consultation with:

- (i) a panel of academics from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics
- (ii) the Associate Dean Pacific (Sciences) or their nominee, and
- (iii) the departmental Pacific Liaison.

The recipient shall be a first-year indigenous Pacific student enrolled in at least one 100-level MATH, STAT or COMO paper at the University of Otago, who is deemed to have attained a high standard of achievement. Factors to be taken into consideration will include the total number of MATH, STAT and COMO papers taken, the applicant’s combined marks for these papers, and the degree of improvement evident in the applicant’s overall academic progress. Furthermore, perseverance and effort will be deemed to be as important as raw grades.

In the event that a clear winner is difficult to identify, the departmental panel may recommend a joint award to be shared by two eligible students.

To be awarded the prize, the recipient(s) must provide [verification of indigenous Pacific ancestry](#).

The value of the prize will normally be \$500, and the student’s name will be placed on the *Mana Ola* plaque hanging in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

2. NEW SCHOLARSHIP

a) **Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust Mana Tangata Scholarship**

- **Department:** School of Physiotherapy
- **Value:** \$6,000 (up to two offered per year)
- **Background:** This new award is generously funded by the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust. Valued at \$6,000, the scholarship will be awarded annually to two final-year Physiotherapy students of Māori and/or Pacific ancestry with a genuine interest in the field of neurorehabilitation. At the Trust’s discretion, recipients may also be offered a six-week clinical placement in Christchurch. In making their determination, the selection panel for this award will consider several key factors, such as each candidate’s interest in neurorehabilitation practice, their academic ability and potential, and financial or other hardship impediments. Under University policy, candidates must provide verification of Māori or indigenous Pacific ancestry to be awarded this prize.
- **Recommended by:**
 - Professor Leigh Hale, Dean of the School of Physiotherapy, Division of Health Sciences
 - Associate Professor Megan Gibbons, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Division of Health Sciences

Proposed Regulations

Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust Mana Tangata Scholarship

Established in 2024 by the University of Otago, in collaboration with the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust. Created in support of the School of Physiotherapy, this scholarship will be awarded annually to two final-year Physiotherapy students of Māori or Pacific ancestry with a genuine interest in neurorehabilitation. The term Mana Tangata in the title may be translated as “the prestige of the people”, which serves to emphasise the intrinsic honour and value of the University’s Māori and indigenous Pacific student communities.

Eligibility

Every applicant for this scholarship must be:

- a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder
- of verifiable Māori or indigenous Pacific descent
- enrolled (or planning to enrol) in the final year (400-level) of a Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPhty) or Bachelor of Physiotherapy with Honours (BPhty(Hons)) degree at the University of Otago, and
- interested in the field of neurorehabilitation.

Application Process

Every application for the scholarship must be submitted to Student Administration (Scholarships) at the University of Otago by the specified closing date.

Every applicant must submit:

- a completed application form
- a brief (max. one page) explanation of their overall suitability for the award, with particular reference to their interest in neurorehabilitation
- verification of Māori or indigenous Pacific ancestry
<https://www.otago.ac.nz/study/otago666451.html>
- a copy of their academic transcript if not previously an Otago student.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel will consist of the Dean of the School of Physiotherapy, the Associate Dean Māori (for Physiotherapy), the Associate Dean Pacific (for Physiotherapy), the Clinical Education Programme Lead, a physiotherapist external to the School (appointed by the Dean), and the Director, Development and Alumni Relations, or their nominees.

The Selection Panel will keep the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust (“the Trust”) informed of progress in choosing the two recipients, and will advise the Trust of their final decision.

The following factors shall be considered in selecting the successful applicants:

- the nature and extent of the applicants’ interest in the field of neurorehabilitation
- the applicants’ academic ability and potential
- any financial or other personal hardship presenting a barrier to academic success
- any other matter the Selection Panel may deem relevant.

The Selection Panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants for the scholarship.

Financial

- There will normally be two scholarships awarded each year. However, scholarships will only be awarded if the Selection Panel determines there are applications of sufficient quality.
- The total value of each scholarship awarded will be \$6,000.
- The scholarship funds will be applied first towards the recipient's tuition fees, with any unused portion to be paid (by instalment) as a stipend for living costs.

Tenure

- The scholarship may be held with full-time or part-time tenure.
- The scholarship must be taken up within one year of being awarded.
- The scholarship may be held concurrently with any other University of Otago scholarship where its regulations also allow co-tenure.

Other Requirements

- Award of the scholarship is dependent on the recipient being admitted to the University of Otago.
- The University of Otago reserves the right to use the names, photographs, and details of successful applicants for advertising and publicity. The award holders must agree to be reasonably available to participate in interviews and promotional activities if requested by the University of Otago.
- As part of the relationship established by this scholarship the recipient may have an opportunity to undertake a 6-week clinical placement with the Trust in Christchurch, but this is not guaranteed.

3. DISESTABLISHED PRIZE

a) Chartered Secretaries New Zealand Incorporated Prize

- **Department:** Master of Business Administration
- **Value:** \$100
- **Background:** This prize was last awarded in 2018 and has a value of \$100, shared among members of the best student syndicate in live case presentations made during Semester 3 of the MBA programme. Given the small value of the prize and successive changes in the structure of Chartered Secretaries New Zealand, making donor engagement less straightforward, the Development and Alumni Relations Office have advised that the prize should be disestablished.
- **Recommended by:**
 - Associate Professor Tony Garry, Executive Programmes Director, Division of Commerce
 - Professor Maree Thyne, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Division of Commerce

Current Regulations

Chartered Secretaries New Zealand Incorporated Prize

Founded by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in 1973, changed to the Chartered Institute of Corporate Management in 1995 and to Chartered Secretaries New Zealand Incorporated in 2002.

The prize is awarded by the University Council on the recommendation of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Commerce), to the best student syndicate in the Live Case Presentation in Term 3 of the course for the degree of Master of Business Administration.

4. AMENDED PRIZES

a) Graham Francis Hall Prize

- **Department:** University of Otago, Wellington
- **Value:** \$500
- **Background:** The main objective of this amendment is to state the value of the prize in the text of the regulations, which currently make no mention of it. At present interest rates, the trust fund from which prize payments are drawn can comfortably sustain an award of \$500 per annum, the current minimum value for all new prizes. Several minor adjustments have also been made to the existing text, for stylistic reasons or to update terminology.
- **Recommended by:**
 - Professor Tim Wilkinson, Acting Dean of Otago Medical School, Division of Health Sciences
 - Associate Professor Megan Gibbons, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Division of Health Sciences

Current Regulations

Graham Francis Hall Prize

Established in 1987, by a donation from Air New Zealand, in memory of the founding Dean of the Wellington School of Medicine, Professor Frank Hall.

The Prize is awarded annually by the University Council, on the recommendation of the Dean of the Wellington School of Medicine and the Heads of Departments, to the graduating student who has achieved the highest overall result for the fourth, fifth and sixth years at the Wellington School of Medicine.

Amended Regulations

Graham Francis Hall Prize

Established by the University of Otago in 1987 through a generous donation from Air New Zealand, in memory of the founding Dean of the Wellington School of Medicine, Professor Frank Hall.

This prize is awarded annually by the University Council, on the recommendation of the Dean of the University of Otago, Wellington and Heads of Departments, to the graduating student who has achieved the highest overall result for the fourth, fifth and sixth years at the University of Otago, Wellington.

The value of the prize will normally be \$500.

b) UOCE Awards for Professional Experience Excellence (x3)

- **Department:** College of Education

- **Value:** Certificate only – no monetary award
- **Background:** The College of Education offers an annual award to final year teaching students who demonstrate qualities and skills commensurate with those of a beginning teacher of exceptional quality in the three core education specialities, i.e. Early Childhood, Primary, and Secondary. The award has no monetary value, consisting only of a certificate of excellence awarded to all students deemed to have achieved the desired standard of excellence across a prescribed range of core teaching skills and practices. Under this amendment, each of the three strands will be given its own set of regulations, in recognition of the fact that each teaching area is governed by its own Key Teaching Tasks. The revamped regulations incorporate several important modifications to the current text, for example the change in terminology from “*teaching practice*” to “*professional experience*” necessitated by recent amendments to the BTchg and MTchgLn programme regulations. Other shortcomings in the current set of regulations are also addressed in the three individualised, updated versions.
- **Recommended by:**
 - Professor Vivienne Anderson, Dean of the College of Education, Division of Humanities
 - Professor Hugh Campbell, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Interim), Division of Humanities

Current Regulations

UOCE Award for Teaching Practice Excellence (Early Childhood Education)

UOCE Award for Teaching Practice Excellence (Primary Education/Te Pōkai Mātauranga o te Ao Rua (Primary Bicultural Education))

UOCE Award for Teaching Practice Excellence (Secondary Education)

Eligibility

The Teaching Practice Excellence Awards are open to all students who have completed the final teaching practicum of a University of Otago College of Education initial teacher education programme.

Criteria

The University of Otago College of Education Award for Teaching Practice Excellence shall be awarded annually by the University Council on the recommendation of the Dean of the University of Otago College of Education to students who demonstrate the qualities and skills commensurate with those of a beginning teacher of exceptional quality. Categories against which students will be judged are:

- Personal and professional qualities
- Interpersonal relationships
- Planning, preparation and evaluation
- Curriculum
- Teaching techniques and management

Students will need to have achieved a pass in all their papers for the year in which their nomination is received.

Prize type: Certificate

Amended Regulations

UOCE Award for Professional Experience Excellence (Early Childhood Education)

Established by the University of Otago in 2010 in conjunction with the University of Otago College of Education, this award continues a tradition of acknowledging excellence in a range of core teaching skills and practices demonstrated by final year students. The Professional Experience Excellence Awards are open to all students who have achieved a pass in all papers for the year in which their nomination is received, and have completed the final professional experience placement of a University of Otago College of Education initial teacher education programme.

The University of Otago College of Education Award for Professional Experience Excellence (Early Childhood Education) is awarded annually by the University Council, on the recommendation of the Dean of the University of Otago College of Education, to final year students who demonstrate qualities and skills commensurate with those of a beginning teacher of exceptional quality. To qualify for this award, candidates must demonstrate the high quality practices specified by the College of Education in the Key Teaching Tasks (KTTs) Early Childhood Education.

The award consists of a certificate of excellence issued by the University of Otago College of Education.

UOCE Award for Professional Experience Excellence (Primary Education/Te Pōkai Mātauranga o te Ao Rua (Primary Bicultural Education))

Established by the University of Otago in 2010 in conjunction with the University of Otago College of Education, this award continues a tradition of acknowledging excellence in a range of core teaching skills and practices demonstrated by final year students. The Professional Experience Excellence Awards are open to all students who have achieved a pass in all papers for the year in which their nomination is received, and have completed the final professional experience placement of a University of Otago College of Education initial teacher education programme.

