

University of Otago Council | 8 September 2026 Part One



Online via Zoom - Webinar ID: 980 1253 4217 | Passcode: 765479

08 September 2026 10:00 AM

Agenda Topic	Presenter	Page
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Council Briefings		
A Council-only session will take place prior to the public Council meeting, which begins at 10am.		
Part 1 - Open Committee		
Opening karakia		3
The meeting will begin with a karakia tīmatanga led by the OUSA President.		
Apologies		
To receive and note apologies.		
1. Commemorations	Information	
Acknowledging the passing of members of the University community.		
1.1 Emeritus Professor Erik Olssen		
2. Disclosure of Interests	Information	4
To receive the current Register of Interests for members of the University of Otago Council including the Independent Chair and the Independent Members. 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.		
3. University Council Minutes	Confirmation	8
To confirm Part 1 of the Minutes of the meeting of the University Council held on 14 July 2026.		
4. Communications from the Senate	Decision	12
To receive communications from the University Senate from its meeting on 29 July 2026, and to approve Senate's recommendations.		
4.1 Limitation of Enrolment - BPharm(Hons)	Decision	14
To approve the request to limit enrolment for BPharm(Hons) to ten placements.		
4.2 Dates for the Academic Year 2028	Information	15
To receive the dates for the Academic Year 2028.		
5. Finance and Budget		16
5.1 Council Financial Report	Information	16
To receive the Council Financial Report for 31 July 2026.		

6.	Vice-Chancellor's Business		18
6.1	Vice-Chancellor's Report	Information	18
	To receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor.		
7.	Exclusion of the Public	Decision	21
	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.		

Karakia

This karakia has been composed for use across Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka | the University of Otago as a means of opening and/or closing hui, meetings, and everyday gatherings.

Kupu	Translation
Tau mai te mauri	Let the mauri settle
Te mauri tū	The mauri that stands firm
Te mauri ora	The mauri of wellbeing
Te mauri o tēnei kaupapa	The mauri of this purpose
e whakaū nei i kā uara ki Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka	affirming the values at the University of Otago
Te mana	Mana
Te tapu	Tapu
Te whakapapa	Whakapapa
me te mauri	and mauri
Puritia kia ū, puritia kia mau	Hold fast, hold firmly
Haumi e	Let us be united
Hui e	Let us come together
Tāiki e	It is complete

Purpose:

The primary purpose of this karakia is to whakatau the mauri — to settle, ground, and bring into balance the mauri of those who recite it. It is intended to help people arrive fully, be present with one another, and move forward collectively in a calm way.

Notes:

This karakia is grounded in the context of Ōtākou and acknowledges the importance of place and relationship. It has been composed in the Kāi Tahu dialect¹ to reflect the mana whenua of Ōtākou and the local context of Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka.

This karakia has been carefully shaped for use across a diverse institution, incorporating the values of mana whenua at Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka². It respects a wide range of belief systems within the University community while upholding Māori values, language, and tikaka.

¹ Kāi Tahu dialect uses 'k' in place of the more widely used 'ng' (e.g., kā instead of ngā, manaakitaka instead of manaakitanga).

² [insert link to values here]

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

Suri Bartlett (Independent Member)

Entity	Nature of Interest
Tenzing Limited	Director
Save the Children NZ	Director
World Netball	Director
Department of Conservation – Risk and Assurance Committee	Member

Frazer B Barton

Entity	Nature of Interest
Naseby Development Trust	Trustee
Runway Noyers Ltd	Director / Shareholder
Otago Law Practitioners Benevolent Fund	Trustee
S M Barton Family Trust	Trustee
TCP Holdings Limited	Director / Shareholder
University of Otago Foundation Trust	Trustee
Waipuna Trust	Trustee
N/A	Sole Barrister
New Zealand Law Society	President and Board Member
New Zealand Law Society – CLT Ltd	Director

Brendan J Boyle

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

Peter Bramley

Entity	Nature of Interest
PHARMAC	Deputy Chair
Emerge Aotearoa	Director
Health NZ	Independent Chair of HSAAP Programme
Health NZ	Independent Chair of Funding Board
Health NZ	Independent Chair of Regional Investment Committee
Nelson Hospital Build	Senior Responsible Owner

Mark A Brunton

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

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO COUNCIL REGISTER OF INTERESTS

