

# LINCOLN UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 24 June 2025 at 9:00am in  
Whare Auahu, Lincoln University and online via MS Teams

## Meeting Minutes

Present: Bruce Gemmell, Michelle Ash, Janice Fredric, Prof. Derrick Moot, Dr Marjan van den Belt, Prof. Grant Edwards, Puamiria Parata-Goodall, Gabrielle Thompson, David Jensen, James Parsons and Zara Weissenstein (each a Council Member).

Via MS Teams: Liz Hill-Taiaroa, Grace O'Shaughnessy

In attendance: Susie Roulston (Chief Operating Officer)  
Nathaniel Heslop (Council Secretary)  
Prof Chad Hewitt (Provost)  
Dr Megan Clayton (Item 10)  
Damian Lodge (DVC, Student Life)  
Prof. Merata Kawharu (DVC, Māori)  
Timothy Lester (General Counsel, Item 13)  
Paula Morrison (Item 11)

Apologies: None

*Meeting started at 9:02am.*

### 1. Welcome/Karakia/Apologies

The Chancellor welcomed Councillors to the meeting and invited Dr Marjan van den Belt to open the meeting with karakia.

### 2. Disclosures of interests

The Register of Interests was NOTED.

### 3. Confirmation of the Previous Meeting Minutes

Council RESOLVED:

To confirm the minutes from the Council meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025  
as a true and correct record with minor amendments.

*Resolution*

**MOTION CARRIED**

### 4. Matters arising from the Minutes

The action register was NOTED.

The Council Secretary provided a verbal update noting those matters that remained outstanding.

## 5. Notice of items of General Business

There were no items of general business.

## 6. Vice Chancellors Report

The Vice-Chancellor provided a comprehensive update on external sector developments, government engagement, and strategic implications for Lincoln University.

The 2026 round of the MBIE Endeavour Fund has been cancelled, existing projects will be extended, but no new funding rounds will be opened. This may have implications for early-career researchers.

Council noted the need to balance compliance with operational capacity in a constrained environment.

The importance of strategic agility in response to fiscal constraints, policy uncertainty, and sector-wide reform remains paramount.

### Resolution

That Council:

*Resolution*

1. **RECEIVE** the information in the Chancellor's Report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 7. LUSA Report

The LUSA President informed Council:

- LUSA completed its post-graduate engagement representative byelection
- A 4.9% increase so the Student Services Levy is recommended to meet inflationary pressures and rising service delivery costs for health and counselling services, gym facilities, and career development and support. The proposed increase is comparable to other institutions.
- LUSA will be producing material to educate students how to access these services.

Council discussed the provision of student accommodation and its suitability for different cohorts of students. Management assured Council the provision of appropriate accommodation for cohorts is being considered through planning for the campus accommodation plan.

### Resolution

That Council:

*Resolution*

1. **RECEIVE** the information in the LUSA Report.
2. **APPROVE 4.9%** levy increase to the Student Services Levy.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 8. Chancellor's Report

The report was taken as read.

### Council Resolution

That Council:

*Resolution*

1. **RECEIVE** the information in the Chancellor's Report.

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 9. People and Culture Committee

The report was taken as read.

The Chancellor noted much was governed through several committees and as strategy shifts to a focus on shaping there is a place for People and Culture Committee.

Several amendments to the terms of reference were made including:

- Reducing the committee membership to five
- Any member of the Appointment and Remuneration Committee could be appointed to the People and Culture Committee
- The restriction on only one member who was appointed to Council following an election was removed.

The Chancellor sought nominations of members for the July Council meeting.

### Council Resolution

That Council:

1. **RECEIVE** the information in this report.
2. **APPROVE** the establishment of a People and Culture Committee on the terms of reference in Appendix A, as modified by Council comments during its meeting on 24 June 2025, with effect from 25 June 2025.
3. **APPOINT** Bruce Gemmell and Grant Edwards as ex officio members of the People and Culture Committee, by virtue of their respective roles as Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of Lincoln University. These appointments shall remain in effect for the duration of their terms in office.
4. **APPOINT** David Jensen, as nominated by members of the Lincoln University Appointment and Remuneration Committee, as a member of the People and Culture Committee commencing on 25 June 2025 and expiring on 24 June 2027.
5. **NOTE** that nominations from Council members for the remaining two positions on the Committee will be sought by the Council Secretary in the lead up to Council's next meeting on 29 July 2025.

*Resolution*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## 9. Academic Board Report

Dr Megan Clayton informed Council of the business of Academic Board as she chaired the meeting in Prof. Grant Edwards' absence.

Academic Board approved a series of course changes, including minor amendments to existing programs and update to course descriptors and learning outcomes.

Several academic policies were reviewed and updated, including academic integrity procedures to reflect feedback from staff and students.

A new Lincoln University Learning and Teaching Award was approved. The award will recognise excellence in pedagogy and innovation in teaching practice.

A revised graduate profile was presented and endorsed. The profile is intended to guide curriculum design and graduate outcomes across all programmes.

Council encouraged management to embed a review mechanism of the graduate profile to see if outcomes align with its purported objective.

### Council Resolution

That Council:

1. **RECEIVE** the information in the Academic Board report.