The University of Otago College of Education Award for Professional Experience Excellence (Primary Education/Te Pōkai Mātauranga o te Ao Rua (Primary Bicultural Education)) is awarded annually by the University Council, on the recommendation of the Dean of the University of Otago College of Education, to students who demonstrate qualities and skills commensurate with those of a beginning teacher of exceptional quality. To qualify for this award, candidates must demonstrate the high quality practices specified by the College of Education in the Key Teaching Tasks (KTTs) Primary Education & Te Pōkai Mātauranga o te Ao Rua (Primary Bicultural Education).

The award consists of a certificate of excellence issued by the University of Otago College of Education.

UOCE Award for Professional Experience Excellence (Secondary Education)

Established by the University of Otago in 2010 in conjunction with the University of Otago College of Education, this award continues a tradition of acknowledging excellence in a range of core teaching skills and practices demonstrated by final year students. The Professional Experience Excellence Awards are open to all students who have achieved a pass in all papers for the year in which their nomination is received, and have completed the final professional experience placement of a University of Otago College of Education initial teacher education programme.

The University of Otago College of Education Award for **Professional Experience Excellence (Secondary Education)** is awarded annually by the University Council, on the recommendation of the Dean of the University of Otago College of Education, to **final year** students who demonstrate qualities and skills commensurate with those of a beginning teacher of exceptional quality. **To qualify for this award, candidates must demonstrate the high quality practices specified by the College of Education in the Key Teaching Tasks (KTTs) Secondary Education.**

The award consists of a certificate of excellence issued by the University of Otago College of Education.

5. AMENDED SCHOLARSHIP

a) **Ida G White Travelling Scholarship in Music Performance**

- **Department:** Music programme
- **Value:** Varies – number and value of scholarships set by selection panel
- **Background:** This award was established in 1979 to support students of exceptional ability or promise to pursue the study of singing or a stringed instrument outside New Zealand, with “a stringed instrument” interpreted narrowly to mean either violin or cello. The main reason for amending these regulations is to open the scholarship up to more candidates, by making clear that students of any stringed instrument taught within the Music programme, including e.g. piano, harp or guitar, may apply. It also provides an opportunity (i) to overhaul the original regulations, which are scant, (ii) to confirm that the scholarship is only available for postgraduate music study, and (iii) to establish a panel to decide the number, value and recipient(s) of the award each year.
- **Recommended by:**
 - Professor Anthony Ritchie, Head of the School of Performing Arts, Division of Humanities
 - Professor Hugh Campbell, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Interim), Division of Humanities

Current Regulations

Ida G White Travelling Scholarship in Music Performance

Established in 1979 by a bequest from the late Ida G White.

The scholarship shall be awarded to a candidate who has shown exceptional ability or promise in singing or a stringed instrument who is pursuing the study of music outside New Zealand.

Amended Regulations

Ida G White Travelling Scholarship in Music Performance

Established in 1979 by the University of Otago through a bequest from the late Ida G White, this scholarship is awarded to students of exceptional ability or promise pursuing the study of music outside New Zealand.

Eligibility

Every applicant for this scholarship must:

- be a New Zealand citizen or New Zealand Residence Class Visa Holder;
- have graduated from the University of Otago with a three- or four-year undergraduate performance degree studying voice or any stringed instrument (e.g. violin, cello, piano, harp or guitar); and
- have been accepted into a full-time course of study in voice or any stringed instrument (e.g. violin, cello, piano, harp or guitar) at postgraduate level in a leading music college or university overseas.

Application Process

Applications should be submitted to Student Administration (Scholarships) at the University of Otago. There is no fixed closing date for applications.

Every applicant must submit:

- a completed application form;
- a current curriculum vitae (CV);
- a budget outlining the costs associated with their overseas travel and study;
- a confirmation of enrolment letter from the overseas institution the applicant is (or will be) attending;
- a reference letter from a University of Otago music teacher familiar with the applicant's performance ability or potential.

Selection Process

The Selection Panel will consist of the Head of the Music programme in the School of Performing Arts (or their nominee), who will act as chair, plus two senior academics in the Music programme nominated by the Head of the School of Performing Arts.

The following factors shall be considered in selecting the successful applicant:

- the degree of excellence (or potential for excellence) in performance demonstrated by the applicant during their undergraduate music studies at the University of Otago;
- the relative cost of study each applicant is faced with.

The Selection Panel may require an interview with short-listed applicants for this award.

Financial

- The number and value of scholarships available each year will be determined by the Selection Panel, and will depend on such factors as the availability of funds, the number and quality of applications received, and the cost of study applicants are faced with at their chosen overseas institution.
- The payment of funds awarded under this scholarship is dependent on the recipient having already enrolled and commenced postgraduate study in a music college or university overseas.

Tenure

- The scholarship should be held with full-time tenure.
- The scholarship must be taken up within one year of being awarded.
- The recipient must be living and studying overseas during their tenure of the scholarship.
- The scholarship may be held concurrently with any other University of Otago scholarship where its regulations also allow co-tenure.

Other Requirements

- The University of Otago reserves the right to use the names, photographs, and details of successful applicants for advertising and publicity. The award holders must agree to be reasonably available to participate in interviews and promotional activities if requested by the University of Otago.

Recommendation

That the following new prizes, new scholarship and disestablished scholarship proceed to the University Council for consideration:

- a. New Prizes
 - i. Delta Sigma Delta Charlie Dickens Prize
 - ii. Iti Rearea Prize in Mathematics & Statistics for First-Year Tauira Māori
 - iii. Mana Ola Prize in Mathematics & Statistics for First-Year Indigenous Pacific Students
- b. New Scholarship
 - i. Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust Mana Tangata Scholarship
- c. Disestablished Prize
 - i. Chartered Secretaries New Zealand Incorporated Prize

For Noting

The Scholarships and Prizes Committee has approved the following amended prizes and amended scholarship:

- a. Amended Prizes
 - i. Graham Francis Hall Prize
 - ii. UOCE Award for Professional Experience Excellence (Early Childhood Education)
 - iii. UOCE Award for Professional Experience Excellence (Primary Education/Te Pōkai Mātauranga o te Ao Rua (Primary Bicultural Education))
 - iv. UOCE Award for Professional Experience Excellence (Secondary Education)
- b. Amended Scholarship
 - i. Ida G White Travelling Scholarship in Music Performance

Memorandum | Manatu



To Kia:	Vice Chancellor Grant Robertson
c.c.:	Equity Advisory Committee (C. Hulbe), Sustainability Office (R. O'Brien)
From Nā:	Prof David Bryant, A Prof Anna High, Equity Advisory Committee
Date Te Rā:	10 October 2024
Subject Te Kaupapa:	University strategic frameworks in Senate consultation and deliberation

Proposal

Pae Tata Strategic Plan to 2030 and its Domain Plans are underpinned by 4 interconnecting University Strategic Frameworks: Māori, Pacific, Equity & Diversity and Sustainability. All matters brought before Senate should be considered in this context. At present,

- The Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework and Sustainability Strategic Framework are not represented specifically in the Senate membership.
- Expectations for consultation processes vary, and do not regularly include all 4 Strategic Frameworks.

We therefore propose that

- Article 4 of the Senate Statute be amended as indicated below to ensure that matters specific to all four University Strategic Frameworks are considered during its deliberations by including representatives with expertise regarding the Equity and Diversity, and Sustainability Strategic Frameworks.
- Senate, through its role as an Approval Body set out in the University Policy Framework sections 3 and 4, establish a formal expectation that Policy document Sponsors address all 4 Strategic Frameworks when Academic proposals are brought to Senate for its consideration.

Together, these two changes will ensure that Senate has the information and expert knowledge needed to consider proposals in a comprehensive and inclusive way.

Article 4 of the Senate Statute

4. Composition of Senate

1. The Senate shall consist of the following persons:
 - a. Ex officio members
 - i. The Vice-Chancellor, Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Pro-Vice-Chancellors, and the Registrar and Secretary to the Council.
 - ii. Deans presiding over an academic programme, Deans of Schools comprising more than one department, and the Dean of the Graduate Research School.
 - iii. From each of the Division of Humanities, Division of Commerce, Division of Sciences, and Division of Health Sciences: the Associate Dean (Academic), Associate Dean (Research), Associate Dean (Māori), and Associate Dean (Pacific), or their equivalents.
 - iv. The University's representative on the Committee on University Academic Programmes.
 - v. The Chief Operating Officer.
 - vi. The Directors (or Heads) of Distance Learning; the Higher Education Development Centre; International; Māori Development; Pacific Development;

Strategy, Analytics and Reporting; Student Experience, Sustainability Office, and Equity Advisory Committee.

Why does Senate need representation from all four strategic frameworks?

The four strategic frameworks form an interconnected system and have complementary objectives. They are a means of making sense of our complex environment from differing perspectives. There is a great deal of strength in decision-making and advice that is considered through the contradictions and commonalities of varied perspectives on shared objectives.

Why does Senate need an equity perspective?

Aotearoa New Zealand Universities are not equitable places to study or to work. While Otago should be proud of its attention to the student experience and academic achievement, retention and qualification completion rates are not the same across demographic groups¹. While Otago should be proud of the research and teaching excellence by its academic staff, workplace experiences and rewards for those achievements differ among demographic groups². Pay gaps persist despite decades of recognition that they exist³. We do not know how the Otago experience varies across all dimensions of identity because data is not collected or analysed for this purpose. As the “principal academic authority of the University” (Article 7 of the Senate Statute), Senate should at the least set its sights on doing no additional harm, and at the most, be at the forefront of efforts to improve access, experiences, and outcomes for all members of the academic community.

As set out in the Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework, *equity* seeks to identify and remove barriers where they exist, to create and support processes and practices that are safe, non-disabling, and empowering for diverse students and staff, and to promote social accountability and justice. Equity advocates and practitioners must be knowledgeable about best practice, academic research, organisational context, and the diverse lived experiences of University staff and students. Equity is a lens applied to all aspects of University activity, asking questions like: how is access expanded, how are diverse identities and life experiences recognized and empowered; and how is injustice addressed? When new policies, procedures and guidelines are proposed, equity asks: who will be helped and who might be harmed; does this create or remove barriers; does it perpetuate or redress injustice? By supporting Senate to include equity in its deliberations, the measures proposed here will enhance Senate’s ability to meet its obligations as the University’s principal academic authority.

Why does Senate need a Sustainability perspective?