Suzanne L Ellison

Entity	Nature of Interest
Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki	Runaka Manager
Karitane Māori Tours Limited	Director
Te Pae Māori - DCC Mana Whenua: Mana to Mana	KHRKP Representative
City Table	KHRKiP Representative

Allan H Dawson (Independent Chair)

Entity	Nature of Interest
University of Otago Holdings Limited	Chair
Arlo Software Limited	Chair
Connexionz Limited	Chair and Shareholder
Winnow Software Limited	Director and Shareholder
Onfarm Solution Limited	Advisory Board Chair
Image Analyser Limited (UK)	Board Observer
SC Oscar Fund Management Pte Ltd (Singapore)	Advisory Board Member
Ranui Generation Limited	Advisory Board Member
Tarbotton Lan & Civil	Advisory Board Member

Professor David M Eyers

Entity	Nature of Interest
University of Otago	Employee
Research and Education Advanced Network New Zealand (REANNZ) – Strategy Advisory Group	Member
Roundtable of University-Elected Academic Councillors	Member

Chris C Hopkins

Entity	Nature of Interest
Port Otago Ltd	Director
Chalmers Properties Ltd	Director
Te Papa Gateway Ltd	Director
Fiordland Pilot Services Ltd	Director
Port Chalmers Container Terminal Ltd	Director
inMR Measure Ltd	Director/Shareholder
Mimeo Industries Ltd	Director/Shareholder
Spade Work Ltd	Director/Shareholder
Our Planit Ltd	Director/Shareholder
CompanyHQ Ltd and CompanyHQ NZ Ltd	Director/Shareholder
SouthMED Ltd	Director
Veritide Ltd	Director
Bletsoe Securities Ltd	Director
GW Batts Terrace Ltd	Director
Dunedin International Airport Ltd	Director
Farra Engineering Ltd	Director
Oakwood Group Ltd (excluding Group companies Oakwood Properties Ltd, Oakwood Securities Ltd, Oakwood Motor Group including Cooke Howlison Ltd)	Director

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO COUNCIL REGISTER OF INTERESTS

and Blackwell Motors Ltd and Condell Retirement Village Ltd	
Silveracres Trust	Trustee
Callaghan Innovation	Director

Ross D Jackson

Entity	Nature of Interest
McCulloch and Partners	Consultant
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
Blue Hole Trustee Company	Director and Corporate Trustee
Pacific Tristar Limited	Director
Villas 1-36 Management Limited	Director and Chairman
University of Otago Holdings Limited	Director

Daniel M Leamy

Entity	Nature of Interest
University of Otago	Student
Otago University Students' Association	President
Aotearoa Tertiary Students' Association (ATSA)	Member of National Conference

Patricia (Trish) A Oakley

Entity	Nature of Interest
Forsyth Barr Limited	Shareholder
Institute of Directors NZ - Board	Observer
Institute of Directors NZ – National Council	President
Institute of Directors NZ – Otago Southland Branch	Committee Member
New Zealand Lotteries Commission - Board	Member
Global Women	Member and Regional Lead
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
New Zealand Chancellors' Group	Chair
City Table	Member

Nicola E Riordan

Entity	Nature of Interest
Riordan Family Trust	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

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO COUNCIL
REGISTER OF INTERESTS

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
Alexander McMillan Trust	Trustee
AAW Jones Charitable Trust	Trustee
KMKT Trust (Family Trust)	Non-beneficial Trustee
Otago Cricket Association	Director



Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the University Council

14 July 2026

Present	The Chancellor (in the Chair), the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro-Chancellor, Mr. M A Brunton, Ms. S L Ellison, Mr. D Leamy, Mr. C Hopkins, Mr. F Barton, Professor D Eyers, Ms. N Riordan (video-conference), Mr. R Jackson (video-conference), Dr. P Bramley (video-conference)
Apologies	N/A
In attendance	Dr J. Hayes (Acting Chief Operating Officer), the Chief Financial Officer, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (External Engagement), the Director Strategy and Analytics and Reporting, the Manager Internal Communications and Channels, Registrar and Secretary to the Council, Deputy Secretary to the Council.

Part One

The meeting opened with karakia tīmatanga led by the Pro-Chancellor.

1. Commemorations

There were no recorded Commemorations.

2. Disclosure of Interests

The Council was reminded to inform the Registrar of any updates to the register.

