



AGENDA PAPERS

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

**Notice is Hereby Given that a Meeting of the Council of Auckland
University of Technology will be held:**

**Board Room, AF Building, AUT North Shore Campus
On: Monday, 27 July 2026**

FROM: 2.30 – 5.30 PM

**Andrea Vujnovich
COUNCIL SECRETARY**



AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

Chancellor

Rob Campbell
Appointed by Council

Pro-Chancellor

Marama Royal
Appointed by Council

Members

Professor Damon Salesa
Vice-Chancellor of the Auckland University of Technology

Peter Treacy
Appointed by the Minister

Janine Smith
Appointed by the Minister

Shaun Clarke
Appointed by the Minister

Alicia Lemmer
Appointed by the Auckland University of Technology Student Association

Leo Foliaki
Appointed by Council

Michelle Huang
Appointed by Council

Welby Ings
Elected by the Academic Staff of the Auckland University of Technology

Lani Thomson
Elected by the Professional Staff of the Auckland University of Technology

Karakia

Beginning and closing	
Tuia ki te rangi Dedicated to the sky Tuia ki te whenua and to the earth below Tuia ki te human kind are bound Ira tangata and inseperable Ka rongo te pō From the infinite potential Ka rongo te ao to the realization in light Tūturu whakamaua Let us come together Kia tīna with purpose Haumi e Hui e united and ready Tāiki e to progress	Kia tau iho Let the strength Te tauwhirotanga and serenity O te wāhi ngaro of our ancestors E pai ai te nohotahi guide us as we gather Ā tinana, wairua hoki in body and spirit Whakauenuku ake Holdfast to Te āio mō te katoa Peace for all Kia whakamaua kia tīna let it be realised Hui e Tāiki e for us all
Closing	
Unuhia, unuhia Draw on, draw on Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui Draw on the supreme sacredness	Kia tau kia tātou katoa May peace, love, and safety Te āio, te aroha me te marutau Be upon us all

Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara takatā To clear, to free the heart, the body and the spirit of mankind Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga Rongo, suspended high above us Kia tina! Tina! Hui e! Tāiki e! Draw together! Affirm!	Thei mauri ora a promise of a glorious day
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PART A

OPEN AGENDA



COUNCIL PART A OPEN AGENDA

Council Agenda Part A (Open Agenda)

Monday 27 July 2026 from 2.30 pm to be held in the Premier Board Room, AF Building, AUT North Campus

Karakia		
Mihi – Chancellor		
1. Welcome, Apologies and approval of agenda	The Chancellor moves that apologies be noted and that Council approve the assignment of agenda items to Part A and Part B of the Council agenda.	
2. Declaration/Recording of any Interests	2. The attention of Members is drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020.	The Chancellor moves that the declarations if any be noted and the action taken be endorsed .
3. Constitutional Matters, Conferment of Degrees, and Policy	3.1 Noting Chancellor delegation – Granting, Rescinding, Revoking and Amending Qualifications – June and July 2026 3.2 Amendment to Honours Policy CP_08	The Chancellor moves that the following be approved : • See item 3.1 The Chancellor moves that the amendment to Honours Policy CP_08 be approved
4. Council Meetings	4.1 Council Meeting Draft Minutes Part A, 25 May 2026. 4.2 Matters arising from the Minutes Part A of the Council Meeting, 25 May 2026 not elsewhere on the agenda.	The Chancellor moves that the Minutes of Part A of the Council Meeting held on 25 May 2026 be taken as read and confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting
5. Vice-Chancellor's Report	5. Vice-Chancellor's Report	The Chancellor moves that the Vice-Chancellor's Report be received .
6. Chancellor's Report	6. Chancellor's Report	The Chancellor moves that the Chancellor's Report be received .
7. Reports from Boards, Committees and Working Groups to Council	7. Reports and Minutes from the Academic Board, 25 May 2026 and 6 July 2026.	The Chancellor moves that Reports and Minutes from the Academic Board , 25 May 2026 and 6 July 2026 be received .

8. Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Report	8.1 Health, Safety & Wellbeing Report for 6 May to 26 June 2026	The Chancellor moves that Council receive the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report 6 May to 26 June 2026.
9. Te Tiriti	9. No report	
10. Strategic Reports	10. No report	
11. Student Success	11. No report	
12. Correspondence referred by the Chancellor	12. No correspondence	
13. Other matters arising for decision or noting	13.1 Update from the President of AUTSA. 13.2 Update from the Council Member elected by the Academic Staff of the Auckland University of Technology 13.3 Update from the Council Member elected by the Professional Staff of the Auckland University of Technology 13.4 Report on Strategic Planning for 2027 Council Academic and Professional Representative Elections	The Chancellor moves that the Update from AUTSA be received. The Chancellor moves that the Update from the Council member Elected by the Academic Staff of the Auckland University of Technology be received. No report The Chancellor moves that the Report on Strategic Planning for 2027 Council Academic and Professional Representative Elections be received.
14. Items moved from Part B of the agenda to Part A and General Business		

PUBLIC EXCLUSIONS

The Chancellor moved that the public be now excluded from Part B of this meeting, and that the following matters be discussed without public disclosure. This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and section 9 of the Official Information Act, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting AND THAT W Lawson, L Williams, A Vujnovich and R Nottingham be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed in the proceedings while the public are excluded. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to these matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of AUT for which those persons are responsible.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter. The public conduct of each item below would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9 of the OIA identified below.	Ground(s) under section 48(1) LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
15. Council Meeting Part B of the meeting held on 24 February 2025	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
16. Vice Chancellor's Report	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
19. Report from AUT Ethics Committee	s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(g)(i)	s7(2)(a), 7(2)(c), 7(2)(j), 7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)
21.0.1 Report on the Fee-Setting Rationale and Recommendations – 2027	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
21.02. Report on Student Hardship, Retention And Completion	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
21.1 Draft Minutes of Finance and Audit Committee held on 13 July 2026	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), s 9(2)(k)	s7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
21.2 Draft Minutes of the People and Culture Committee held on 13 July 2026	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), s 9(2)(k)	s7(2)(b), 7(2)(h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
23. Other Business	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(g)(ii),	7(2)(a), 7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)



Part A
OPEN AGENDA
ITEM

3.1

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **GRANTING, RESCINDING, REVOKING AND AMENDING QUALIFICATIONS – JUNE AND JULY 2026**

Date: **14 JULY 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL NOTE THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAS EXERCISED A DELEGATION UNDER THE COUNCIL DELEGATION POLICY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL ACADEMIC STATUTE AND SECTION 283 OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT 2020 TO:

JUNE 2026

1. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE BURNHAM MONTHLY CORPORATE CYCLE ON 24 JUNE.*

JULY 2026

1. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2026 WINTER GRADUATION CORPORATE CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*
2. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE JULY MONTHLY CERTIFICATES CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*
3. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE JULY MONTHLY CERTIFICATES OF PROFICIENCY (COP) CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*
4. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE 2026 WINTER OFFSHORE CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*
5. *REVOKE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE STUDENTS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE AHEAD OF THE 2026 WINTER GRADUATION CORPORATE CYCLE ON 30 JULY.*

The schedules are in supplementary papers.