Sustainability aims to connect all aspects of University activity together in ways that meet the needs of today’s University community without compromising the ability of tomorrow’s community to meet its own. With this aim in mind, *Ti Kōuka 2030 The Sustainability Strategic Framework* sets out 7 broad themes that operate together as a wayfinding system. Yet cultural and structural divergences across academic and operational units can make coordinated action difficult to achieve⁴. The University Senate is a forum where the multifaceted challenges of sustainability in education, research, engagement, and operations can and should be discussed and resolved.

If Senate is to fulfill its role “to promote the academic work of the University both in teaching and research and for the regulation and superintendence of the education of the students of the University” (Article 7 of the Senate Statute), their decisions must be fully informed around issues of sustainability. This applies at a strategic level in supporting the visions of *Ti Kōuka 2030*, and at a wider more global level which recognizes the contribution that academic work makes to a thriving future.

This consideration should include both the negative impact of our actions, and the potential positive contributions we can make. If decisions and advice to Council have not been adequately examined from a

¹ See *Educational performance indicator* data at <https://www.tec.govt.nz/funding/funding-and-performance/performance/teo/epi-reports>

² See, for example:

Brower, A., & James, A. (2023). Sticky Floors, Double-Binds, and Double Whammies: Adjusting for Research Performance Reveals Universities’ Gender Pay Gap is Not Disappearing. *Sage Open*, 13(3).

McAllister, T. G., Kokaua, J., Naepi, S., Kidman, J., & Theodore, R. (2020). Glass ceilings in New Zealand universities. *MAI Journal*, 9(3).

³ See University of Otago *Gender and Ethnicity Pay Gap Reporting*

⁴ Robinson, J. et al. (2023). Odd couples: reconciling academic and operational cultures for whole-institution sustainability governance at universities, *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*, 24 (8).

sustainability perspective, how can we expect decisions to lead to action which supports a thriving future as described in Ti Kōuka 2030.

Consultation

This proposal was written with the support of the Equity Advisory Committee and the Sustainability Office. It was consulted with the Pacific Development Office and Office of the DVC Māori, both of whom support the proposal.



Memorandum / Manatu

To Kia:	Senate
From Nā:	Jo Gibson, Director Student Experience Professor Stuart Brock, DVC (Academic)
Date Te rā:	15 October 2024
Subject Te Kaupapa:	Academic Dates 2027

Background

A proposal was received at Senate in 2019 seeking closer alignment of the University of Otago academic dates with the school holidays and a desire for the dates to be more family friendly. A similar request was made via an email memorandum directly to Student Experience from the Chair of the Equity Advisory Committee. At that time, it was noted by Academic Committees that this issue had been raised in previous years when setting dates, and when weighing up the implications and unintended consequences of such changes, particularly for students, the University had elected not to depart from the accepted norm. Following a conversation about options, and formation of a small working group, a similar position was held in early 2020, with the intention to review again later.

Current Model

The working group originally formed in 2019 subsequently re-formed in 2022, and two meetings were held, involving the DVC (Academic), OUSA Academic, Director Student Experience, Secretary to the Senate, and Acting Director HSFY. Several separate follow-up conversations also took place. Whilst acknowledging some challenges, notably in the need to reduce the duration of the semester 2 examination period by two days, on 28 September 2022 Senate recommended to Council that the *“proposal to lengthen the break between semesters by a week, including confirmation of revised dates for 2024 and provisional dates for 2025 and 2026 incorporating the lengthened break, be approved”*. This model was approved by Council, also confirming 2024 dates. The 2025 and 2026 academic dates have since been confirmed and published.

Having now implemented the new academic dates model it has become clear that despite the consultation in 2019 and 2022, a number of challenges arise. These are outlined in Appendix 1.

Observations

There are not enough weeks in the calendar year to enable a two-week mid-semester break without a reduction to the number of teaching weeks making up our semesters. Commencing Semester 1 earlier in the year would require a reduction or removal of Summer School. This would also likely be perceived as starting too soon and would put Otago out of step with other universities in Aotearoa. It is not possible to finish semester 2 later unless moving graduations away from December, as departments will be unable to complete marking and results submission allowing enough time for confirming final results and eligibility for graduation.

Options & Recommendations

This paper seeks the view of Senate as to appetite for a move to 12-week semesters. This would enable a two-week break at mid-semester, would address the challenges encountered in our current model, but conversely would present a number of matters for consideration and review, as outlined below. We must take care that the model adopted ensures any break in study between or during semesters (in the same academic year) is no longer than 21 days, to ensure we do not remove entitlement for those students accessing Student Allowance and Student Loan living costs.

The recommendations within this paper are outlined below:

- **Recommendation 1:** Move away from the current academic dates model and identify an alternative model that addresses the requests from 2019 regarding breaks in teaching, and avoids the challenges presented in 2024.
- **Recommendation 2:** Senate consider, for Council approval, an adjustment to take effect from 2027:
 - **Option 1:** Move to two 12-week semesters, each with a two-week mid-semester break and one week between semester 1 and semester 2. Make no changes to Pre-Christmas Summer School or Summer School.
 - **Option 2:** Adjust Pre-Christmas Summer School and Summer School to each be 6 weeks. Semesters 1 and 2 to each have a two-week mid-semester break, and scope for a 2x6-week 'Full Summer' period to be split around the Christmas/Summer break.

Using a '12-week Semester / 2-week mid-semester break' model

In discussion regarding the 2024-2026 Model, the Senate minutes of 28 September 2022 note:

"There have been previous discussions around transitioning to 12-week semesters and that this will be explored further, noting that previous concerns around the impact of 12-week semesters on scheduling laboratory activities for Health Sciences First Year may no longer be an obstacle and noting that any change to the semester length would need to consider the potential impact on student workload expectations or the point values of papers."

The point value of papers was discussed at Senate in July 2024, with the outcome being formation of a working group to look in to this further.

Case for Change

Moving to 12-week semesters would address some concerns cited in conversations about collaborations, including in relation to students accessing StudyLink support by bringing Otago into alignment with all other New Zealand universities, plus improved alignment with School holiday periods (helpful for some students and some staff).

There is potential to utilise any additional 'non-teaching' weeks in a more effective manner, which could include relieving some existing pressure points. The suggestion following discussion at the Advisory Committee on Student Advising (ACoSA) is that the additional break week in each semester could be considered a 'reading' or 'study' week.

For students, an additional week mid-semester allows time for a break whilst acknowledging and accommodating time for the study that many students report undertaking during the current break. For some students this will make a huge difference, reducing the impact of needing to choose between study and supporting whānau at this time.

For staff there are a range of potential benefits, including facilitating the ability to attend mid-year conferences, increased research time for academic staff, in addition to supporting wellbeing.

Increased non-teaching time would have some benefits with respect to buildings and facilities, including scheduling maintenance and upgrades in areas such as the Library and Lecture Theatres, and an increased ability to host conferences.

In support of Option 2, there is a case that we could make better use of our summer teaching periods. The data for 2025 (excluding thesis papers and some non-standard dates papers) is shared below for information (correct at 31 July 2024):

- SS 2025: 38 occurrences offered
- S1 2025: 842 occurrences offered
- S2 2025: 822 occurrences offered
- FY 2025: 391 occurrences offered
- PXSS 2025: 5 occurrences offered

Considerations

Changes could result in increased pressure on patterns of teaching (e.g. Labs) which already lose a number of weekdays due to Public Holidays, especially in Semester 1. This may be of particular concern for content-intensive programmes such as Medicine and Dentistry, and Health Sciences First Year.

One fewer week in each of semesters 1 and 2 would be a change for Residential Colleges and for the University Union's commercial operation. However, is there scope to make more of the Summer School period?

Many students in flats are required to pay rent for a full year. A move to 12-week semesters would potentially mean a reduction in their period of actual occupancy. Again, a consideration as to the appeal and scope of Summer School would be something for discussion here.

We would need to carefully manage any adjustments required to existing Study Abroad or Exchange arrangements, and for any re-negotiation of existing programme accreditation agreements, which might in part be dependent on teaching and/or professional placement hours.

Any move to shorter semesters would necessitate some review of policy and procedure.

If selecting Option 2, it would be important to consider how big we intend to be for Summer School. Whilst there could be positives in adjusting Pre-Christmas Summer School and Summer School, thought must be given to who will deliver teaching at this time, as well as the impact for administrative activities such as timetabling and examinations. If compulsory papers are to be offered in Summer School, this must be balanced with how attractive this study period would be for students.

If Senate determines that we should implement a 12-week semester model from 2027, a short-life working group will be needed to consider the points outlined above and any items arising from Senate discussion on this topic. This group will need representation from academic and administrative colleagues across a wide breadth of university areas.

The draft dates for 2027 are presented in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1: Summary of issues presented by the “2024-2026” Model

The model currently in use (2024-2026) generates several issues across the university, despite extensive consultation prior to implementation in 2024.

The model enabled us to retain 13-week semesters, whilst factoring in a large part of the request from some academic colleagues and Equity Advisory Committee, which was to increase the breaks between/within semesters. Happily, the shortening of the semester 2 examination period did not result in the anticipated increased number of students with a clash in 2024. The extra week between semesters is helpful for the Examinations team processing special consideration and confirming the special exam schedule, and it does give students longer for re-adding papers, however, timing also means that for some students failing pre-requisites they become part-time with StudyLink once original papers are removed.

That being said, the downsides to the 2024-2026 model are numerous:

- ✘ Student Finance needed to reach out to StudyLink as under our Verification of Study (VoS) rules we must report the actual dates of the break in study if the break is greater than 21 days. In 2024 the break in study due to the additional week between semesters was 25 days. We have avoided manual intervention for all VoS records, but should look to correct this by returning to a break in study of no more than 21 days.
- ✘ Student Finance received contact towards the end of semester 1 from students (less than 50) who were concerned about the break being more than 21 days, querying if their entitlement to loans and allowances would continue during the semester break.
- ✘ A break of study between semester 1 and 2 which is longer than 21 days may create issues when we are collaborating on teaching with other universities. Our current semester break length was raised as a potential issue/concern by the Student Finance Team from Victoria University Wellington when Student Finance were working with them on assessing how StudyLink entitlements would work for students who had concurrent enrolments at both institutions as part of the current collaboration.
- ✘ The timing of semester 1 special examinations resulting from the additional week between semesters means a delay for students who have a special exam and wished to graduate in August, instead needing to wait for the December ceremonies.
- ✘ Changes to the semester 2 examinations timetable result in reduced marking time for some large papers, thus impacting timeframes for departments being able to confirm student results. One area this impacts is HSFY, and therefore a high number of student results are involved.
- ✘ The extra week mid-year means that the ELM have needed to push out the medical curriculum for 2nd and 3rd year students. They have been unable to adjust end of year teaching as they need to meet accreditation requirements. This in turn impacts their ability to meet results return deadlines, risking impact to students being able to graduate in December ceremonies.
- ✘ The lost week results in lost revenue for the University Union.
- ✘ Students still present in the first week of semester 2 for advice. The additional week has drawn out the process but the bulk of advising still falls at the same time as previously.
- ✘ It has been observed in 2024 that the first week of semester 2 has been quieter as students phased their return to campus. Some students engaging with teams have cited increased flight cost due to alignment with school holidays, thus they have opted to return to campus later.