3. Council Minutes | Part One

The Council

APPROVED the minutes from Part One of the Council meeting held 9 June 2026.

4. Communications from Senate

4.1 Senate Communications | 27 May 2026

The Council

APPROVED

the recommendation from Senate to add a papers-only pathway for completing the Master of Indigenous Studies (MIndS), including new papers INDS 501, MAOR 504, and MAOR 507.

4.2 Senate Communications | 24 June 2026

The Council

APPROVED

the recommendation from Senate to amend the programme Master of Archaeological Practice (MArchP), to be renamed the Master of Archaeology and Heritage Practice (MArchP);

4.3 Limitations of Enrolment and Specified International Places for 2027

The Council

APPROVED

Recommendation 1 to endorse the enrolment limit requests for 2027 as specified; and

Recommendation 2, to endorse the establishment of international places for 2027, as specified.

5. Finance and budget

5.1 Council Financial Report

The Council

RECEIVED

the Financial Report for May 2026, presented by the Chief Financial Officer.

6. Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Council

RECEIVED

the report from the Vice-Chancellor, further noting that the TEC Educational Performance Indicators for 2025 were published after the agenda pack had been compiled.

The University achieved the best overall qualification completions in New Zealand and strong first-year outcomes, ranking first for Pacific student retention and second for Māori student retention. These results reflect the dedication and excellence of the University's teaching and pastoral care staff.

7. Exclusion of the Public

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 8 SLT Register of Interests
- Item 9 Pt 2 of the Minutes of the previous meeting of the University Council
- Item 10 University Council Work Plan and Action Follow-up Register
- Item 11 Vice-Chancellor's Business
- Item 12 Digital Technologies
- Item 13 Campus Development
- Item 14 Finance and Budget
- Item 15 Foundation Trust
- Item 16 Health, Safety and Wellbeing
- Item 17 Wellcome Trust
- Item 18 Delegation for Conferment of Degrees and other Awards
- Item 19 Information pack
- Item 20 Meeting Reflections
- Item 21 Council-Only Business
- Item 22 Late Papers

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 (as listed) 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	Pt 2 of the Minutes of the previous meeting of the University Council	ss 9(2)(a), (i), and (k)
Item 9	University Council Work Plan and Action Follow-up Register	ss 9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 10	Vice-Chancellor's Business	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 11	Audit and Risk	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 12	Finance and Budget	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 13	Campus Development	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 14	Digital Technologies	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 15	Health, Safety and Wellbeing	ss 9(2)(a), (ba) and (c)
Item 16	Kāhui Kāwanataka	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 17	Council Information Pack	ss 9(2)(a), (i), and (k)
Item 18	Meeting Reflections	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 19	Council-Only Business	ss 9(2)(a), (i), (j) and (k)

AND THAT for Items 8-16 Emeritus Professor J Maclaren, Professors G Cook, J Palmer, J Ruru, D Sika-Paotonu, Mr S Willis, Dr. J Hayes, Mr D Thomson, Mr B Trott – along with, for particular items, Ms D Peach (Head, Risk, Assurance and Compliance), Mr K Maley and Mr C Hale (Strategy Analytics and Reporting Office) – 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. Mr R Tomlinson (Audit New Zealand) will be permitted to join for items relating to the 2025 Audit exercise. The Registrar and Secretary to the Council and Deputy Secretary to the Council are also permitted to remain at the meeting to provide secretarial support and advice.



COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE SENATE
29 July 2026

The Senate recommends for approval:

Academic Proposal

The following proposals for new and amended programmes to be submitted to the Committee on University Academic Programmes (CUAP):

New programmes

- Criminology postgraduate subject for BA(Hons), PGDipArts, MA(Coursework), and MA(Thesis)
- Data Science and Ecology subjects for the Bachelor of Sustainability (BSust)

Amended programme

- Postgraduate Certificate in Clinician Performed Ultrasound (PGCertCPU), broadening the admissions requirements to admit non-medical clinicians

2027 Limitation of Enrolment Request – BPharm(Hons)

A request to limit enrolments for the Bachelor of Pharmacy with Honours (BPharm(Hons)) for the 2027 academic year (attached).

2028 Academic Dates

Dates for the academic year 2028, noting that these dates adhere to the same model as previously approved for the 2027 academic year (attached).