Part A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	3.2
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Amendment to Honours Policy CP_08

Date: 12 June 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE AMENDMENT TO HONOURS POLICY CP_08 TO INCLUDE NOMINATION GUIDANCE UNDER CLAUSE 3.4 EMERITUS PROFESSOR.

Reasons

The amendment adds evaluative guidance and a recordkeeping requirement to the existing Emeritus Professor nomination process. It does not alter the eligibility criteria or the discretionary nature of the award and is recommended for the following reasons:

- Transparency — the addition of a brief written assessment record for each nomination ensures that decision-making is documented and available to the Honours Committee and Council.
- Consistency — the evaluative factors codify the approach already applied by Academic Board nominators, supporting consistent assessment across nominations.
- Good administrative practice — that AUT maintain records of its decision-making on honorary awards, and its observation that clearer guidance around evaluative factors and process would be beneficial.
- Proportionality — the amendment is minimal and targeted. It does not reopen the broader policy or impose additional eligibility requirements.

Council Policy No: 08

Honours Policy

Date of adoption: October 2016
 Date this issue: Approved ~~31 July 2021~~ ~~May 2021~~

Introduction

Conferment of honorary degrees and awards are made by Council in terms of University Statute under powers of section 284 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

Council's Honours Committee is established and Honorary Qualifications and Awards are made in terms of the General Academic Statute Part 2. Section 4; and Part 3, Section 4.

1. Purpose of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish the honorary degrees and awards of the Auckland University of Technology, and the structure and processes by which these awards are made.

2. Honorary degrees and awards

Council may at its discretion:

Confer the following honorary degree:

- Honorary Doctor of the Auckland University of Technology

and award the following honorary titles:

- Reeves Honorary Fellow
- Seddon Honorary Fellow

Council may also, at its discretion award the titles:

- Professor Emeritus
- *designation* Emeritus, under extraordinary circumstances.

3. Purpose, Eligibility and Criteria for honorary degrees and awards

3.1 Honorary Doctorate

Purpose: The purpose of the award of an Honorary Doctorate is to give Auckland University of Technology recognition of the highest order to an individual and through this to establish and maintain an ongoing relationship with this individual.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of an Honorary Doctorate, the nominee may or may not have any association with the University prior to the nomination, and may or may not be currently employed by the University.

Criteria: An Honorary Doctorate is awarded to an individual who is academically distinguished, and/or of international repute, and who has made an outstanding contribution to society.

3.2 Reeves Honorary Fellow

Purpose: The purpose of the award of a Reeves Honorary Fellowship is to give Auckland University of Technology recognition to an individual for their contribution to the University and through this to maintain an ongoing relationship with this individual.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of a Reeves Honorary Fellowship, the nominee will be a former AUT staff or Council member.

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Criteria: A Reeves Honorary Fellowship is awarded to a former staff or Council member who has made an outstanding contribution to the leadership, academic and/or professional life, and/or strategic development of the University over an extended period that fostered its reputation.

3.3 Seddon Honorary Fellow

Purpose: The purpose of the award of a Seddon Honorary Fellowship is to give Auckland University of Technology recognition to an individual who is external to the University for their contribution to the University and through this to maintain an ongoing relationship with this individual.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of a Seddon Honorary Fellowship, the nominee will not be a current or former AUT staff or Council member.

Criteria: A Seddon Honorary Fellowship is awarded to a member of the wider community who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of the University. This may be, for example, through innovative or strategically significant leadership, and/or as a major benefactor to the University, and/or as a distinguished visitor to the University.

3.4 Professor Emeritus

Purpose: The purpose of the award of the honorary title of Professor Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is to acknowledge the long and distinguished contribution made by a professor of the University at the point of his or her retirement from the University.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of the honorary title of Professor Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology, the nominee will have retired from her/his substantive role as a professor of the University.

Criteria:

A nominee for the award of Emeritus Professor shall:

- have served at least eight years as a professor at AUT; and
- have given distinguished service to the University including through teaching and research of national and/or international significance.

In assessing nominations, the Academic Board nominator shall have regard to the following evaluative factors when determining whether the candidate has given distinguished service through teaching and research of national and/or international significance:

- the nature, duration and level of academic service to AUT;
- demonstrable distinction in teaching and/or research;
- evidence of national or international recognition or significance; and
- the overall quality and character of academic leadership and contribution to the University.

~~The honorary title of Professor Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is awarded to a former member of staff of the University who has been a professor at the University for at least eight years and who has given distinguished service to the University through teaching and research of national and/or international significance.~~

3.5 *designation* Emeritus

Purpose: The purpose of the award of the honorary title of *designation* Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is to acknowledge the long and distinguished contribution made by a staff member in a senior leadership position (*designation*) of the University after his or her retirement from the University.

Eligibility: To be considered for the award of the honorary title of *designation* Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology, the nominee will no longer be employed at the University.

Criteria: The honorary title of *designation* Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is awarded to a former member of staff of the university who has served the University in a senior position (such as, for instance, vice-chancellor) for an extended period and who has provided a distinguished and outstanding leadership contribution to the University.

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4.0 The Honours Committee

The Council shall establish an Honours Committee which shall consider nominations and make recommendations to Council for the conferring of the following honorary degrees or awards:

- Honorary Doctor of the Auckland University of Technology (HonD)
- Reeves Honorary Fellow
- Seddon Honorary Fellow
- *designation* Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology

The award of the honorary title of Professor Emeritus of the Auckland University of Technology is delegated by Council to the Vice-Chancellor who will consult with the Chancellor and the Chair of the Professorial Appointments Committee when making this award.

4.1 Membership

The Honours Committee will comprise:

- The Chancellor (Chair);
- The Pro-Chancellor;
- The Vice-Chancellor;
- The representative on Council of the Auckland University of Technology Student Association (AUTSA);
- The Council member elected by Academic staff;
- The Council member elected by Allied staff.

The Honours Committee will be served by the Executive Secretary to the Honours Committee (appointed by the Vice-Chancellor)

5.0 Procedures**5.1 Communications**

All communications and enquiries about honorary qualifications and awards should be addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Honours Committee.

Any communication with proposed recipients of any honours shall be conducted in confidence through the Executive Secretary of the Honours Committee.

5.2 Nominations

Nominations for the granting of a university honour may be made by any two persons, one of whom shall be a member of Council or Academic Board, and shall be made in confidence to the Executive Secretary of the Honours Committee and include a brief record of the evidence considered.

Nominations will be made without specification (except for the award of the title Professor Emeritus or *designation* Emeritus).

The Executive Secretary of the Honours Committee shall refer each nomination to the Vice-Chancellor, who shall, upon consideration, refer the nomination to the Honours Committee.

On receipt of the nomination, the Honours Committee will determine if a university honour is to be granted, and if so, the form of that honour, and recommend to Council accordingly.

All nominations are strictly confidential. The person being nominated should under no circumstances be advised of their nomination unless and until an award is approved.

Self-nominations are not consistent with the confidentiality of nominations, and are not permitted.

Posthumous nominations may be considered under exceptional circumstances.

Nominations for all honours except that Professor Emeritus shall be called for twice a year:

- i. In April for receipt of nominations no later than 31 July for the August University Honours Committee meeting and awarding at the Summer graduation ceremony or another future graduation ceremony.