Appendix 2: DRAFT Provisional Dates for the Academic Year 2027

Monday 11 January	Summer School commences
Monday 8 February	Waitangi Day (Observed)
Friday 19 February	Summer School classes end
Saturday 20 February	Summer School examinations begin
Thursday 25 February	Summer School examinations end
Friday 26 February	Preliminary classes held
Monday 1 March	Formal lectures begin
Friday 26 March	Good Friday Mid-semester break begins
Monday 29 March	Easter Monday
Tuesday 30 March	Otago Anniversary Day observance (Dunedin)
Monday 12 April	First Semester resumes
Sunday 25 April	ANZAC Day
Monday 26 April	ANZAC Day (Observed)
Saturday 8 May	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Saturday 15 May	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Friday 4 June	Lectures end prior to mid-year examining period
Monday 7 June	King's Birthday
Wednesday 9 June	First Semester examinations begin
Wednesday 23 June	First Semester examinations end maximum length of the formal examination period [although there may be some examinations held after this date]
Friday 25 June	Matariki
Monday 12 July	Second Semester begins
Saturday 21 August	Graduation Ceremony Degrees and diplomas in all disciplines
Friday 27 August	Mid-Semester Break begins
Monday 13 September	Second Semester resumes
Friday 15 October	Lectures end prior to end of year examining period
Monday 18 October	End of year examinations begin
Monday 25 October	Labour Day
Saturday 6 November	End of year examinations end end of the formal examination period [although there may be some examinations held after this date]
Monday 8 November	Pre-Christmas Summer School (PXSS) begins
Saturday 4 December	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Wednesday 8 December	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Friday 10 December	PXSS teaching ends (Option 1)
Saturday 11 December	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Saturday 11 December	PXSS examinations (Option 1)
Friday 17 December	PXSS teaching ends (Option 2)
Saturday 17 December	PXSS examinations (Option 2)



Memorandum | Manatu

To Kia:	To the Chair and Members of Senate
c.c.:	
From Nā:	Professor Stuart Brock, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Dr David Clark, Registrar and Secretary to the Council.
Date Te Rā:	21 October 2024
Subject Te Kaupapa:	Proposed Procedure for the nomination and conferral of an Honorary degree and proposed amendments to the Degrees and Other Awards Statute 2011

The Degrees and Other Awards Statute 2011 (the Statute) outlines a very basic process for nomination and conferral of an honorary degree. Nominations can be made to the Vice-Chancellor by four members of either Senate or Council. Senate and Council then approve the nomination.

The attached Procedure for the Nomination and Conferral of an Honorary Degree (the Procedure) and corresponding amendments to the Statute would amend that process as follows:

- Nominations would be considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Vice-Chancellor's group and then submitted to Senate and Council for approval.
- Detailed criteria for the nomination and conferral of an honorary degree are outlined in the Procedure.
- Clause 5.4 of the Statute provides the University may deviate from the standard process where this is approved by the Registrar. Any such deviation must then be reported to Senate and Council. This amendment will give the University the flexibility to use an alternative process where appropriate e.g., where required at short notice, such as where a distinguished guest visits the University.

The Procedure and amendments to the Statute are designed to ensure greater clarity, transparency and flexibility in the process for nominating and conferring an honorary degree.

It is proposed that section five (Honorary Degrees) of the Degrees and Other Awards Statute 2011 is revised, and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) will have oversight of the Honorary Degree nomination process.

We ask Senate to endorse the Proposed Procedure for the nomination and conferral of an Honorary degree and proposed amendments to the Degrees and Other Awards Statute 2011



Degrees and Other Awards Statute 2011

Category	Category
Type	Statute
Approved by	Council – 11 October 2011
Date Takes Effect	1 May 2012
Last Approved Revision	10 May 2016
Sponsor	Registrar and Secretary to the Council
Responsible Officer	Responsible Officer
Review Date	Review date

Content

1. Title

1. The is the Degrees and other Awards Statute 2011.

2. Commencement

1. This Statute shall come into effect on 1 January 2012.

3. Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates

1. Degrees are conferred and diplomas are awarded by the Chancellor on behalf of the University Council at Graduation Ceremonies held for this purpose. In the absence of the Chancellor this function is undertaken by the Pro-Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor. A student's entitlement to graduate in person and the ceremony at which that may take place is determined by the Registrar and Secretary to Council.
2. Degrees are conferred and diplomas are awarded in person or in absentia at Graduation Ceremonies normally within twelve months following completion of the requirements for the qualification concerned. The Registrar and Secretary to the Council shall from time to time establish and publish detail of the circumstances in which a candidate may be allowed to defer having a qualification awarded, which shall include provision to allow the completion of a further qualification or the requirements for a further major subject for a degree.
3. Each candidate eligible for the award of a degree or diploma of the University shall receive a document bearing the University Seal and signatures of the Chancellor and the Registrar and Secretary to Council or, in the absence of either, the person acting, certifying that the degree has been conferred or the diploma awarded.
4. Candidates eligible for the award of a certificate shall receive a document bearing the University Seal and signature of the Registrar and Secretary to Council or, in the absence of that person, the person acting, certifying completion of the requirements for the qualification. Certificates will be awarded in absentia.

4. Scholarships and Prizes

1. The general provisions of this clause shall apply to all University of Otago scholarships and prizes. Other provisions are established by the conditions approved by the Senate and the Council in respect of individual scholarships and prizes.
2. University of Otago scholarships and prizes are awarded by the Senate on behalf of the Council. The Council may supplement the value of a scholarship or prize or may award a special scholarship or prize to a candidate of merit for whom no other scholarship or prize is available.
3. An application to be considered for a prize is needed only where that requirement is provided for in the conditions of that prize. Except where otherwise specified under the conditions of a prize, the award of prizes shall be made each year on the results of that year's examinations in the subjects appropriate to the various prizes.
4. Applications for scholarships are required unless otherwise specified under the conditions of a particular scholarship.
5. Where there is no candidate of sufficient merit for a scholarship or prize no award will be made.
6. The Senate may suspend or terminate a scholarship if the attendance and progress of a scholar is unsatisfactory.
7. The values of the various scholarships and prizes are dependent upon the funds available.
8. The Senate may delegate the powers afforded it under Clause 4 of this Statute.

5. Honorary Degrees

1. The University may confer the following honorary degrees:
 - a. Doctor of Laws;
 - b. Doctor of Science;
 - c. Doctor of Literature;
 - d. Doctor of Music;
 - e. Doctor of Divinity;
 - f. Doctor of Commerce.
2. Nominations for honorary degrees will normally be forwarded by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) to Senate and Council for consideration. ~~may be made confidentially to the Vice-Chancellor by four persons each of whom must be a member of the Council or of the Senate. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a statement of the nominee's career and the grounds for the award of the degree.~~
3. ~~Before a person may be~~ admitted by the University to an honorary degree, both the Senate and the Council shall have approved the nomination.
- ~~3.4.~~ Any deviation from the above process must be approved by the Registrar and reported to Senate and Council.

6. Hocken Library Fellowships

1. The University may confer Hocken Library Fellowships on suitably deserving persons provided that the number of living holders of such fellowships at any one time shall not exceed 15.
2. Nominations for the Hocken Library Fellowship may be made confidentially in writing to the Vice-Chancellor by three persons, each of whom must be a member of the Council or the Senate. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a statement of the nominee's career and the grounds for the award of the Fellowship in terms of criteria which may be issued by the University Council from time to time.
3. Nominations shall be referred to a Selection Committee comprising the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), the University Librarian and the Hocken Librarian. The committee shall have power to co-opt up to two additional members.
4. Before a Hocken Library Fellowship is conferred, both the Senate and the Council shall have approved the nomination.

7. University of Otago Medal for Outstanding Alumni Service

1. The University may confer the University of Otago Medal for Outstanding Alumni Service on any member of the University's alumni in order to recognise meritorious service to the University in terms of criteria which may be issued by the University Council from time to time.
2. The number of living holders of the University of Otago Medal for Outstanding Alumni Service at any one time shall not exceed 15.
3. Nominations for the Medal may be made confidentially in writing to the Vice-Chancellor. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a statement of the grounds for the award of the Medal by reference to the criteria established by this Statute.
4. Nominations shall be referred to the Standing Committee of the Council which, if it supports the nomination, shall refer the matter to the Council, the approval of which shall be required before a Medal is awarded.

8. University of Otago Distinguished Alumni Awards

1. The University may confer the University of Otago Distinguished Alumni Award on any member of the University's alumni in order to recognise his or her exceptional and sustained contribution to a profession or to the physical, social, cultural, sporting, environmental or economic well-being of the national or international community. The Council may issue additional criteria for the making of the Award from time to time.
2. No more than five University of Otago Distinguished Alumni Awards shall be made in any year.
3. Nominations for the Award may be made confidentially in writing to the Vice-Chancellor. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a statement of the grounds for the making of the Award by reference to the criteria established by and issued under this Statute.
4. Nominations shall be referred to the Standing Committee of the Council which, if it supports the nomination, shall refer the matter to the Council, the approval of which shall be required before an Award is made.

9. Cancellation of Degrees and Other Awards

1. The Vice-Chancellor may rescind any degree which has been conferred and any diploma or certificate which has been awarded (in each case under clause 3 of this Statute) if he or she is satisfied that the requirements for the qualification concerned were not fully met or were affected by Academic Misconduct. Any decision of the Vice-Chancellor under this provision may be appealed to the Appeals Board of the Council. Appeals are governed by the provisions of the Appeals Statute 2011 and are to be commenced by lodging a Notice of Appeal in accordance with the provisions of that Statute within ten working days of the communication to the student of the relevant decision.
2. The Council may rescind the grant of any of the awards of the kind covered by clauses 5 to 8 of this Statute if it is satisfied that the grant of the award was affected by error or that the conduct of the recipient of the award (whether before or after its grant) or other relevant considerations render it inappropriate for the award to continue to be held.

10. Repeal

1. The following Statutes and Regulations are repealed with effect from the commencement of this Statute:
 - a. The Scholarships and Prizes Regulations Statute 1991, and the regulations made thereunder;
 - b. The Conferment of Academic Awards Regulations Statute 1991, and the regulations made thereunder;
 - c. The Honorary Degrees Regulations Statute 1991, and the regulations made thereunder;
 - d. The Hocken Library Fellowships Regulations.