Matters approved by Senate under delegation through University Statute, for noting:

Academic Proposals

In addition to minor and consequential changes to papers and programmes, the Senate approved the following, as recommended by the University's Academic Committee:

Commerce

- BSNS 350 Special Topic: Business Decision-Making in an AI-Enabled World (approved special topic)

Humanities

- CRIM 320/520 Criminal Justice, Representation and the News (new paper)
- CRIM 490 Dissertation (new paper)
- CRIM 590 Research Dissertation (new paper)

PhD Regulations

Amendments to the PhD Regulations regarding progress reports and updates to the regulation notes to reflect the current title of the role Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), as recommended in a manatu from the Dean of the Graduate Research School and Convener of the Graduate Research Committee

Request for a new or amended

Limitation of enrolment
for a PROGRAMME

This form is for requests to limit enrolment in a programme for resource-related reasons, as per clause 10 of the Admission to University Statute 2011. See the related [Limitation of Enrolment in a Paper or Programme Procedure](#).

Name of programme
e.g. MB ChB

BPharm (Hons)

Proposed enrolment limit

Number of available places, e.g. 200

10

Resource-related reason for requiring a limitation on enrolment (please provide a brief justification)

Availability of student supervision and limit of student funding

Method for selecting students for limited places (tick one only)

As per the Admission to University Statute 2011 (clause 10), students must be selected for limited places based on academic merit and suitability for the paper.* However, additional criteria may also be approved by Senate on the recommendation of the DVC (A & I)



Academic merit and suitability for the paper

Academic merit and suitability plus additional criteria as specified in the programme regulations

Academic merit and suitability for the paper plus additional criteria as detailed in the box below

For additional criteria please provide criteria and justification (if necessary, attach a separate sheet to this form)

Confirmation of consistency with current approved Programme Regulations (required)



The selection criteria used are consistent with the approved Programme Regulations

Optional web-link for information on enrolment limits and student selection for this programme

May be displayed in eVision when applicants seek information on this programme; may link to programme regulations

Departmental Contact for administrative queries relating to this request (if not Head of Department)

Name

Email

Head of department (or equivalent) endorsement

Name

Professor Bruce Russell

Signature

[Signature]

Date

20/7/26

PVC endorsement

Signature

[Signature]

Date

20/07/2026

Michelle Bennie, Specialist Academic Committees pp PVC Health Sciences

This form normally either accompanies an academic proposal form for approval (Division and BUGS/BoGS), or is provided as part of the annual collection of Limitations of Enrolment. Outside these processes, completed forms should be emailed to [Academic Committees and Services](#).

AE1246

Dates for the Academic Year 2028

Monday 10 January	Summer School commences
Sunday 6 February	Waitangi Day
Monday 7 February	Waitangi Day (Observed)
Friday 18 February	Summer School classes end
Saturday 19 February	Summer School examinations begin
Thursday 24 February	Summer School examinations end
Friday 25 February	Preliminary classes held
Monday 28 February	Formal lectures begin
Friday 14 April	Good Friday Mid-semester break begins
Monday 17 April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 18 April	Otago Anniversary Day observance (Dunedin)
Tuesday 25 April	ANZAC Day
Monday 1 May	First Semester resumes
Saturday 13 May	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Saturday 20 May	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Friday 2 June	Lectures end prior to mid-year examining period
Monday 5 June	King's Birthday
Wednesday 7 June	First Semester examinations begin
Wednesday 21 June	First Semester examinations end maximum length of the formal examination period [although there may be some examinations held after this date]
Monday 10 July	Second Semester begins
Friday 14 July	Matariki
Friday 18 August	Mid-Semester Break begins
Saturday 19 August	Graduation Ceremony Degrees and diplomas in all disciplines
Monday 4 September	Second Semester resumes
Friday 13 October	Lectures end prior to end of year examining period
Wednesday 18 October	End of year examinations begin
Monday 23 October	Labour Day
Saturday 11 November	End of year examinations end end of the formal examination period [although there may be some examinations held after this date]
Monday 13 November	Pre-Christmas Summer School (PXSS) begins
Saturday 9 December	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Wednesday 13 December	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Friday 15 December	PXSS teaching ends
Saturday 16 December	Graduation Ceremonies Disciplines in each ceremony to be confirmed
Saturday 16 December	PXSS examinations