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

COUNCIL POLICIES

- ii. In October for receipt of nominations no later than the 31 March for the University Honours Committee meeting and awarding at the Winter graduation ceremony or another future graduation ceremony.

Nominations outside the timeframes outlined above will only be considered under special circumstances.

Nominations for Professor Emeritus may be made at any time appropriate to the retirement of the person nominated.

Each nomination shall be accompanied by a supporting statement of the nominee's background, and achievements.

5.3 Consideration and conferment

The Honours Committee shall consider nominations and make recommendations to Council for the granting of any Honorary Doctorate degree or Honorary Fellow awards, and where appropriate the Chair will consult with the dean of the relevant faculty, and/or the head of school.

Each honorary qualification or award shall be conferred by Council.

In exceptional circumstances Council will have the authority to revoke any honorary qualification or award.

All Honorary Doctorate degree and Honorary Fellow awards will normally be conferred on recipients at University graduation ceremonies, or at another appropriate ceremony.

5.4 Entitlements

Recipients of an honorary doctorate from the University will be entitled to wear the academic gown depicted by their award at all occasions calling for the use of academic dress.

Recipients will also be entitled to use the following abbreviation of the award after their surname: HonD AUT

Recipients will not be entitled to use the title 'Dr.' before their name.

5.5 Notes of caution

The act of awarding an honorary award has the potential to bring outstanding recognition to the University or to bring the University into disrepute, and/or to create the perception that earned awards are valued/undervalued. Therefore, in assessing the merit of an application, the Committee will exercise caution. Council may issue practical notes from time to time to assist the Committee in making their recommendations in this regard.

6.0 Authority and Responsibility

The Honours Committee has the responsibility to consider nominations and make recommendations to Council for the granting of an honorary doctorate degree or honorary fellow award. Council shall then take the recommendations into consideration when making their decision whether to confer or not to confer a honorary degree or award.

CHANCELLOR

PRO-CHANCELLOR

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PART A

OPEN AGENDA ITEM

4.1

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Minutes of Part A of the Council Meeting and Council Health & Safety Training held on 25 May 2026

Date: 15 July 2026

Author: A Vujnovich

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE MINUTES OF PART A COUNCIL MEETING AND COUNCIL HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING HELD ON 25 MAY 2026 BE CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THE MEETING

CONFIDENTIAL



MINUTES

Council Meeting

Meeting held 25 May 2026 at 2.30pm
Board Room, MB317, South Campus, Auckland

PRESENT:	R Campbell (Chair); D Salesa; J Smith; L Foliaki (via Teams); S Clarke; L Thomson; M Huang; P Treacy; W Ings; J Portegys.
SECRETARY:	A Vujnovich, Council Secretary R Nottingham, Minute Taker
IN ATTENDANCE:	W Lawson (DVC Academic); S Davies (AVC People & Culture) and A Binning (Director Health and Safety) - Item 8; M Skinner (AVC Strategy & Planning) – Item 23.2; M Orams (DVC Research) – Item 23.3
IN APOLOGY:	M Royal;

The meeting was opened with a karakia.

PART A OPEN AGENDA

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA ITEMS

Noted the Health & Safety training, brief notes of which are attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes.

Resolved

THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF AGENDA ITEMS TO PART A AND PART B OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA BE APPROVED.

THAT APOLOGIES FROM M ROYAL (COUNCIL MEMBERS) AND L WILLIAMS (CFO) BE RECEIVED.

2 DECLARATION/RECORDING OF INTERESTS

The attention of Members was drawn to the Conflicts of Interest Policy and the need to disclose any interest in an item on the agenda of the meeting as set out in Schedule 11, Clause 8 of the Education and Training Act 2020. No additional conflicts were needed.

Resolved

THAT THE DECLARATIONS BE NOTED AND THE ACTIONS TAKEN BE ENDORSED.

3 CONSTITUTIONAL MATTER, CONFERMENT OF DEGREES AND POLICY

3.1 Granting, Rescinding, Revoking and Amending Qualifications – May 2026

Resolved

THAT COUNCIL NOTE THAT THE CHANCELLOR HAS EXERCISED A DELEGATION UNDER THE COUNCIL DELEGATION POLICY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GENERAL ACADEMIC STATUTE AND SECTION 283 OF THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACT 2020 TO:

1. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE MAY MONTHLY CORPORATE CYCLE ON 14 MAY.*
2. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE MAY MONTHLY CERTIFICATES CYCLE ON 14 MAY.*
3. *GRANT QUALIFICATIONS TO THE GRADUANDS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE FOR THE MAY MONTHLY CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY'S (COP) CYCLE ON 14 MAY.*
4. *REVOKE QUALIFICATIONS TO THE STUDENTS ON THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE AHEAD OF THE MAY CORPORATE CYCLE ON 14 MAY.*

4 COUNCIL MEETINGS AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

4.1 Minutes of the previous meeting

Received

Draft Minutes (Part A), of the Council meeting held on 28 April 2026

Resolved

THAT THE MINUTES OF PART A OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2026 BE TAKEN AS READ AND CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD OF THE MEETING

4.2 Matters Arising

Noted in discussion

- Noted the status of the matters arising.

5 VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Received

Vice Chancellor's Report

Noted in discussion

- AI literacy programme for staff was underway and open to Council members to participate;
- Roll out of AUT's private large language model AUT GPT provided improved data security and financial sustainability;
- Digital infrastructure to support AUT's strategy and direction would be discussed in agenda item 23.2 in Part B;
- AI governance discussion to be held at next Council meeting, including existing policy and how AI governance should be framed for staff, students and research data sovereignty;
- Interested in understanding effects of student hardship on attendance, retention and completion rates with request to present on this at the next Council meeting;
- Increase in rainbow students being supported due to factors including greater visibility and quality of support provided by AUT and less benign social environment;
- VC continued to engage with the Minister where the opportunity arose, noting budget outcomes awaited but was unlikely to deliver increased funding;
- Greater impacts on AUT than other universities of end of fees free initiative and whether Government funding for universities could be differentiated in future;
- Opportunity for AUT to demonstrate its unique social and economic case at the next university funding review, timing of which was uncertain;
- Noted AUT's 34 percent carbon reduction though the trend post Covid was upwards, and an internal carbon budget pilot was underway.

Actions:

- Management to present on AI governance, including on policy and how AI governance should be framed for staff, students and research data sovereignty.
- Management to present on effects of student hardship on attendance, retention and completion rates.

Resolved

THAT THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT BE RECEIVED.

6 CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

- AUT should proactively market and advocate on the value of universities, and its unique offering in social and economic terms, given increasing dialogue querying degree value;
- Confirmation still awaited on appointment of two Council members which posed some governance challenges.

Resolved

THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT BE RECEIVED.

7 PART A – REPORTS FROM BOARD, COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS OF COUNCIL

7.1 Academic Board Report and Minutes, 28 April 2026

Received

Academic Board Report and Minutes, 28 April 2026

Noted in discussion:

- Academic governance had been highly delegated in AUT with Academic Board's terms of reference being refreshed;
- Latest Academic Board discussed academic quality changes including shift to self-accreditation with a report on this to be presented to Council on changed.

Resolved

THAT THE ACADEMIC BOARD REPORTS AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2026 BE RECEIVED.