Note: This Statute was amended by resolution of the University Council on 12 March 2013 and 25 February 2014.

Related Policies, Procedures and Forms

[Procedure for the nomination and conferral of an Honorary Degree](#)



Procedure for the nomination and conferral of an Honorary Degree

Category	Academic
Type	Procedure
Approved by	Council
Date Takes Effect	Effect date
Last Approved Revision	N/A
Sponsor	Registrar and Secretary to the Council
Responsible Officer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Review Date	2 years from date takes effect

Whāika – Purpose

This procedure outlines high-level rules and processes governing the nomination and approval of Honorary Degree recipients.

Te Tirohaka Whānui o te Rōpū – Organisational Scope

Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka – University of Otago staff members

Tautuhika – Definitions

Honorary Degree	Honorary Degrees are a special distinction granted to individuals who have made a sustained contribution of the very highest order to society through their leadership, professional achievements, philanthropy, creativity, research or social impact. Honorary Degrees may be awarded as Doctor of Commerce, Doctor of Divinity, Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Literature, Doctor of Music, and Doctor of Science.
Staff Member	All employees of the University
Alumni	Graduates and former students of Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka – University of Otago

Ihiraki - Content

1. General

- (a) Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka – University of Otago awards Honorary Degrees in recognition of sustained contributions of deep significance by University of Otago Alumni, or other individuals who have a substantial connection with the University, or, in select cases, by individuals that the University see as meriting this very prestigious award. Awardees will be people that the University wishes to mark and celebrate in light of their leadership, professional attainments, philanthropy, creativity, research or social impact. These awards recognise the quality, significance and impact that the individual's efforts have had for hapū or iwi, learned or professional bodies, local or regional communities, our nation, the wider Pacific region, or the global community. These awards reflect the University's desire to support endeavour that promotes well-being, social advancement, cultural understanding, the value of knowledge, outstanding skill and leadership, and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- (b) Honorary Degrees may be awarded as Doctor of Laws; Doctor of Science; Doctor of Literature; Doctor of Music; Doctor of Divinity; and Doctor of Commerce.

2. Criteria for Assessing Nominations for Honorary Degrees

- (a) Honorary Degrees are a special distinction granted to individuals who have made a sustained contribution of the very highest order to society through their leadership, professional achievements, philanthropy, creativity, research or social impact. Honorary Degrees can be awarded to:
 - i. Outstanding graduates of Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka - University of Otago.
 - ii. Those who have made an outstanding contribution to Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka - University of Otago.
 - iii. Individuals who will bring great credit to the University by virtue of receiving an Honorary Degree.

3. Nominations

- (a) Confidentiality in the Honorary Degree nomination process is paramount.
- (b) Nominations for Honorary Degrees will be considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Vice-Chancellors group. In its deliberations, the Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Vice-Chancellors group will be guided by the goals of the Māori Strategic Framework, Pacific Strategic Framework and Equity and Diversity Strategic Framework, in addition to the University's commitment to being a Te Tiriti-led institution. Equity and diversity are critically important considerations, and are a key framework when considering the award of these distinctions.
- (c) Preliminary nominations for Honorary Degrees can be made to the appropriate Pro-Vice-Chancellor or the Director Development and Alumni Relations Office by any Staff Member. The nomination will include the person's name, brief reason for nomination and the relevant criteria for the nominations.

Note: There is no longer a requirement for nominations to be by four persons each of whom must be a member of Council or of the Senate

- (d) The Pro-Vice-Chancellor or Director Development and Alumni Relations Office will bring the preliminary nomination to the Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Vice-Chancellors Advisory Group for consideration and approval to move to a full nomination.
- (e) Full proposals will include the nominee's curriculum vitae and expanded detail for the relevant criteria for the nomination. The full proposal will be considered by the Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Pro-Vice-Chancellors Advisory Group and the Group will consider which Honorary Degree the nominee should receive.
- (f) The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) will submit nominations to the chair of Senate for Senate's consideration and endorsement.
- (g) Nominations endorsed by Senate will be recommended for approval by Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka – University of Otago Council.
- (h) Any deviation from the above process must be approved by the Registrar and reported to Senate and Council.

4. Conferral of Honorary Degrees

- (a) Following Council approval of the nomination, the Vice-Chancellor's Office shall inform the recipient of the Honorary Degree.
- (b) Honorary Degrees will normally be awarded at University of Otago graduation ceremonies, but in special circumstances they may be conferred in other appropriate settings.

Kaupapa here, tukaka me kā puka tono e hā kai ana – Related Policies, Procedures and Forms

- [Degrees and Other Awards Statute 2011](#)
- [Policy for the Award of the Title of Emeritus Professor](#)
- [Honorary Appointments – Guidelines for the Awarding of Titles](#)

Whakapā mai ki te hiahia he kōrero anō – Contact for further information about this Policy

If you have any queries regarding the content of this policy, procedure or guidelines or need further clarification, contact Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on dvc.academic@otago.ac.nz



FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee

31 October 2024

Present	Mr R D Jackson (Convener), Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Professor R W Adler, Hon C E Curran, Ms K L Wells and Mr M A Wong.
Apologies	Pro-Chancellor
In attendance	Ms S L Ellison, Mr Stephen W Willis (Chief Operating Officer), Mr B N Trott (Chief Financial Officer), Ms D Levy (Head of Finance Advisory), Hon Dr D Clark (Registrar and Secretary to the Council) and Ms S M Kearney (Deputy Secretary to the Council).

Part 1 - Open Committee

1. Minutes

Part 1 of the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee held on 26 September 2024 were confirmed.

2. Council Financial Report

The report was noted.

3. Exclusion of the Public

The Committee

APPROVED

a motion under Section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, that the public be excluded from the remaining parts of the proceedings of the meeting as appended to these minutes.

The Convener moved that the public be excluded from the whole of the proceeding of this meeting/the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, —

Item 4	Part 2 Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee held on 26 September 2024
Item 5	Finance and Budget Committee Work Plan and Action Follow Up Register
Item 6	Strategic Risk Report
Item 7	2025 Budget
Item 8	Student Domestic Tuition Fees 2025
Item 9	Compulsory Student Services Fees 2025
Item 10	Preliminary Financial Review - 30 September 2024
Item 11	Financial Report – 30 September 2024
Item 12	Treasury Report – 30 September 2024
Item 13	Group Financial Report – 30 September 2024
Item 14	Debt Funding Restructure
Item 15	Convener’s Business

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows: -

General Subject	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground under Section 48(1)(a) for the passing of this resolution
Items 4 - 15 Confidential Minutes and Reports	Good reason for withholding information under the Official Information Act	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Sections 6,7 and/or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 (except section 9(2)(g)(i)) as the case may require. The interests which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item 4	Part 2 Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance and Budget Committee held on 26 September 2024	s9(2)(i), (j) and (k)
Item 5	Finance and Budget Committee Work Plan and Action Follow Up Register	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 6	Strategic Risk Report	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 7	2025 Budget	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 8	Student Domestic Tuition Fees 2025	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 9	Compulsory Student Services Fees 2025	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 10	Preliminary Financial Review - 30 September 2024	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 11	Financial Report – 30 September 2024	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 12	Treasury Report – 30 September 2024	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 13	Group Financial Report – 30 September 2024	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 14	Debt Funding Restructure	s9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 15	Convener’s Business	s9(2)(i), and (k)

AND THAT Mr B N Trott, Mr S W Willis and Ms D Levy be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because it relates to aspects of the administration of the University of Otago for which these people are responsible. The Registrar and Secretary to Council and the Deputy Secretary to the Council are also permitted to remain at the meeting so as to provide advice and secretarial support.



University of Otago Council

Financial Review

To receive a verbal update from the Chief Financial Officer



To Kia:	Finance and Budget Committee
From Nā:	Brian Trott, Chief Financial Officer
Date Te Rā:	22 October 2024
Subject Te Kaupapa:	Domestic Tuition Fee Recommendation for Uplift

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to recommend that the University of Otago increase all domestic tuition fees in 2025 by 6%. Additionally, it is recommended that the PACR101 academic transition paper be zero-rated for domestic student tuition fees.

Background

The setting of tuition fees for 2025 comes during a challenging time for the University, as it seeks to recover from the financial deficits of recent years and to return to a financial surplus that will enable future investment in strategic priorities.

As well as being a priority for Council, having the University chart a return to financial stability is a priority for the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). Due to our financial situation, Otago is currently assessed as being at medium risk by the TEC, and they have indicated that they are eager to see the University regain its normal low-risk classification.

Equally, it is important to acknowledge that this a challenging time for students, who face a significant change to the Government's fees-free policies, as well as general cost increases.

As has been the case for many years now, Council's freedom to set domestic tuition fees is constrained by Government regulation, via the Annual Maximum Fee Movement (AMFM) regime.

Context

Student-related Tuition Income

Student related income for domestic students is primarily based on two components – the funding provided directly to universities by Government, and the tuition fee component charged to students.

The larger component of this income is the funding provided by Government directly to universities, termed DQ funding. Formerly known as SAC EFTS funding, DQ funding is administered by the TEC, and provides on average¹ 70% of the University's income for each

¹ The ratio varies for different disciplines and levels

domestic student. Increases to the DQ rates are set annually by Government, and for 2025, a general increase of 2.5% will apply.

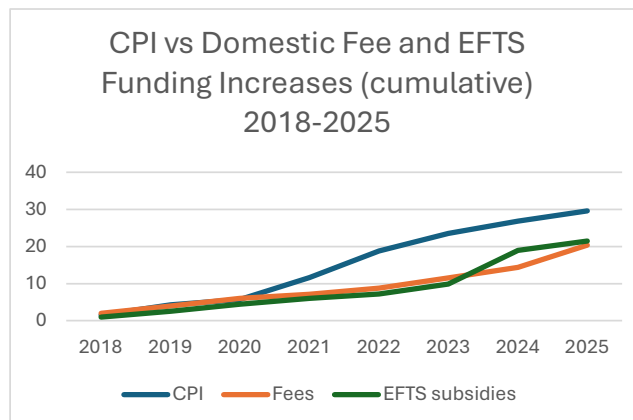
Student tuition fee income is also controlled by Government, via the AMFM system, which sets the maximum amount by which tertiary institutions are permitted to raise domestic student tuition fees for a given year. Last month, the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills confirmed the AMFM at 6.0% for 2025.

Funding and Fee Increases versus CPI

The 6.0% AMFM limit for 2025 is the highest limit ever approved since the AMFM system came into force, and is substantially higher than forecast CPI for 2025 (currently forecast at 2.8%).