University
of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

Council Financial Report

31 JULY 2026

Financial Summary

Profit & Loss

FULL YEAR FORECAST

SURPLUS / DEFICIT -\$5.9m Budget: -\$9.0m ↗34.4%	SURPLUS % -0.64% Budget Target: -0.97% ↗0.33% FMF Target: 3.0% ↘3.64%	STUDENT RELATED INCOME \$549.7m Budget: \$539.6m ↗1.8%	EFTS 20.1k Budget: 19.8k ↗1.5%
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The **forecast deficit** is \$5.9m which is \$3.1m favourable to budget largely due to higher student related and college income, lower computing costs, net gains on sales of assets, and lower interest on borrowings, offset in part by lower net research, lower than budgeted salaries capitalised to projects, higher energy costs, and lower Uniflats income. All budget gap placeholders have been released from the forecast, reflecting the resolution of previously unidentified funding and savings assumptions and providing a more accurate view of the projected year-end position.

While the **surplus %** of (0.64%) remains a concern, it is favourable to the budget target of (0.97%) and still within the staged progress towards the surplus FMF target of 3.0%. Work is ongoing to find opportunities for improvement.

Student Related Income is forecast to be \$10.2m favourable. For further detail, refer to University Forecast Analysis.

EFTS are well ahead of 2025 and comfortably ahead of 2026 budget.

Balance Sheet

YTD ACTUALS

CAPITAL SPEND -\$66.4m Budget: \$102.7m ↘35.3%	BORROWINGS -\$165.0m Budget: -\$240.4m ↗31.3%	WORKING CAPITAL -\$64.8m Budget: -\$59.2m Ratio: ↗0.01%	DEFERRED REVENUE -\$120.9m Budget: -\$115.1m ↗5.0%
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Capital spend is \$36.2m less than budget largely in buildings and equipment.

Borrowings are \$75.3m favourable which is 31.3% less than budgeted largely due to lower than budgeted spend on asset purchases in 2026, and lower closing bank borrowings in 2025.

Working capital is (\$64.8m) which is \$5.6m unfavourable to the budget of (\$59.2m), largely due to higher employee entitlements, deferred revenue, and trade payables, offset in part by higher trade receivables and a favourable movement in derivatives caused by higher long term interest rates due to the increase in OCR during July. The overall working capital ratio is (0.74%) which is 0.01% lower than budget.

Deferred Revenue is \$5.8m higher than budgeted due to the timing of income; \$4.2m increase in research funding in advance, \$1.0m decrease in other deferred revenue, \$0.4m increase in student fees in advance, and \$0.2m increase in accommodation income in advance.

Cash Flows

YTD ACTUALS

OPERATING CASH FLOWS \$141.6m Budget: \$130.9m ↗8.1%	INVESTING CASH FLOWS -\$68.9m Budget: -\$109.8m ↗37.2%	FINANCING CASH FLOWS -\$72.2m Budget: -\$21.1m ↗241.5%	CASH & CASH EQUIVALENTS \$3.4m Budget: \$2.8m ↗18.6%
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Operating cash flows were \$10.7m higher than budget, largely due to lower than budgeted payments to suppliers and employees, timing on student fee income, and lower finance costs, offset in part by timing of grants received, and lower receipts from research and University trusts.

Investing cash flows were \$40.8m or 37.2% favourable to budget due to lower than budgeted spend on asset purchases.

Financing cash inflows are (\$51.0m or 241.5%) unfavourable to budget due to lower spend on asset purchases enabling more than budgeted repayments of borrowing.

Cash & cash equivalents are close to budget.

Vice-Chancellor's Report to Council Part 1

For the Council meeting on : 08 September 2026



Date: 08 September 2026

Submitted by: Hon Grant Robertson, Vice-Chancellor

Recommendation: That Council note the Vice-Chancellor's Report.

Key Recent Developments

Opening of Wai-Ora

The University's new Wai-Ora building in Christchurch will be officially open on 17-18 September. The facility consolidates health research, clinical practice, and teaching activity, providing increased capacity for teaching, research, and collaboration. This is the most significant building project undertaken by the University in recent decades and sets a strong foundation for our future delivery of health sciences in Christchurch.

HRC Funding

Eight Health Research Council (HRC) Explorer Grants have been awarded to the University of Otago. Worth a combined \$1.2 million, the grants support research into topics as varied as economic policy and oral inflammation. The Faculty of Dentistry also secured more than \$1.8 million in HRC funding and received national recognition for research translation, with Professor Warwick Duncan winning the 2026 HealthTech Award.