8 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

8.1 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report

Received

Health, Safety & Wellbeing (HSW) Report for March to May 2026

Noted in discussion

- Discussions taken place in HSW training prior to Council meeting on how Council could refine its approach to HSW governance;
- Noted Management had been asked to provide a paper at the next Council meeting for discussion to address key governance points from the HSW training;
- AUT needed to ensure adequate training for staff, beyond basic training which had been rolled out to all and noting additional training being provided to all people managers.

Action: Management to provide a paper for discussion to address key governance points from the HSW training.

Resolved

THAT THE HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLBEING REPORT FOR MARCH TO MAY 2026 BE RECEIVED.

8.1 Health, Safety and Wellbeing Roles and Responsibilities

Received

Health, Safety & Wellbeing Roles and Responsibilities

Noted in discussion

- Earlier feedback from Council, Executive and others had been incorporated into this final draft;
- Assurance framework, management and governance, was being developed as part of the broader H&S system and would be presented to Council at a later date;
- Asked Management to confirm what roles met the legal definition of officer in AUT, beyond Council members;
- Requested some indications of how Council could practically meet due diligence obligations;
- Subcontractor management was improving with Estates' inducting all contractors to AUT followed by location specific inductions by the relevant Faculty/school, with Estates undertaking spot checks on contractors;
- Contractors to containment labs required appropriate staff members to accompany them to reduce HSW risks;
- Suggested the identification of the Person in Control of a Business Undertaking (PCBU) be plainly recorded before works were commenced.

Action: Management to confirm what, if any, roles met the legal definition of officer in AUT, beyond Council members.

Resolved

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES AS PART OF THE AUT HEALTH & SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION NOTING A SEPARATE PAPER WOULD BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON THE MONITORING ASSURANCE AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

9 TE TIRITI REPORT

No report

10 STRATEGIC REPORTS

No report

11 STUDENT SUCCESS

No report

12 CORRESPONDENCE REFERRED BY THE CHANCELLOR

No correspondence

13 OTHER MATTERS FOR DECISION OR NOTING

13.1 Update from AUTSA

Received

Update report from the President of AUTSA

Noted in discussion

- AUT had low level of student accommodation provision, with its city centre pricing constrained by third party commercial lease terms;
- Reasons for AUT student accommodation vacancy likely included city centre pricing and cheaper private market rentals, noting new third party student developments underway;
- Recommendations on third party accommodation risk reputation and/or liability;
- AUT's priority should be on how to support affordable education, with accommodation a costly option, though supporting AUT students from outside Auckland should be considered;
- Sought assurance on accessibility of student accommodation, included in case of emergency exist, with Management providing assurance that accommodation met all legislative requirements and tailored approaches developed for individuals with a disability.

Resolved

THAT THE UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AUTSA BE RECEIVED

13.2 Update from Council Member elected by the Academic Staff of AUT

Received

Update report from the Council Member elected by the Academic Staff of AUT

Noted in discussion

- Academic staff wanted clarity on alternative teaching delivery plans had the Canvas cyber attack not been resolved promptly;
- Management confirmed every Faculty unit had a tailored business continuity plan and ICT had alternative plans for all core system failures;
- Technology team working with other universities to improve Canvas back-up arrangements and staff advised to save files on shared folders.

Resolved

THAT THE UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTED BY THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY BE RECEIVED

13.3 Update from the Council Member elected by the Professional Staff of AUT

Received

Update report from the Council Member elected by the Professional Staff of AUT

Noted in Discussion

- Expected increase in student hardship following end of fees free programme with AUT student cohorts likely most affected.

Resolved

THAT THE UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTED BY THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY BE RECEIVED

14 GENERAL BUSINESS AND ITEMS MOVED FROM PART B TO PART A

None

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

The Chancellor moved that the public be now excluded from Part B of this meeting, and that the following matters be discussed without public disclosure. This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and section 9 of the Official Information Act, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting **AND THAT** W Lawson, A Vujnovich, R Nottingham be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of the matters to be discussed in the proceedings while the public are excluded. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matters to be discussed, is relevant to these matters because they relate to aspects of the administration of AUT for which those persons are responsible.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter. The public conduct of each item below would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9 of the OIA identified below.	Ground(s) under section 48(1) LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution
15. Council Meeting Part B of the meeting held on 28 April 2026	s 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(k)	7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)h), 7(2)(i), 7(2)(j)
16. Vice Chancellor's Report	s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)(ii), s 9(2)(i), 9(2)(g)(i)	s7(2)(a), 7(2)(c), 7(2)(j), 7(2)(F)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)
23. Other business	s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(g)(ii),	7(2)(a), 7(2)(f)(i), 7(2)(f)(ii)

Health & Safety Training – South Campus – 25 May 2026 - Presented and facilitated by Mike Cosman (Cosman Parkes Limited)

Council Members present: Rob Campbell (Chancellor), Lani Thomson, Shaun Clarke, Peter Treacy, James Portegys, Michelle Huang, Janine Smith, Damon Salesa, Welby Ings (12.35pm)

Key Training Points

Role of Council in H&S Governance

- Council's role is to verify: confirming that management has adequate systems and resources to identify and manage risks, that AUT is delivering against its commitments, and that those measures are effective.
- Use the four governance sights: foresight (anticipate and prepare), insight (what is currently occurring), oversight (whether the plan is being executed and achieving its objectives), and hindsight (lessons learned).
- Tone at the top affects the organisation. Council's H&S expectations should reflect the full breadth of AUT's activities, including built environment, teaching and research, student placements, and multiple locations.
- Council should agree on AUT's top risks and understand the frequency and nature of incidents to inform risk appetite.

Risk Management

- Risk identification and management was key and Council should satisfy itself that an appropriate assurance framework operates effectively for H&S.
- A thematic or deep-dive approach to key risks offered opportunity for applying focused inquiry, and bringing matters to Council for discussion.
- H&S should not be ring-fenced to the H&S papers but be embedded across all relevant Council matters, including new facilities and capital projects.

Psychosocial Risk

- Psychosocial risk was significant, dynamic, and subjectively experienced. Psychosocial risk were the subject of some grievances in employment tribunal grievances framed as unsafe workplaces.
- Council should understand what management was doing to identify and address psychosocial risks for both staff and students, how effectiveness was measured, and whether reporting provided adequate visibility.
- Overlapping Duties and External Workplaces
- PCBU duties overlap where multiple parties share or control a workplace.
- Whakaari case illustrated that influence over a workplace, not merely control, could create a legal duty. An Australian case involving an ITO underlined the importance of ensuring host organisations for students had appropriate H&S procedures in place.

Legislative Developments

- The Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill was expected to report back in June 2026. Key proposals included prioritising critical risks; subordination of HSWA to other enactments and greater use of Approved Codes of Practice, which could provide "safe harbours".
- No position had been taken by universities collectively on the HSWA intersection with the Education and Training Act provisions.
- Ports of Auckland appeal confirmed an objective test was applicable to legislation: what a careful, diligent and skilled CEO would do in comparable circumstances.
- There was no settled definition of 'officer' in the Act and no binding case law.

Safety Walkarounds

- Effective site walkarounds should be inquisitive, not inquisitorial, seeking to understand workers' experience of risk to enable better questions at governance level.
- Walkarounds should be authentic, not rehearsed, and approached with curiosity rather than as inspections.