However, since 2020 the maximum limit for fee increases has lagged well behind CPI movement. This, and a similar situation in respect of Government EFTS tuition subsidy funding rates, are significant contributors to the financial pressures being felt across the tertiary sector.

The following chart illustrates the situation, comparing cumulative CPI to increases in the maximum permitted domestic fee and EFTS tuition subsidy funding rates².



It demonstrates that, from a 2018 base, CPI has increased by almost 27% to 2024, while EFTS subsidies have increased by 19% and tuition fees by just over 14%. Projecting to 2025, cumulative CPI will have increased by close to 30%, EFTS subsidies by just over 21%, and – if the ability to increase fees by the maximum 6.0% is exercised - tuition fees by just over 20%.

Viewed in this context, the 6.0% AMFM offers the option of a partial catch-up for previous years in which permitted fee increases were well below CPI.

² 2018-2024 figures are actual, while for 2025 forecast CPI is used, along with confirmed EFTS subsidies and the maximum allowable 6% fee increase.

Impacts of Fee Increases on University Revenue

Were there to be no domestic fee increase for 2025, domestic tuition fees income for the University – based on forecast enrolments – would be approximately \$131 million.

In rough terms, each one percent increase in domestic tuition fees for 2025 will generate \$1.3 million in revenue. The following table shows the impact of this more precisely.

Domestic Fee Rate Increase	0%	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%
Approximate 2025 domestic fee revenue (000's)	131,745	133,063	134,380	135,698	137,015	138,333	139,650
Cumulative increase in domestic fee (000's)		1,317	2,635	3,952	5,270	6,587	7,905

Inflationary and Other Financial Factors

In considering this fee recommendation, Council may wish to take account of the following financial factors:

- Forecast CPI for New Zealand in 2025 is 2.8%. However, a number of key University costs are forecast to increase at a greater rate than this. These include:
 - Building insurance (forecast increase 12.5%)
 - Energy costs (forecast 11%)
 - Council rates (forecast 7%)
 - IT licensing and library subscriptions (forecast 5%)
- Although the draft 2025 budget has been prepared assuming a 6% increase, and allows for the above and other cost increases, the University still falls short of returning to surplus in 2025.
- Should a fee increase less than 6% be chosen, under the AMFM there is no opportunity to 'catch up' that decision in a future year. Rather, the lower fee becomes locked into our revenue baseline into future years. For example, the effect of opting for 5% over a 6% rate increase costs the University \$1.3 million in 2025, but totals approximately \$14 million of foregone income over the next 10 years.

Wider General Considerations

- Government has approved a 6% AMFM in part to provide universities with a means of easing their current financial pressures. Should Otago fail to take full advantage of this, it would send an awkward message to Government and the TEC in respect of our fiscal prudence.
- Our current understanding is that most if not all other NZ universities will increase fees by the maximum 6% permitted for 2025.
- It is sometimes argued that a lesser fee increase would be compensated for by increased enrolments. Past experience has demonstrated that student demand is not

price sensitive in this way, and having lower fees than others is seen by some as an indicator of lesser quality³.

- While the impact is not certain, the shift from 2025 from a fees free first year to fees free final year is generally considered unlikely to negatively impact students' decision to study at university⁴. This is largely because students will instead be able to place their first year of study on zero-interest StudyLink loans.
- Looking beyond 2025, universities face a risk that the 4% of special tuition subsidy implemented by the previous Government for 2024/2025 will be discontinued.
- Further uncertainty arises from the current reviews of the University and Sciences systems being led by Sir Peter Gluckman. The timeline for any outcomes from these takes us beyond the period of the University's 2025 Budget. In the longer term, given the government's financial position and current messaging, changes are unlikely to produce any significant income increases for Otago.

Mitigating the Impact on Students

The previous points notwithstanding, it is important to acknowledge that the burden of any domestic tuition fee increase does fall on students, even if the vast majority will be paying via an interest-free Government student loan, and with one year of study covered by the fees-free system.

The following key initiatives are in place to address the issues of affordability for students:

- An investment of more than \$45 million in scholarships including:
 - For commencing students, increased stipends for all equity and key lower-value merit-based scholarships along with increased travel supplements.
 - Scholarships for doctoral and some other postgraduate students, including for many students a packaging that fully covers their tuition fees as well as providing CPI-adjusted contribution to living costs.
- Ongoing support for student hardship relief including levies to support an increase to the OUSA's hardship relief funds, and ongoing support for the University Pūtea Tautoko financial aid fund, and the Residential College Relief Fund.

For 2025, it is also proposed that Council approve a special zero-fees status for the academic transition paper PACR101. This paper is the academic component of six-week Kickstart/Ki Ita pre-semester programme that prepares incoming (mainly first-in-family) Māori and Pacific students for life and study at University. PACR101 has been free to students since its inception, (as is the whole programme) but previously this was because the fee was covered under the Government's fees free first year policy.

³ Some years ago, Otago took this approach tactically, by deciding not to increase commerce fees. This, unfortunately, had no observable positive impact in enrolments. Otago has been stuck with commerce fees roughly \$1,000 per EFTS lower than other universities. This now costs us almost \$3.0 million annually in potential revenue foregone.

⁴ <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/what-you-need-to-know/508677/the-new-government-is-scrapping-first-year-fees-free-what-you-need-to-know>

Fees Comparison with other Universities

The following table compares the 2024 domestic tuition fees for Otago in key subject areas with those for Auckland and Canterbury.

Table 1. Approximate Domestic Tuition Fee Rates, Otago Compared to Major Competitors, 2024

		Approximate Rate per 1.0 EFTS		
		Otago	Auckland	Canterbury
Undergraduate	Arts	\$ 6,545	\$ 6,779	\$ 6,748
	Commerce	\$ 6,250	\$ 7,304	\$ 7,142
	Law	\$ 7,302	\$ 7,304	\$ 7,142
	Medicine	\$ 17,388	\$ 17,383	-
	Science	\$ 7,822	\$ 8,053	\$ 7,822
Postgraduate Taught	Arts	\$ 8,893	\$ 9,305	\$ 8,184
	Commerce	\$ 8,893	\$ 10,343	\$ 8,527
	Law	\$ 8,531	\$ 11,195	\$ 8,527
	Science	\$ 10,207	\$ 9,732	\$ 9,157
PhD	Average	\$ 8,000	\$ 7,874	\$ 8,403

With regard to the other Universities:

- Victoria's fees are higher than Otago's for arts and commerce by several hundred dollars, but very similar for law and science.
- AUT's fees tend to be somewhat higher across all subject areas than Otago's.
- Waikato's fees are generally very similar to Otago's other than for commerce, where they are higher, and on a par with the University of Auckland.
- Massey's fees are generally slightly higher than Otago's at the undergraduate level, but lower at the postgraduate taught level.

While we do not currently have the 2025 fees for other New Zealand universities, indications are that they will increase their fees by the maximum allowed 6%, to help recover their continually increasing cost of delivery.

Recommendations for 2025

On the basis of the above analysis, it is recommended that:

- The University of Otago increase all domestic tuition fees in 2025 by 6%. This will result in 2025 tuition fees for specific subject areas as outlined in the tables below.
- Additionally it is recommended that the PACR101 academic transition paper be zero-rated for domestic student tuition fees.

2025 Fees per EFTS				
Undergraduate (excluding Honours)				
	2025	2024	Increase	
			\$	%
Arts, Languages, Theology, Mathematics, Education	6,938	6,545	393	6.00%
Commerce, Teaching	6,625	6,250	375	6.00%
Law	7,740	7,302	438	6.00%
Computer Science, Design, Geography, Information Science, Music, Science	8,291	7,822	469	6.00%
Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Surveying, Physical Education	9,585	9,042	543	6.00%
Medicine	18,432	17,389	1,043	6.00%
Dentistry	18,432	17,389	1,043	6.00%
Physiotherapy Years 2 and 3	8,291	7,822	469	6.00%
Physiotherapy Year 4	9,676	9,128	548	6.00%

2025 Fees per EFTS				
Postgraduate Taught				
	2025	2024	Increase	
			\$	%
Arts, Languages, Theology, Mathematics, Commerce	9,427	8,893	534	6.00%
Law	9,043	8,531	512	6.00%
Computer Science, Design, Geography, Information Science, Science	10,819	10,207	612	6.00%
Health Sciences	13,158	12,413	745	6.00%
Master of Dental Surgery	43,100	40,660	2,440	6.00%

2025 Fees per EFTS				
Postgraduate Research				
	2025	2024	Increase	
			\$	%
Arts, Languages, Theology, Mathematics	7,889	7,443	447	6.00%
Commerce	7,608	7,177	431	6.00%
Law (Thesis only)	8,530	8,047	483	6.00%
Computer Science, Design, Geography, Information Science, Music, Science	9,212	8,691	521	6.00%
Human Nutrition (Thesis only)	11,432	10,785	647	6.00%
Health Sciences, Pharmacy, Surveying	11,685	11,023	661	6.00%
Medicine	11,685	11,023	661	6.00%
Dentistry Thesis (Non Clinical)	11,923	11,248	675	6.00%



Report for: Council and Senior Leadership Team
Subject: 2025 Compulsory Student Services Fees

The proposed 2025 CSSF is \$1,152.00, inclusive of GST, representing a \$76.00 increase (7%) over 2024, per EFTS, capped at 1.05 EFTS. This increase is driven by current projections for EFTS and the need to recover costs. Despite our efforts to minimise expenses without compromising service quality, the costs of providing these services to students continue to rise. This increase has received support from the student body.

The table below details the impact to the University contribution margin, with incremental increases on the 2025 fee:

% Increase	Fee Per EFTS (Incl)	\$ Increase on 2024	Fee Per EFTS (Excl)	Revenue (excl GST)	Incremental increase
0.00%	1,076.00	-	935.65	14,756,686	-
1.00%	1,087.00	11.00	945.22	14,907,545	150,858
2.00%	1,098.00	22.00	954.78	15,058,403	301,717
3.00%	1,109.00	33.00	964.35	15,209,261	452,575
4.00%	1,120.00	44.00	973.91	15,360,120	603,433
5.00%	1,130.00	54.00	982.61	15,497,264	740,577
6.00%	1,141.00	65.00	992.17	15,648,122	891,436
7.00%	1,152.00	76.00	1,001.74	15,798,980	1,042,294
8.00%	1,163.00	87.00	1,011.30	15,949,839	1,193,152
9.00%	1,173.00	97.00	1,020.00	16,086,983	1,330,296
10.00%	1,184.00	108.00	1,029.57	16,237,841	1,481,154
11.00%	1,195.00	119.00	1,039.13	16,388,699	1,632,013
12.00%	1,206.00	130.00	1,048.70	16,539,557	1,782,871
13.00%	1,216.00	140.00	1,057.39	16,676,701	1,920,015
14.00%	1,227.00	151.00	1,066.96	16,827,560	2,070,873

Each incremental 1% increase in the fee is expected to generate approximately \$150,858 in revenue.