*Resolution*

### MOTION CARRIED

## 10. Academic Audit Cycle 6 Follow-Up Report

The Vice Chancellor informed Council:

The Cycle 6 audit focuses on academic quality assurance, student learning, and institutional improvement.

The one-year follow-up is a formal requirement to demonstrate progress on recommendations, affirmations, and commendations issued by the AQA.

Council members discussed the importance of aligning audit responses with broader strategic priorities, particularly in the context of fiscal constraints and sector-wide reform.

There was consensus that while compliance is essential, the university must also ensure that audit-related initiatives contribute to long-term institutional value.

Council acknowledged the role of governance in monitoring academic quality and ensuring accountability and requested that future updates include clear metrics and timelines for outstanding recommendations.

### Resolution

That Council:

1. **APPROVE** the draft one-year follow-up report for submission to the Transitional Audit Committee.

*Resolution*

## MOTION CARRIED

### 12. Lincoln University Shareholder Resolutions for Subsidiaries

The report was taken as read.

#### Resolution

That Council:

1. **AUTHORISE** the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor to sign the attached resolutions on behalf of the Lincoln University Council in lieu of an Annual General Meeting for both Lincoln Agritech Limited and Lincoln University Property Joint Venture Limited for the year ending 31 December 2024.

*Resolution*

## MOTION CARRIED

*Council adjourned at 10.47am and reconvened at 11.02am.*

### 12. Freedom of Expression Legislation

The item was brought to Council in anticipation of forthcoming legislative requirements mandating that tertiary institutions adopt formal freedom of expression policies. The draft policy and accompanying statement were presented for Council's initial review and endorsement for consultation.

Council discussed the tension between freedom of expression and the duty of care to protect the mental and emotional wellbeing of students and staff

The policy does not create new rights but codifies existing legal and ethical standards in a university-specific context. The General Counsel noted that freedom of expression does not provide an unfettered right.

The draft will be circulated for consultation with staff and students.

Council members were invited to provide written feedback during the consultation period.

It was agreed that the final version would return to Council for formal adoption following consultation

#### Resolution

That Council:

1. **RECEIVES** this report.
2. **NOTES** that the Education and Training Amendment Bill (No. 2) with new requirements relating to Freedom of Expression is currently before Parliament.
3. **NOTES** that as part of the consultation process, University's New Zealand (UNZ) made a submission on the Bill to the Select Committee on behalf of universities.
4. **NOTES** Minister Reti's letter to UNZ asking for standardised university reporting informed by capture of survey and complaint information.
5. **APPROVE** the draft Freedom of Expression policy and statement prior to

*Resolution*

the university commencing consultation with staff and students.

6. **NOTES** that following consultation with staff and students, the draft Freedom of Expression policy and statement will be brought back to Council for review and approval.

## MOTION CARRIED

### 14. General Business

There were no items of general business.

### 15. Motion by the Chancellor for Resolution to Exclude the Public Pursuant to s48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

*I move that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

<i>General Subject Matter</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Grounds under section</i>
<b>Reports to Council</b>		
<b>Ahumairaki</b> 1. Report – business of Committee 2. Minutes from meeting on 11 June 2025	To protect the privacy of natural persons To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	7(2)(a) 7(2)(j)
<b>Appointment and Remuneration Committee</b> 1. Report – business of Committee 2. Minutes from meeting on 9 April 2025 & 10 June 2025 3. Scheduled Review of Council Elections Statutes and Council Appointments Statute 4. Ministerial Appointments Short List	To protect the privacy of natural persons	7(2)(a)
<b>Audit, Risk, &amp; Assurance Committee Report to Council</b> 1. Report – business of Committee 2. Minutes from meeting on 17 June 2025 3. 2026 Investment Plan 4. Whare Wanaka Procurement and DoA Request 5. Ivey Hall Update 6. 10 Year Financial Model 7. 2026 Fees Setting	To avoid prejudice or disadvantage to the commercial activities of the University To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage To maintain legal professional privilege	7(2)(h) 7(2)(j) 7(2)(g)
<b>Council Appeals Committee</b>	To protect the privacy of natural persons	7(2)(a)
<b>Finance Report</b>	To avoid prejudice or disadvantage to the commercial activities of the University To prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	7(2)(h) 7(2)(j)
<b>GOG Reports</b>	To avoid prejudice or disadvantage to the commercial activities of the University	7(2)(h)

*I move also that:* Prof Chad Hewitt (Provost), Prof Merata Kawharu (Deputy Vice Chancellor, Māori and Pasifika), Mrs E Rooney (Finance Director), Mrs S Roulston (Chief Operating Officer), Mr D Lodge (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Life), Tumuaiki-Takirua Te Awhioraki, and Mr Nathaniel Heslop (Council Secretary), be permitted to remain at this meeting after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the various matters being discussed. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to those matters because of their involvement in the development of reports to Council on these matters.

## MOTION CARRIED

### 14. Closure and next Meeting

Dr Marjan van den Belt led the closing karakia.

The meeting closed at 12:48pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 9:00am and will be held in Memorial Hall, Ivey West at Lincoln Campus.

CONFIRMED THIS 29<sup>th</sup> DAY OF July 2025

**BRUCE GEMMELL**

**CHANCELLOR**