Discussion Points

- Candidates for top H&S risks included hazardous chemicals management; lack of faculty engagement with H&S; psychosocial risks for staff and students; transport and movement risks; physical risks in workplaces outside AUT campuses; and risks to/from visitors and members of the public.
- AUT's applied learning environment e.g. work placements carried an inherently deeper risk profile than other institutions. Larger institutions such as Te Whatu Ora and St John have stronger H&S systems but in smaller placement organisations or single person entities, these require active management.

- Transport and accommodation risks cannot be fully controlled. Suggested routinely receiving placement incident data.
- H&S was collective Council duty but structure of H&S reporting and respective roles of Council and the People and Culture Committee in H&S oversight should be reviewed, including Terms of Reference and outcomes of its H&S reviews to Council beyond draft minutes.
- H&S culture has improved, partly driven by Council. Executive safety walks are now in place as KPIs and are being used as discovery opportunities. The framing of walkarounds as discovery rather than inspection was supported.
- Overlapping duties across AUT sites are not systematically mapped. This is an area requiring a more structured approach, particularly given AUT's open campuses. AUT needed a systematic approach both for third parties on AUT sites (contractors, visitors) and for AUT's presence in other workplaces, particularly student placements. Work has commenced but has not been surfaced to Council or reflected in the H&S plan as yet.
- AUT reporting on wellbeing included staff survey results, bullying and harassment data, and wellness metrics which was seen at the People and Culture Committee, though to be reviewed whether Council as a collective had the right level of exposure and insight was questioned.
- A number of AUT's student cohorts had higher social and wellbeing supports needs.
- A Council statement articulating Council's responsibilities in relation to mental health was something that should be developed.

Actions

- Training slides to be circulated to Council members.
- Management to identify the executive risk owner for key operational H&S risks, present to Council on current state, known gaps, actions to address gaps, and what is required from Council to next meeting.
- Review structure of H&S reporting and responsibilities including People and Culture Committee Terms of Reference and ensure the Committee's work adds value to Council's oversight.
- Management to draft a Council statement on Council's responsibilities in relation to mental health, as part of the work currently underway.

COUNCIL MEETING RAISED	ACTION	WHO	STATUS/ TARGET DATE
28 July 2025	7.1 Academic Board Reports and Minutes Management to present to Council on Academic Quality including data, benchmarks and framework.	DVC Academic	Open/September 2026
28 July 2025	9.1 Te Tiriti Management to present on Māori student numbers and experience in AUT in a future report.	Te Toi Aronui	Open/December 2026
29 September 2025	5. Vice Chancellor's Report Management to provide information on resource plans to support student success given planned growth of international onshore students.	DVC Academic	Open/September 2026
8 December 2025	5.1 Vice Chancellor's Report Chancellor and Pro Chancellor to develop proposals for governors of Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei and AUT to work more closely together, such as through an annual wānanga.	Chancellor & Pro-Chancellor	Open/July 2026
28 April 2026	13.1 Update from AUTSA Management to diarise presentation from SS&A on scale and effects of student hardship and systems in place to help address it.	Group Director Student Services & Administration	Open/September 2026
25 May 2026	5 Vice Chancellor's Report Management to present on AI governance, including on policy and how AI governance should be framed for staff, students and research data sovereignty.	VCO	Open/ September 2026
25 May 2026	5 Vice Chancellor's Report Management to present on effects of student hardship on attendance, retention and completion rates.	Group Director Student Services & Administration	Actioned
25 May 2026	7.1 Health, Safety & Wellbeing Report Management to provide a paper for discussion to address key governance points from the HSW training.	AVC People & Culture	Open/September 2026
25 May 2026	7.2 Health & Safety Roles and Responsibilities Management to confirm what, if any, roles met the legal definition of officer in AUT, beyond Council members.	AVC People & Culture	Open/September 2026



PART A	5
OPEN AGENDA ITEM	

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

Date: **27 July 2026**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT BE RECEIVED

SECTION 1. AUT'S CURRENT POSITION

1.1 Vice-Chancellor's introduction

Across May and June 2026, Auckland University of Technology (AUT) continued to demonstrate strong momentum in advancing its strategic priorities under Te Kete. The period has been marked by sustained progress in academic transformation, digital innovation, partnership development, and student engagement, alongside a continued focus on institutional sustainability and operational resilience.

AUT's academic transformation agenda continues to deliver scale and impact, particularly through the growth of AUT Online, which is exceeding enrolment expectations and expanding opportunities for flexible postgraduate study. This momentum is supported by evolving approaches to teaching, learning and assessment, including the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into learning design and academic integrity frameworks.

The University is also strengthening its position as a sector leader in emerging technologies. The full rollout of AUTGPT, alongside significant progress in digital platforms and AI-enabled services, demonstrates AUT's commitment to innovation that supports both staff capability and student experience.

Partnerships and engagement remain central to AUT's impact, with collaboration across industry, government, and community. International activity continues to support pipeline development and global positioning, while philanthropic support and alumni engagement are contributing to strategic investment and long-term growth.

At the same time, AUT has continued to prioritise student wellbeing, equity, and inclusion. Strong participation in community-led initiatives, targeted support for priority cohorts, and continued investment in services reflect a commitment to a student-centred experience.

Collectively, these activities position AUT strongly as a university of technology and opportunity, delivering graduates, research and partnerships that respond to the needs of Aotearoa New Zealand and the wider world.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Kawe Aroha - Service of Remembrance at Ngā Wai o Horotiu Marae in June began our Matariki celebrations and honoured those who have passed away over the past year.
- The annual staff Matariki Awards finalists were named and celebrated at an evening event.
- The annual coffee-hour fundraising event saw the Vice-Chancellor making and serving beverages in return for donations to the AUT Foundation Student Support Fund, the events saw a 77% increase in donations compared to 2025.
- Inaugural Directors have been appointed for each of the five AUT Research Networks: Associate Professor Rachael Ka'ai-Mahuta (Te Ranga Tukutuku AUT Māori Research Network); Professor Jacoba Matapo (Moanaroa AUT Pacific Research Network); Professor Charles Walker (Te au Auaha AUT Transformational Technologies Research Network); Professor Hannah Buckley (Te Whare Tūroa AUT Regenerative Environments Research Network); and Professor Scott Duncan (Toi o te Ora AUT Wellbeing Research Network).
- AUT award-winning teaching assistant and Microbiology PhD student Laura Franssen from the School of Science is the third AUT student to have been awarded a three-month internship at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California. This is part of MBIE's New Zealand Space Agency's New Zealand Space Scholarship and Laura is the first microbiology researcher to receive it.
- The Lifewise Big Sleepout annual fundraising event was hosted at the City Campus and saw senior leaders and CEOs from across Auckland come together and experience a night of sleeping rough(ish) whilst demonstrating the University's community commitment.
- Our exclusive partnership with the Auckland Football Club enabled students and staff to get close and personal with the A-League Champions Trophy that visited the City Campus following the team's historic win.
- AUT's Estates Team received international recognition, being awarded the Platinum Award in the 2026 Global FM Awards. Their Standout achievements include lifting student satisfaction from below 70% to 87%, running the most space-efficient university portfolio in New Zealand, and achieving the lowest carbon emissions per m² of any NZ university.