Individual Fees Dunedin Campus per 1 EFTS:**a) Advocacy and legal advice:**

Advocating on behalf of individual students and providing independent support to resolve problems.

	2024	2025
Fee:	\$	\$
University of Otago	9.01	9.05
OUSA	69.58	69.91
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	<u>78.59</u>	<u>78.97</u>

b) Careers information, advice and guidance:

Providing support to students as they transition into post-study employment.

	2024	2025
Fee:	\$	\$
University of Otago	58.27	78.33
OUSA	-	-
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	<u>58.27</u>	<u>78.33</u>

c) Pastoral counselling services:

Providing pastoral counselling and care, such as chaplains.

	2024	2025
Fee:	\$	\$
University of Otago	-	9.87
OUSA	-	-
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	<u>-</u>	<u>9.87</u>

d) Financial support and advice:

Providing hardship assistance and advice to students on financial issues. These costs are mostly covered by the Proctor's fines, but OUSA also provide support.

	2024	2025
Fee:	\$	\$
University of Otago	-	-
OUSA	0.76	2.44
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	<u>0.76</u>	<u>2.44</u>

e) Health services:

Providing healthcare and related welfare services including general practise and mental health and well-being.

	2024	2025
Fee:	\$	\$
University of Otago	441.37	484.19
OUSA	-	-
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	<u>441.37</u>	<u>484.19</u>

f) Media:

Supporting the production and dissemination of information by students to students, including newspapers, radio, television and internet-based media.

	2024	2025
Fee:	\$	\$
University of Otago	-	-
OUSA	19.50	19.60
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	<u>19.50</u>	<u>19.60</u>

g) Sports, recreation, and cultural activities:

Providing sports, recreation, and cultural activities for students.

	2024	2025
Fee:	\$	\$
University of Otago	258.04	231.70
OUSA	219.47	246.89
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	<u>477.51</u>	<u>478.59</u>

The fee includes a component for internet use by students for recreational rather than academic purposes.

Summary

	2024	2025
Fee	\$	\$
Advocacy & legal	78.59	78.97
Careers information, advice and guidance	58.27	78.33
Counselling services	-	9.87
Financial support and advice	0.76	2.44
Health services	441.37	484.19
Media	19.50	19.60
Sports & recreation facilities	477.51	478.59
Total Fees	1,076.00	1,152.00

Individual Fees Non-Dunedin Campuses (Christchurch, Wellington, and Invercargill):**a) Health services:**Subsidised health care and related welfare services provided by a 3rd party.

	2024	2025
	\$	\$
Christchurch	200.57	156.63
Wellington	154.74	162.38
Invercargill	55.44	60.71
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	410.76	379.72

b) Counselling

Providing chaplaincy services for students.

	2024	2025
Christchurch	-	42.07
Wellington	-	-
Invercargill	-	-
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	-	42.07

c) Sport and Recreation Services:

Providing recreation, and cultural activities for students.

	2024	2025
Christchurch	104.58	106.46
Wellington	76.52	79.43
Invercargill	101.94	107.72
Total Fees (Incl. GST)	283.04	293.61

Fee	2024	2025
	\$	\$
Christchurch		
Events, Clubs & Societies	57.57	58.89
Health services ¹	200.57	156.63
Counselling	-	42.07
Recreation facilities	47.01	47.56
Total Fees	305.15	305.15
Wellington		
Events, Clubs & Societies	29.51	31.87
Health services ¹	154.85	162.38
Recreation facilities	47.01	47.56
Total Fees	231.37	241.81
Southland		
Events, Clubs & Societies	54.94	60.16
Health services ¹	55.44	60.71
Recreation facilities	47.00	47.56
Total Fees	157.38	168.43

¹ Subsidised health care and related welfare services provided by a third party.

The following comparison of fees (GST inclusive) from selected Universities is provided for your information. Assuming a 7% increase at all other Universities.

	Fee per 1 EFTS	Max Fee Charged	Increase
	2025	2025	2025
AUT	\$ 1,226.38	\$ 1,226.38 120 points	7.0%
Victoria	\$ 1,181.28	\$ 1,476.60 150 points	7.0%
Canterbury	\$ 1,177.43	\$ 1,471.79 150 points	7.0%
Massey	\$ 1,155.60	\$ 1,155.60 120 points	7.0%
University of Otago	\$ 1,152.00	\$ 1,209.60 1.05 EFTS	7.0%
Auckland	\$ 1,140.19	Uncapped	7.0%
Waikato	\$ 991.25	Uncapped	7.0%

The University of Otago shows the third lowest fee per one EFTS, we have the second lowest fee for students studying more than 1.05 EFTS due to the cap.

Brian Trott
Chief Financial Officer
September 2024

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

2025 COMPULSORY STUDENT SERVICES FEE

It is recommended:

1. That the student services fee for students at the Dunedin campus be set at \$11.52 per 0.01 EFTS or \$1,152.00 per 1 EFTS, capped at 1.05 EFTS.
2. That student services fees for students at other non-Dunedin campuses be set at the following flat fees:

Christchurch	\$305.15
Wellington	\$241.81
Invercargill	\$168.43

Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council Part 1



For the Council meeting on : 12 November 2024

Date: 5 November 2024
Submitted by: Hon Grant Robertson, Vice-Chancellor

Recommendation

That Council note the Vice Chancellor's Report.

Notable Recent Developments

- **MBIE funding for Longitudinal Studies**

New funding has been confirmed from the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) for the Dunedin and Christchurch multidisciplinary longitudinal studies, through a five-year contract valued at \$35 million. This will provide stable funding for these important, internationally recognised longitudinal studies as they enter measurement phases focused on issues such as ageing and age-related disorders.

- **Designers Institute of New Zealand Best Design Awards: Tuakiritaka**

Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka/ University of Otago and its creative partner, DesignWorks, won four awards for the Tuakiritaka project at the Best Design Awards held on 11 October. These awards included a Gold for Best Brand Identity (Large Brand) and Silver awards for Toitanga Māori Design and Typeface. The University's undergraduate marketing campaign, Down For It, also won a Silver award for Motion Design & Animation.

- **THE World University Rankings 2025**

As has already been reported in the media, Otago placed in the 351-400 Band in the 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings. It was notable that no New Zealand university increased its rankings this year. While this is a decline on the 301-350 Band position we had in 2024, we remain the second-highest ranked University in New Zealand. Drilling into the ranking, Otago improved its scores in some of the 17 sub-components that make up the rankings, but its scores reduced in a greater number. It should be noted that – as with all rankings – the assessment is quite backward-looking, being based on: citation data from 2017 to 2023; reputation surveys undertaken mainly in 2022 and 2023; and University financial and other data from 2023.

- **Pacific Engagement**

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, External Engagement, Professor Jessica Palmer, attended the National University of Samoa (NUS) Council in October and met with the Samoa Law Society regarding developing a law degree programme within Samoa by NUS with Otago assistance. Tofilau Nina Kirifi-Alai (Head of Pacific Community Engagement) represented Otago at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGUM) events in Samoa and spoke at an NUS side event on Otago's contributions to Samoa's development through its partnership with NUS. This was the first time a Pacific country hosted CHOGM. Otago and NUS have had an MOU for 20 years which among other achievements, has facilitated 16 NUS staff members to undertake higher degrees at Otago, including the current VC and President of NUS, Professor Tuifuisa'a Patila Amosa.

- **University of Otago Presence in Queenstown and Lakes District**

Following the announcement in Queenstown on 2 October, there have been follow-up discussions with several parties interested in supporting the University to develop strategy. Conversations have

also been held with parties who may have an interest in co-developing and co-delivering curriculum. University representatives have attended several formal events including the Queenstown Lakes Economic Diversification Snapshots, and workshops on building technology clusters and cyber security hosted by Technology Queenstown.

- **Rainbow Tick Re-Accreditation**

The University recently received its annual Rainbow Tick re-accreditation, marking five years as a Rainbow Tick certified employer. Rainbow Tick certification means that we meet a standard of inclusivity with respect to our staff's sexual orientation and gender identity, and are committed to continuous improvement. Rainbow Tick accreditation is based on two key components:

- 1) A self-review of the work we are doing in this space, completed by the University's Equity Office and Rainbow Tick Working Group.
- 2) A staff survey, organised by Rainbow Tick, which aims to evaluate our existing workplace culture.

Each year Rainbow Tick provide the University with recommendations for the next twelve months. This year, Rainbow Tick received 300 responses to the staff survey, which is the most they have ever received. The University is Rainbow Tick certified until October 2025.

- **Volunteering and Social Impact**

- o 35 students were recognised for the University of Otago Student Leadership Award, supported by Canon New Zealand. The event celebrated the end of the programme, with over 500 students contributing 43,142 hours over the past 11 years, equivalent to \$1.2 million, to community initiatives.
- o The Social Impact Studio collaborated with the Student Volunteer Army and Volunteer South to coordinate 50 flood response volunteers to assist an affected farmer in the Catlins following the significant rain event in October.
- o University staff and students have helped keep about 4,907 people alive by being among the country's biggest blood and plasma donors in the New Zealand Blood Service's Team Red Programme. Team Red involves donors forming or joining a group then NZBlood combining their donations into one team total – the University has 15 active teams.
- o The Sophia Charter Street Clean Up was held on 11 October. Staff from Student Services participated in the event, as they have done for most Diversion Days in 2024.
- o 71 student volunteers have delivered 1,200 individual reading sessions with children at Carisbrook School this year through the Reading Oasis programme, supported by the Catalytic Foundation. Students contributed 360 hours of service to achieve this alongside their studies. A new reading stream was trialed this semester between Ōpoho School and Aquinas College (8 students, 25 hours of service).

Operational Performance Highlights

- **Academic Division**

- o The Timetabling Project has just released the 2025 timetable draft. This has involved a significant mahi from the Timetables team, with input from IT Services to navigate multiple system complexities and bugs. As previously advised to Council this work will mean a significant reduction in timetable clashes for students.
- o A new institutional repository platform has been launched. This will enable Otago research outputs to be shared online more easily offering enhanced accessibility and enabling greater research impact. This was the result of a successful partnership between the Library, the Research Office and Information Technology Services.
- o Pātaka Kai (food pantries) are being established in four locations on the Ōtepoti Dunedin campus, in recognition of food insecurity experienced by our taura. General management of the pātaka will be through the Student Services Director's Office. Funding has been via Pūtea Tautoko.