Annie Stevenson Building

The former Consumer Applied Science (CApSc) Building has been renamed the Annie Stevenson Building to honour one of the University's generous benefactors. The Annie Stevenson Building was originally built in 1923 to house the Home Science School. Annie Stevenson was one of the first two graduates of Otago's Home Science School. She later gifted her family residence, the University Lodge, *Pa Waitaha*, to the University in 1950, as well as providing support for Home Science students.

[Read more here.](#)

The Cause Collective

A ceremony to open The Cause Collective Research Lab in the Otago Business School on the 20th of July. It marked the developing partnership between the University and The Cause Collective, a Pacific-led not for profit organisation based in Auckland that holds the national commissioning contract for Whānau Ora services to Pacific peoples. At the ceremony to open the lab, a report was tabled on areas of collaboration between the two organisations that will guide the relationship into the future.

Other Performance Highlights

Students

- A range of student engagement activities were held during the period, including the Student Services (and Friends) Expo in the Link on 23 July, Te Whare Tāwharau Awareness Week from 10–13 August, and Career Development Centre evening events highlighting career opportunities across specific sectors.
- Te Kawenata Hononga | Relationship Agreement signed between Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka | University of Otago and Te Rōpū Māori o Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka Incorporated replacing the previous Memorandum of Understanding

Partnerships

- New student sponsorship agreements have been established with Thai Government agencies and universities, strengthening Otago's international recruitment relationships.
- A delegation from Fiji National University visited Otago to explore opportunities for collaboration, particularly in Health Sciences.
- Murray Jones, who passed away in December 2025, has donated \$1.37 million to fund respiratory medicine research at Otago, after crediting the work of Dr Ben Brockway and the Otago Respiratory Research Unit with adding 10 years to his life.

Teaching

- The University of Otago is the first university to offer a postgraduate paper in Māori, Pacific and global Indigenous science. 'Global Indigenous Worldviews in Sciences' is one of three new postgraduate papers designed to equip students for the evolving workforce and empower them to make positive change in our complex world.
- Undergraduate teaching successfully transitioned to Aoroa at the start of Semester 2, marking a significant milestone in the Digital Learning Environment programme. The programme team has also been recognised as a finalist in the Tertiary ICT Awards for its approach to equity and inclusion.
- The second AI Leadership programme at Queenstown Resort College has been successfully completed, bringing together senior leaders to explore organisational capability, culture and governance considerations associated with AI adoption.

Research

- Inaugural Māori Research Success: A Snapshot Symposium hosted by Te Tari o Te Pou Koko Māori | Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Māori, Graduate Research School and Te Poutama Māori, celebrating the pathway of Māori research success from postgraduate studies to Professor.
- School of Surveying hosted a research collaboration day with representatives from Trimble, AllTerra, the University of Otago, and industry partners to identify future opportunities for research, teaching, and innovation.
- The Division of Biomedical Sciences has celebrated several significant achievements, including the launch of the Centre for Menstrual Cycle Research.
- Professor John Reynolds and Neumic Therapeutics Ltd won the Aotearoa New Zealand final of the Startup World Cup. The company develops non-invasive treatments to restore brain function in people with brain disorders.

Sustainability

- The University of Otago has been named as a finalist in multiple categories of the 2026 Green Gown Awards Australasia, including:
 - Sustainability Institution of the Year
 - Sustainability Leadership, and
 - Climate Action

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 in particular are working hard every day, producing outstanding results and achievements at all levels. This represents a sample of some of their recent achievements.

Awards

- Professor Tim Stokes received the prestigious Charles Bridges-Webb Medal in recognition of his outstanding leadership in primary care research.