SECTION 2. TE KETE | GRADUATES THE WORLD NEEDS

University highlights, activities, and updates on our initiatives to enhance student success under Te Kete.

2.1 Academic Transformation

AUT continues to progress a significant programme of academic transformation focused on flexibility, scalability, and assurance of learning. AUT Online remains a key driver of this transformation, with strong enrolment growth and increasing delivery efficiency through its carousel model. Classes of over 110 students are enabling scale while maintaining cohort engagement and quality.

Academic integrity and assessment practices are also being refreshed to reflect contemporary learning environments. Updated academic integrity guidelines emphasise the integration of AI in learning, with a shift towards process-based assessment models that prioritise evidence of learning over final outputs.

Supporting this transformation, digital infrastructure projects such as Work Integrated Learning placement systems and the modernisation of student-facing platforms are improving consistency, experience, and scalability across the institution.

2.2 Student Success

Across the University, a broad range of initiatives continues to support student success through strong engagement in support services, employability programmes, and co-curricular activity.

Student Services and Administration maintained high levels of engagement during a peak academic period, supporting students across wellbeing, financial assistance and academic accommodation. Service delivery remained responsive, with high volumes of student enquiries effectively managed and strong service performance maintained across multiple channels.

In May and June combined, AUT Student Counselling services delivered 1,284 counselling sessions and 249 wellbeing checks. During the same period, AUT Medical student support services GPs completed 2,035 general medical consults, 704 mental health consults, and 147 ACC consults. In addition, our nurses conducted 1,164 consults.

Employability and career readiness initiatives continued to perform strongly, with high levels of participation in workshops, coaching and industry engagement activity, supporting students' transition into employment.

Co-curricular programmes also contributed to student success, including strong engagement in AUT Edge and Beyond AUT activities, and student achievement in sport and high-performance environments, reflecting AUT's commitment to supporting well-rounded student outcomes.

2.3 Innovative and technology-enabled teaching and learning

Advancement in digitally enabled learning is strengthening AUT's student-centred approach through coordinated investment in capability, platform modernisation, and responsible use of artificial intelligence.

At a system level, development of a University-wide AI safety training module is underway, establishing a consistent baseline for staff capability while supporting safe and ethical practice.

Ongoing academic engagement continues to inform capability development, ensuring alignment with emerging technologies and evolving pedagogical approaches, while the transition to the My AUT platform is improving the learner journey through the modernisation of student-facing systems.

Complementing these initiatives, continued investment in Work Integrated Learning systems is enabling a more consistent approach to managing placements, while emerging high-performance computing capability supports teaching innovation and research integration.

Two humanoid robots and three quadrupeds ("robot dogs") continue to be utilised as a compelling showcase of the University's innovation, drawing prospective students, and providing a hands-on platform for teaching and research in robotics and AI. Multi-disciplinary research projects involving the robots are being developed and a YouTube channel featuring the robots will launch soon.

2.4 Equity and opportunity

A continued focus on equity and inclusion is evident across a range of student-facing initiatives, with a focus on reducing barriers and strengthening participation for priority groups. Employability and student engagement services have advanced targeted interventions and partnerships designed to support diverse learners, including Māori, Pacific and neurodivergent students, to enable equitable access to opportunities across programmes and services.

Examples include the development of a new workshop: "Embracing your Neurodivergence: Thriving in the Right Role," and continued development of panel events in collaboration with student representatives and external organisations.

In May, an MBIE information session on Tupu Tai internship pathways into the public sector was hosted. It was tailored for and attracted 45 Pacific students

At the same time, financial support frameworks are evolving to better meet the needs of students experiencing hardship, with a particular focus on under-represented cohorts and those undertaking placements. These efforts are complemented by initiatives that promote inclusive participation and wellbeing, including accessible engagement programmes that encourage connection, belonging and active participation in university life.

Year-to-date, services funded by the Te Whatu Ora/Health NZ contract has provided support to 9,259 students, including 5,391 students who were new to the services.

Together, these activities reinforce AUT's commitment to equity as a core institutional priority, supporting student success and enhancing outcomes for diverse communities across the University.

SECTION 3. TE KETE | KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY AND APPLICATION WITH PURPOSE

University highlights, activities, and updates on our progress in fostering impactful and innovative research, learning, teaching, and technology, as guided by Te Kete.

3.1 Research transformation

The research environment continues to evolve rapidly, with significant national policy developments shaping AUT's research strategy and positioning.

The Government has confirmed the transition from the Performance-Based Research Fund to the new Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF), introducing a metrics-based model that places greater emphasis on research degree completions, external income, citation impact, and commercialisation. This shift will require a strengthened focus on measurable research outcomes and impact, with full implementation from 2029.

While AUT is actively positioning itself to respond to these changes, ensuring its research systems, capability and portfolio are aligned with emerging expectations and funding environments, the transition has delivered some settings that are disadvantageous to AUT. Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research Professor Mark Orams will provide an update in this regard at his next presentation to Council.

3.2 Building research activity

Strengthening research capability and postgraduate pathways remains a key focus, supported by activity led through the Graduate Research School (GRS).

Doctoral admissions are currently tracking at a five-year high, with year-to-date admissions reaching 67 per cent of the previous year's total, indicating strong pipeline growth and sustained demand for research programmes.

Researcher capability development continues to expand, with resources aligned to the Aotearoa Researcher Development Framework and delivered through digital platforms, supporting consistent and accessible development pathways for postgraduate researchers. Strong engagement is also evident in postgraduate research activity, including record participation in the Postgraduate Research Symposium and continued development opportunities through workshops, training programmes, and structured support for doctoral progression.

Work continues on AUT PG Online is a purpose-built platform for managing postgraduate research projects end-to-end. It replaces manual processes with a single digital workspace shared by students, supervisors, and administrators.

Collectively, these developments strengthen AUT's research training environment and support a growing and diverse research student community.

3.3 Research impact and success

A more targeted external funding environment includes an interim Transition Fund combining the Endeavour Fund and Marsden Fund into one competitive stream for funding in 2027. This model places a stronger emphasis on demonstrable impact and alignment with national priorities, but has also constrained some of the opportunities in ways that have disproportionately impacted AUT. This will require all institutions, but particularly AUT, to be increasingly strategic in the development and selection of proposals.

As a response, AUT will implement an internal expression of interest process to prioritise submissions and allocate resources effectively, reflecting the capped number of proposals permitted. This approach will support the development of high-quality, competitive applications while reinforcing institutional focus on areas of strategic strength and impact.

The evolving funding framework underscores the growing importance of impact-driven research, commercialisation, and interdisciplinary collaboration, positioning AUT to further strengthen its contribution to economic, social and community outcomes.

The external funding landscape has been challenging for AUT researchers this year, and will

3.4 Adapting to emerging technologies

AUT continues to build institutional capability in emerging technologies, with a particular focus on artificial intelligence and advanced computing.

Progress on a high-performance computing strategy, supported by successful proof-of-concept activity, is enabling further exploration of research applications and the consolidation of technology environments.

These developments position AUT to support increasingly complex, data-driven research and enhance its ability to respond to emerging technological opportunities.

SECTION 4. TE KETE | PARTNERSHIPS THAT ACCELERATE IMPACT

University highlights, activities and updates on our partnerships and engagements as outlined in Te Kete.