- **External Engagement**
 - Pacific Voices XX1, the Pacific Postgraduate Research Symposium was held at the end of October with 18 insightful presentations by Pacific MA and PhD students from all divisions.
 - Pacific community engagement fonos were held in Oamaru and Invercargill by PIC staff.
 - Hosted international visits to Otago:
 - Fudan University (China) - 11 September
 - Universitas Brawijaya (Indonesia) - 16 September
 - Latin America Education New Zealand delegation - 18 September
 - Shanghai Jia Tong (China) – 26 September
 - Philippine Ambassador – 1 October
 - Fijian Tertiary Scholarship and Loan Service – 11 October at UOC
 - Fijian Minister of Education – 14 October
 - Malaysian Institute of Teachers Education (Malaysia) – 15 October
 - Beijing Foreign Studies University (China) – 29 October

- **Health Sciences:**
 - Otago is one of only a handful of non-European partners to become part of the newly formed European Rare Diseases Research Alliance (ERDERA), providing access to a huge wealth of knowledge and research on rare disorders which could help to diagnose and ultimately treat many more health issues in New Zealanders.

- **Sciences:**
 - The 50th Science Wananga was held recently at Omahu marae in Heretaunga (Hastings). Nurturing the scientific and curious minds of rangatahi Māori across the motu has been at the heart of Science Wānanga since Te Rohe a Ahikāroa (Division of Sciences) started hosting it in 2008.
 - Four working oscilloscopes surplus to requirements in the Physics Department have been donated to the National University of Samoa to assist with teaching. This was facilitated by the Department of Physics and Tūhura Otago Museum.

- **Humanities:**
 - Te Kete Aronui launched the University's first academic division-wide sustainability plan, under the University's overarching Ti Kōuka: The Sustainability Strategic Framework. The Division has formally committed to embedding sustainability in its courses, research, actions, advocacy, public events and workshops.
 - Ngā Tauria o te Kete Aronui, the Division's student association, celebrated their 10th anniversary with current and past members.

- **Commerce:**
 - Application to initiate re-accreditation with AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) was submitted.
 - EQUIS (EFMD Quality Improvement System) business school accreditation mid-term report was submitted, and feedback received as 'meeting expectations of the EQUIS Accreditation Board'. Final accreditation report and review will be due mid-2026.
 - The PVC and Dean, Otago Business School, Professor Maree Thyne visited Beijing for the AAPBS (Associate of Asia Pacific Business Schools) conference, meeting with a number of key student recruitment agents in both Beijing and Shanghai and partner Universities.
 - The Otago Business School (OBS) has recently become a dissemination partner of the WE (Women Entrepreneurs) Empower Challenge – a global competition for women entrepreneurs who are advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The invitation to join was extended by Otago alumna Amanda Ellis, and OBS now sits on the

Global Futures website alongside the likes of TIME magazine, Unilever, Deloitte, Blue Planet Alliance and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

- **Office of Māori Development**
 - Recent discussions were held with Ngāti Mutunga in line with the MOU that was signed at Te Rangihīroa opening in 2023 to fine-tune working together on projects/ research opportunities (sustainability) and scholarships.
 - Supported Otago Polyfest Event with an Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka stall – 160 schools participated.
 - International Partnership MOU with Murdoch University – the first tri-lingual MOU is to be signed in November 2024 on the Dunedin campus.

- **Operations**
 - The ongoing works at Arana College are on schedule to be completed in time for the start of the 2025 academic year.
 - The Te Rangihīroa Team have been nominated for the Best Team Award at the South Island Property People Awards.
 - The University Wi-Fi is getting a boost outside on the Dunedin central campus and at many colleges as an outdoor Wi-Fi network starts being installed.

People and Culture

- Annual Pay Gap and Staff Demographic Reports are complete and will be publicly released by year-end.
- Ngā Tai o Tāwhaki, a governance group made up of Māori and Pacific Library staff, learning support staff and students has been set up. The group is developing initiatives to make the library a more welcoming space, and to promote a sense of belonging for Māori and Pacific students and staff.

Recent senior staff appointments:

- Professor Bruce Russell has been appointed as the new Dean of Pharmacy, taking up the role on 21 October 2024.
- Currently in the process of recruiting to the PVC/DVC Pacific and Associate PVC Māori position in Health Sciences.

Celebrating Excellence – awards and recognition

This is not an exhaustive list of the achievements of our staff, students and alumni. We recognise that our staff are working hard every day, producing outstanding results and achievements at all levels. This represents a sample of some of their recent achievements.

- Alumni **Justice Christine French** (LLB 1981) has been appointed President of Court of Appeal and **Justice Dani Gardiner** (LLB (Honours) (First Class)) has been appointed a High Court Judge.
- Anatomist and former Acting Vice-Chancellor, **Emeritus Professor Helen Nicholson** is the first New Zealander to lead the International Federation of Associations of Anatomists (IFAA). In September she was elected President of the umbrella group of 57 anatomy associations across the world.
- Quantum physicist **Associate Professor Harold Schwefel**, Department of Physics and Te Whai Ao-Dodd-Walls Centre for Photonic and Quantum Technologies, has received a Google Academic Research Award. He is the only New Zealand-based researcher to receive an award in this inaugural programme which supports groundbreaking research in computing and technology.

- Honours students **Petra Fisher** and **Alexander Matthews** have been awarded prestigious 2025 Woolf Fisher Scholarships worth about \$70,000 a year, for the next three years, to pursue their doctoral studies at Cambridge University.
- Commerce student **Amelia Farrar** won the 2024 Sir Frank Holmes Prize – an award given annually by the Motu Research and Education Foundation to New Zealand's top undergraduate economics student. Amelia is the first Otago student to win the prize for nearly a decade.
- Two poetry collections published by Otago University Press won awards in the 2004 Laurel Prize competition, a set of major international awards for nature/ecology poetry supported by the UK Poet Laureate. **Robyn Maree Pickens** won third prize for her collection *tung* and Megan Kitching won the best first book, international, for *At the Point of Seeing*.
- Three Commerce students, **Lachlan Williams, Leutele Tamati and James Bennett**, won the inaugural Indigenous Business Case Competition in late September. This competition aims to foster Indigenous entrepreneurship and build stronger networks within the business sector.
- Finance students **Kaleb Hill, Thomas Walker, Ben McCall and Ryan Johnston** won the inaugural 'Baker's Dozen' 2024 NZX Stockpicking Competition – an event sponsored by Craigs Investment Partners. Associate Professor Helen Roberts, Department of Finance, worked with CIP's Lauren Hall to come up with a competition that would give students real-world experience and connect them with the investing community. Each team had to choose a 'baker's dozen' of 13 NZX 50 stocks, provide a rationale for their selection and measure the performance of the portfolio over the course of the year.
- **George Geary**, studying a BA majoring in Psychology and English, won the student poetry section of the University's annual writing competition with a piece that takes the reader through the residential Red Zone after the Christchurch earthquakes

Recent Stakeholder Engagement Activities as Vice-Chancellor

- Vice-Chancellor's All-Staff Forum: 10/10/24
- DCC-hosted visit, Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Shanghai Committee: 15/10/24
- University of Otago Student Leadership Award presentations: 16/10/24
- Speech to Dunedin Club: 17/10/24
- Horizons Europe Showcase, Wellington: 21/10/24
- Meeting with Minister Simmonds Wellington: 22/10/224
- OUSA, Te Roopu Māori and OPISA student executives thank you dinner: 24/10/24
- Opened Pacific Voices XX1: 31/10/24
- ODT Class Act: 31/10/24

Upcoming Events

December Graduations

Sat 7 December (1 pm):	Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Medical Laboratory Science Speaker: Dr Ruben Ketene, Dentistry
Sat 7 December (4 pm):	Medicine, Pharmacy Speaker: Emeritus Professor Linda Holloway
Wed 11 December (1 pm):	Arts, Music, Theology. Science, BAsC Speaker: Keegan Wells, OUSA President

- Wed 11 December (4 pm): Science
Speaker: Distinguished Professor Sir Richard Faull, University of Auckland
- Sat 14 December (1 pm): Commerce, Law, BACom, BComSc
Speaker: Mr Stephen Higgs, former University Chancellor
- Sat 14 December (4 pm): Applied Science, Surveying, Biomedical Sciences, Health Sciences, Education and Teaching
Speaker: Emeritus Professor Helen Nicholson, former Acting Vice-Chancellor

Inaugural Professorial Lectures

- 19 November 2024 Professor Ivan Sammut, Pharmacology and Toxicology
21 November 2024 Professor Beulah Leitch, Anatomy



University of Otago Council

Division of Commerce | Te Kura Pākihi Update

7. Exclusion of the Public

The Chancellor moves that the public be excluded from the whole of the proceeding of this meeting/the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, —

Item 8	Division of Commerce Te Kura Pākihi Update (Continued)
Item 9	Pt 2 of the Minutes of the meeting of the University Council held on 8 October 2024
Item 10	University Council Work Plan 2024 and Action Follow-Register
Item 11	Vice-Chancellor's Business
Item 12	Finance and Budget
Item 13	Health, Safety and Wellbeing
Item 14	Council Information Pack
Item 15	Council Only Business

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows: -

General Subject	Reason for passing this resolution	Ground under Section 48(1)(a) for the passing of this resolution
Items 8 - 15 Confidential Minutes and Reports	Good reason for withholding information under the Official Information Act	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a)(ii) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Sections 6,7 and/or 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 (except Section 9(2)(g)(i)) as the case may require. The interests which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows (all references are to Section 9 of the Official Information Act):

Item 8	Division of Commerce Te Kura Pākihi Update (Continued)	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 9	Pt 2 of the Minutes of the meeting of the University Council held on 8 October 2024	ss 9(2)(a), (i), and (k)
Item 10	University Council Work Plan and Action Follow-Register	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 11	Vice-Chancellor's Business	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 12	Finance and Budget	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 13	Health, Safety and Wellbeing	ss 9(2)(a), (ba) and (c)
Item 14	Council Information Pack	ss 9(2)(a), (i), and (k)
Item 15	Council Only Business	ss 9(2)(a), (i), (j) and (k)

AND THAT for Items 8-14 Professors S Brock, R Blaikie, J Palmer, J Ruru, Mr S Willis, Mr D Thomson, Mr B Trott, Ms M McPherson, for items 8 Professor M Thyne, be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because it relates to aspects of the administration and/or knowledge of specific capital projects of the University of Otago for which these people are responsible. The Registrar and Secretary to the Council and the Deputy Secretary to the Council) are also permitted to remain at the meeting to provide secretarial support and advice.