



REVIEW OF THE CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND PUBLIC ISSUES

17-18 NOVEMBER 2026

Written submissions to be received by: Tuesday 3 November 2026

As part of the University's quality assurance programme a Panel has been convened to review, evaluate and report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on matters pertaining to the Centre for Theology and Public Issues.

Convenor: Professor Emerita Abby Smtith, Department of Marine Science
University of Otago | Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka

Panel Members:

Internal: Professor Emerita Nicola Peart, Faculty of Law
Internal: Professor Anaru Eketone, Community and Social Work
External: Professor Emeritus Jonathan Boston, Victoria University of Wellington | Te Herenga Waka
Graduate: Dr John Kleinsman, The Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics – Te Kupenga
Secretary: [Dr Meg Gollop](#), Quality Advancement Unit

Scroll down for the Reviews Framework and Terms of Reference below.

Written submissions

Interested parties are invited to make submissions relevant to the Terms of Reference to the Review Panel. The University wants its reviews to be based on all relevant information and accordingly assures you that submissions are treated in the strictest confidence.

Such submissions should be sent to the Review Secretary, [Dr Meg Gollop](#), by **Tuesday 3 November**. Emails (PDF format preferred) should be marked "Confidential: Submission for the Review of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues."

Oral submissions

Interested parties are invited to make oral submissions relevant to the Terms of Reference to the Review Panel. Please contact the [Review Secretary](#).

Framework

A review is an opportunity to critically analyse the goals and objectives of an Administrative Unit and to receive affirmation that current plans and priorities will have long term benefits for students and staff, and to ensure that its strategy is aligned with University strategy. It is designed to help the area being reviewed plan its future direction, set strategic goals and identify the challenges it will face.

The key part of the review is the Self Review, in which the Unit is expected to address the following questions in the context of the Terms of Reference:

Current State

- What is the current situation of the Unit?
- What does the Unit do well?
- How does the Unit contribute to the wider goals of the Division of which it is a part?
- How do the activities of the Unit support the University in the delivery of its strategic goals, as outlined in *Vision 2040*, *Pae Tata*, and in the University's Māori Strategic Framework, Pacific Strategic Framework, and Sustainability Strategic Framework?

Future State

- Where does the Unit want to be in five to ten years time?
- What does the Unit need to do to get there?
- What challenges face the future development of the Unit?
- What changes might be required to strengthen the Unit contribution to University and Divisional goals and priorities?
- What can the University and Division do to support the Unit to achieve its goals?

Alignment with the University's Strategic Imperatives

The core activities of the University are grouped under four broad headings: (1) Teaching and Student Support, (2) Research, (3) External Engagement and (4) Organisational Resources, which in turn are aligned to the University's Strategic Imperatives from *Vision 2040*.

All contributors to the review – the Administrative Unit, Director or Divisional Head, and the Review Panel – may choose to emphasise individual items within each broad heading.

Amended Terms of Reference

Teaching

In relation to Teaching, to review, evaluate and identify opportunities for development over the next five years of:

- the papers offered within the subject area of Public Theology – including contribution to the scope and coherence of the Theology Programme as a whole, and to the Theology Programme objectives, relevance to students, national and international trends, effectiveness of processes for curriculum review and development of new papers; distance teaching.
- research-teaching nexus – recognising, promoting and reinforcing the interdependent nature of research and teaching
- pedagogy – quality and excellence in teaching, sustained development in teaching practice including innovative teaching, use of new technologies, effectiveness of course delivery.

Research

In relation to Research, to review, evaluate and identify opportunities for development over the next five years of:

- engagement from a Christian theological perspective with issues of public interest nationally and internationally
- research culture; processes for identifying emerging areas of research; identification of research strengths; strategic research planning including research quality
- links and collaborations between staff, between departments and with other organisations nationally and internationally (refer to the Research Impact Framework)
- benchmarking and external assessment of research quality, both nationally and internationally
- development of research capacity - including Research Masters and PhD completions
- engagement with the international research community - including editorships on international journals, ability to recruit high quality researchers and attract international visitors
- responsiveness to Māori and Pacific students
- effective encouragement of inter-disciplinary research and collaborations
- staff research – including productivity, scope and quality
- new or strengthened opportunities for research engagement, consultation and collaboration with iwi Māori and Pacific communities
- new or strengthened opportunities to provide input into Government policy documents and select committee hearings.

External Engagement

In relation to Service and Community Engagement, to review, evaluate and identify opportunities for development over the next five years of:

- the importance of community engagement to the success of the Centre. e.g. professional societies and associations locally, regionally, nationally and internationally; dissemination of research through a variety of media channels.

- the quality of relationships with regional and national governments and policy agencies, professional associations, major employer groups and relevant industry groups
- identify and explore opportunities for greater interaction, consultation and collaboration with iwi

Organisational Resources

In relation to Organisational Culture, to review, evaluate and identify opportunities for development over the next five years of:

- stewardship of the University's reputation, assets and intellectual capital; and staff values (as articulated by Kā Mātāpono)
- alignment to Divisional and University plans and policies, including commitment to the goals of the University's Māori Strategic Framework and Pacific Strategic Framework and its honouring of the Treaty of Waitangi
- sustainability – demonstrating practices across all core activities that promote sustainability.
- appropriate financial, human, administrative, and infrastructure resources to sustain and strengthen the work of the Centre.

Pae Tata

In relation to the University's 'Vision 2040' and Strategic Plan to 2030, 'Pae Tata', to evaluate the extent to which the activities of the Centre align with these strategic documents and to identify opportunities for further alignment. The commitments of particular relevance to the Centre are:

- Provide compelling and viable educational offerings that deliver excellent student outcomes and experiences.
- Organise and focus research and innovation efforts to deliver high-quality, impactful research.
- Whakamana i Te Tiriti o Waitangi – strengthen our capability, capacity, and culture to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Achieve our ambition to become a more global and connected University.