4.1 Commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Leadership across Te Tiriti o Waitangi continues to be strengthened through institution-wide initiatives that advance Māori success, cultural capability, and organisational transformation.

Development of Te Aronui capability frameworks and programmes is supporting wider organisational understanding and practice.

Work to embed tikanga, te reo Māori naming processes and culturally grounded approaches across AUT continues to grow in scope and demand.

4.2 Iwi Relationships

Partnerships with iwi continue to develop through sustained engagement grounded in shared priorities across education, research, and cultural development.

Alongside this, strategic engagement with Māori organisations and tertiary partners is expanding opportunities for collaboration in innovation, research, and student pathways.

4.3 Pacific Region

Engagement with Pacific communities continues through targeted initiatives that support participation, leadership, and success.

Academic programmes, research engagement, and staff development activity are contributing to a more inclusive and responsive environment for Pacific learners and responding to our place in the Pacific.

The Moanaroa Pacific Research Network Seminar Series 2026 programme, for instance, has included topics such as *What Does Global Rupture Mean for Aotearoa in the Pacific?* and *Indigenous Samoan Leadership in Education*.

4.4 Civic Engagement

We continue to strengthen engagement with Members of Parliament and key political stakeholders, including hosting Labour's Deputy Leader Hon. Carmel Sepuloni and Economic Development, Science and Innovation spokesperson Ruben Davidson at our AV studios and engineering labs; Te Pāti Māori Tāmaki Makaurau MP Oriini Kaipara visited the campus for a korero with Professor Meihana Durie on Māori scholarly leadership and advancement; and National's Paulo Garcia MP attended the Philippines Research Hub Deed of Donation Ceremony and Capstone Event.

We are currently working to arrange a visit from Minister of Tertiary Education Penny Simmonds to speak at Research Week, as well as individual meetings with Green's tertiary education spokesperson Francisco Hernandez, Act's Parmjeet Parmar and Labour's Shanan

Halbert to discuss tertiary policy.

From a civic and city perspective, AUT is the tertiary institution representative on the Central City Advisory Panel, and we continue to lead its Student City workstream. This work remains focused on strengthening the role of students and tertiary education in the future of Auckland's city centre.

AUT maintains engagement across research, innovation, and business forums, including representation at various Tech Week events and the Trans-Tasman Business Circle Prime Minister's post-Budget event.

Our diplomatic engagements during the period included meetings with His Excellency Dr Faisal Aziz Ahmed, High Commissioner for Pakistan to New Zealand, and His Excellency Mr Phan Minh Giang, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to New Zealand.

4.5 Community Engagement and Impact

Community engagement is being sustained through a combination of institutional partnerships and student-led activity.

This work is complemented by strong student-led community impact through programmes such as AUT Edge and Beyond AUT, through which students have contributed more than 1,837 volunteer hours.

May, the Employability team hosted an MBIE information session on TupuTai internship pathways into the public sector, tailored for and attracting 45 Pacific students.

4.6 Alumni Engagement and Impact

Ongoing efforts to strengthen alumni engagement are enhancing AUT's connection with its graduate community both regionally and internationally, reinforcing the University's connection with its graduate community. Recent events and initiatives have created opportunities to highlight alumni achievements, foster ongoing relationships, and support student engagement through industry connections and mentorship.

AUT successfully delivered an alumni engagement event in Gisborne, strengthening connections with regional graduates, showcasing university initiatives, and fostering opportunities for ongoing alumni involvement and partnership.

In addition to event-based engagement, targeted communications and outreach activities are enhancing alumni participation across key initiatives, including awards programmes and international engagement. These efforts are contributing to a stronger sense of connection and shared purpose between AUT and its alumni network.

4.7 AUT Foundation

Significant funding partnerships confirmed during the period included amounts of \$103,000 annually for student support, a \$300,000 commitment to support nursing students, and a

\$200,000 pledge to support the Amokura Vice-Chancellor Leadership Programme (subject to matching support from additional donors).

4.8 University-Industry Collaboration

Expanding collaboration across industry is creating new opportunities for student learning, research, and engagement. Collaboration with organisations such as Auckland FC, Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, and major industry partners has expanded opportunities for student internships, applied learning and real-world experience.

Alongside these partnerships, AUT has hosted and convened a series of high-profile events focused on emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence. These engagements have brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and the wider community, reinforcing AUT's position as a hub for innovation, thought leadership and collaboration.

The AUT Technology in Society Series event in May was a collaboration with the Trans-Tasman Business Circle and featured a panel of industry experts: Matt Bain, Chief Technology and IA Officer, Spark New Zealand; Megan Tapsell, GM Enterprise & Pacific Technology Delivery NZ, ANZ; Reuben Bijl, Managing Director, Smudge.

Emerging partnerships with global and local technology organisations are also being explored, with a focus on advancing research, innovation, and industry engagement. This included the co-hosting of an event with CoLab AI and Anthropic, the global AI leader. This growing network of collaborations supports AUT's strategic ambition to deliver impact at scale and strengthen its position within the innovation ecosystem.

4.9 International

Operationally, continued focus on conversion has been supported through scholarship campaigns and visa prioritisation processes. A higher volume of semester 2 applications has led to an improved performance in the year on year semester 2 intake that is above 5% on 2025 numbers. Participation in international expos and events has further strengthened AUT's market presence and engagement with prospective students, contributing to sustained international demand.

International activity over the period reflects a continued focus on partnership development, student pipeline growth, and global engagement. New transnational education agreements, including partnerships with King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi and De La Salle University, support expanded pathways for international learners and strengthen AUT's global network.

Research capability has also been reinforced through the AUT-China Scholarship Council Joint PhD Scholarship programme, with six scholarships awarded to high-quality doctoral candidates. Alongside this, participation in key international forums and targeted engagement with school partners has supported recruitment pipelines and enhanced AUT's visibility in priority markets.

SECTION 5. TE KETE | OUR OFFER AND APPROACH

University highlights and updates on activities related to our positioning in the market as a university of technology and opportunity

5.1 Adapting to Emerging Technologies

AUT continues to advance its position as a university of technology through investment in artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and infrastructure. The rollout of AUTGPT, AUT's own platform to multiple GenAI models, provides staff with secure, institutionally governed access to leading generative AI tools, ensuring data sovereignty while enabling innovation in teaching, research, and operations.

A range of complementary initiatives further support this direction. These include the development of AI-enabled service platforms, natural-language data tools and a next-generation software development lifecycle integrating AI across design and delivery processes. Together, these activities are strengthening AUT's digital maturity and supporting more efficient, data-informed decision-making.

In addition, applied innovation is being highlighted through initiatives such as robotics and automation projects, which are supporting interdisciplinary research and enhancing AUT's profile among prospective students and partners. These efforts reinforce the University's distinctive positioning as a leader in applied technology and innovation.

5.2 Domestic brand position and marketing activities

Across May and June, AUT strengthened its domestic brand through integrated marketing, engagement and digital activity aligned with its distinctive positioning and commitment to Te Aronui.

Marketing performance improved across both brand and recruitment outcomes, with robust growth in reach, engagement, and efficiency. Paid social activity reached 28.7 million users year to date, alongside improved cost per lead, demonstrating stronger return on investment.