- The Canterbury ICare Faster (improving Care by FAster risk-STratification in the EmeRgency Department) project has won a Teams of Achievement award at the 2026 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Awards
- Dr Judy Ann, a post-doctoral fellow based in the Department of Biochemistry, won the recent Falling Walls Lab Aotearoa New Zealand competition, and will go on to represent New Zealand at the global final in Berlin, Germany.
- Dr Iki Mafi Uele was recently awarded the inaugural Inspiring Minds Award at the AFAANZ Accounting and Finance Association of Australia and New Zealand (AFAANZ) Conference.
- Associate Professor Viktoria Kahui won the NZIER Ed Hearnshaw Environmental Economics Award.
- Dr Aseta Redican (MNZM) was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science, at the August graduation ceremony. A University of Otago alumnus, Dr Redican was the first Pacific Physiotherapist in Aotearoa New Zealand and graduated from Otago's School of Physiotherapy in 1964.
- Emerita Professor Jocelyn Harris (CNZM) was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Literature at the August graduation ceremony. An alumna, lecturer and writer, she championed women's studies in English.
- Professor Warwick Duncan received the Award for Best Translational Research Project at the 2026 HealthTech Week for the *UltraD3* technology - an ultrasound dental diagnostic device that aims to predict the outcome of oral surgery that him and his team have created.
- Professor Paul Cooper received the Pierre Fauchard Academy's highest honour for his internationally significant contributions to dentistry.
- Health Sciences First Year taura Zara Campbell was appointed St John Youth New Zealand's National Cadet of the Year. Read more
- Four Otago alumni received prestigious Fulbright Awards for 2026, including Thomas Marland and Niamh Orr-Walker, recipients of Fulbright Science and Innovation Graduate Awards.
- Head of Cyber Security and IT Assurance Aram Raof-Karim was recently recognised as the Emerging ICT Leader of the Year at the NZ CIO Innovation Awards.
- Professor Tony Ballantyne launched his new book *Captain Cook and the Unsettled Afterlives of Empire*.

[Upcoming Events](#)

Inaugural Professorial Lectures

- 10 September Professor Marcelle Dawson, Sociology, Gender Studies and Criminology.
- 16 September Professor Inga Smith, Department of Physics
- 17 September Professor Lara Friedlander, Oral Rehabilitation
Host: Dianne Sika-Paotonu
- 24 September Professor Sophie Bond, School of Geography
- 29 September Professor Jane Girling, Department of Anatomy
- 30 September Professor Caroline Orchiston, School of Geography
- 14 October Professor Trudy Sullivan Faculty of Medicine (Dunedin)
- 15 October Professor Matthew Schofield, Mathematics & Statistics

Other Events

- Wai Ora Building Opening 17th-18th September
- Centenary of Music at Otago 25th – 26th September
- The [College of Education 150th celebrations](#) will be held 16-18 October.

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	SLT Register of Interests
Item 9	Pt 2 of the Minutes of the previous meeting of the University Council
Item 10	University Council Work Plan and Action Follow-up Register
Item 11	Health, Safety and Wellbeing
Item 12	Vice-Chancellor's Business
Item 13	Strategy
Item 14	Finance and Budget
Item 15	Audit and Risk
Item 16	People and Culture
Item 17	Campus Development Committee
Item 18	Proposed Council and Committee Meeting dates
Item 19	Emeritus Professors
Item 20	Court of Benefactors
Item 21	Information Pack
Item 22	Meeting Reflections
Item 23	Council-Only Business
Item 24	Late Papers

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 (as listed) 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	SLT Register of Interests	ss 9(2)(a)
Item 9	Pt 2 of the Minutes of the previous meeting of the University Council	ss 9(2)(i), and (k)
Item 10	University Council Work Plan and Action Follow-up Register	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 11	Health, Safety and Wellbeing	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 12	Vice-Chancellor's Business	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 13	Strategy	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 14	Finance and Budget	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 15	Audit and Risk	ss 9(2)(a), (ba) and (c)
Item 16	People and Culture	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 17	Campus Development Committee	ss 9(2)(a), (i), and (k)
Item 18	Proposed Council and Committee Meeting dates	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 19	Emeritus Professors	ss 9(2)(a), (i), (j) and (k)
Item 20	Court of Benefactors	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 21	Information Pack	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 22	Meeting Reflections	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 23	Council-Only Business	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)
Item 24	Late Papers	ss 9(2)(i) and (k)

AND THAT for Items 8-16 Emeritus Professor J Maclaren, Professors G Cook, J Palmer, J Ruru, D Sika-Paotonu, Mr S Willis, Dr. J Hayes, Mr D Thomson, Mr B Trott – along with, for particular items, Ms D Peach (Head, Risk, Assurance and Compliance), Mr K Maley and Mr C Hale (Strategy Analytics and Reporting Office) – 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. Audit New Zealand will be permitted to join for items relating to the 2025 Audit exercise. The Registrar and Secretary to the Council and Deputy Secretary to the Council are also permitted to remain at the meeting to provide secretarial support and advice.