Future student engagement remained strong, reaching more than 19,000 prospective students and whānau through school visits, events, and partnership activity, strengthening recruitment pipelines.

Aligned with Te Aronui, campaigns, and engagement activity continued to elevate Māori and Pacific voices and support programmes such as Iti Kōpara and AUT Aspire, reinforcing AUT's positioning as a university of opportunity and inclusion.

5.3 Global brand position and marketing activities

AUT's global position has been further strengthened through targeted international marketing campaigns and enhanced digital capability across priority regions. Activity across China, India and Southeast Asia has continued to build a strong pipeline of prospective students, with China exceeding lead targets and India demonstrating improved lead quality supported by direct engagement channels such as WhatsApp.

In parallel, efforts to enhance the international student experience have been advanced through improved digital infrastructure and personalised content. New website functionality now enables prospective students to explore country-specific student stories, strengthening relevance and engagement across global audiences. Supporting campaign assets and collateral across Southeast Asia have also contributed to increased visibility in key markets.

Reputation-building activity has centred on showcasing research expertise, student success and AUT's distinctive offering as a university of technology. Increasing levels of direct engagement through social media channels, particularly from India and Bangladesh, indicate growing awareness and interest in AUT's programmes. At the same time, robust growth in AI-driven referral traffic highlights the University's ability to adapt to evolving global search and discovery behaviours.

SECTION 6. TE KETE | OUR PLACE, OUR PEOPLE AND OUR CULTURE

Highlights and updates on activities related to the University's operations.

6.1 Sustainability

AUT continues to advance its sustainability agenda through the development of a comprehensive and future-focused framework and targeted operational initiatives.

Te Ara Mauri Ora, AUT's draft Regenerative Action and Sustainability Plan, has been approved for consultation, reflecting a strategic approach to environmental sustainability and partnership with staff, students, and iwi.

Practical initiatives during the period included campus-based native planting activity, development of climate scenario planning, and continued exploration of carbon reduction mechanisms such as air travel budgets.

Community-focused sustainability initiatives, including the World Soup Disco event, also demonstrate AUT's commitment to sustainability through engagement, waste reduction, and student participation.

6.2 Staff Profile

As of 29 June 2026, AUT's workforce remains stable, with a total of 2,358 permanent and fixed-term staff, representing a slight increase on the previous year. The profile continues to reflect a balanced composition between academic and professional staff, supporting both teaching and operational priorities across the University.

The overall workforce composition remains balanced, with academic staff comprising 45.6% and professional staff 54.4% of the workforce. Trends indicate a modest shift toward professional roles, alongside a reduction in hourly paid staffing, reflecting ongoing optimisation of workforce structure.

These changes support a sustainable workforce model aligned to AUT's strategic priorities and operational requirements.

6.3 Leadership and development

Continued investment in leadership capability is strengthening organisational performance and supporting talent development across AUT. A suite of structured leadership programmes, including Aspire and Beyond Essentials, is building capability among emerging and experienced leaders, while targeted initiatives such as the Ethnic Women Leadership Programme are supporting diversity and inclusion in leadership pathways.

The Aronui Ora leadership framework continues to scale, with strong participation across modules and increasing completion rates among people leaders.

These initiatives collectively support the development of capable, inclusive leaders aligned to AUT's values and strategic direction.

6.4 Culture and people

Progress continues in embedding AUT's People Plan, with improved alignment, visibility, and governance across initiatives. A consolidated programme of work and emerging KPI framework are strengthening the measurement of organisational progress and outcomes.

Staff engagement remains a priority, with strong participation in the 2026 Pulse Survey providing valuable insights into staff experience and organisational culture.

Work to further embed AUT's values, including the development of a values-based visual identity grounded in Māori perspectives, reflects a continued commitment to culture, inclusion and organisational identity.

These initiatives reinforce a people-centred approach to organisational development and continuous improvement.

6.5 Spaces and places

A continued focus on enhancing AUT's physical environment is evident through a broad programme of capital works, facilities improvements, and space optimisation initiatives.

Several major projects have recently been completed or progressed, such as campus relocations and refurbishment works to support both academic delivery and staff experience, including the relocation of BEL staff from WY to WF; and projects for GAIT Lab and the Brain Health Hub. Significant projects are underway on North Campus, chiefly the refurbishment of the Library; including the Podiatry and Physio clinical suites.

New and upgraded facilities and specialised environments, including the Clinical Science Simulation Suite are being developed to align with evolving academic and research needs.

Planning is also advancing across a range of future projects, with a focus on ensuring that infrastructure remains fit-for-purpose, efficient and adaptable. Alongside capital delivery, improvements in timetabling and space management systems are supporting more effective utilisation of campus facilities.

Collectively, these initiatives demonstrate a strategic approach to campus development, ensuring AUT's physical environment continues to support its growth, sustainability goals, and student experience.

6.6 Enterprise and service

Te Mātāpuna Library and Learning Services continues to strengthen research capability, data governance, and access to learning resources.

A significant milestone has been the launch of AUT's first secure, centralised research data repository, hosted through the Tuwhera Research Repository. The repository enhances research visibility, supports compliance with funder expectations, and embeds Māori data sovereignty principles through collaboration with Te Ranga Tukutuku.

In addition, the implementation of the OpenAthens authentication system has improved access to library resources while strengthening data security and privacy.

These initiatives reinforce AUT's commitment to providing high-quality research infrastructure and supporting both student and academic success.



PART A

OPEN AGENDA ITEM

6

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: The Chancellor's Report

Date: 15 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CHANCELLOR



PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	7
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Report from Academic Board

Date: 17 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE ACADEMIC BOARD REPORT AND MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2026 AND 6 JULY 2026.

The minutes are in supplementary papers.

Academic Board Report to Council

Meeting held 25 May 2026

Strategic Matters and Policy Developments

Academic Quality

The Board received an update from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic on academic quality, noting:

- The agreement of the Vice-Chancellors to move to a system of audited self-accreditation of university programmes
- The annual meetings held each year with Deans to address quality issues identified through Annual Programme Surveys
- The receipt of AUT's year-on report to the Universities Quality Assurance Agency Matatāhuna
- A future meeting will workshop the Board's role in academic quality, as part of a broader programme of work on academic decision making.

Committees of Academic Board

Research Committee

The Committee:

- Received a draft update of AUT's Research Plan
- Will consider feedback received on the AUT Research Expectations Framework.

Programme Approval and Review Committee

The Board:

- Approved amendment to PARC ToR to include Academic Reviews Lead as an ex-officio member.

Academic Board Report to Council

Meeting held 6 July 2026

Strategic Matters and Policy Developments

AUT Graduate Profile

The PVC Learning and Teaching, and the Director of Academic Quality presented the revised AUT Graduate Profile. It was noted that the refreshed Graduate Profile had been developed over the course of the last year and widely consulted on with staff and students. The Board endorsed the revised AUT Graduate Profile.

New Board members

The following five newly-elected professorial representatives were welcomed to the Board:

- Associate Professor Tula Brannelly
- Professor Kris Gledhill
- Professor Tania Ka'ai
- Associate Professor Rachel Macdiarmid
- Professor Minh Nguyen

Other

Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee

The Board:

- Approved the recommendation to AUT Council that Dr Barbara Myers be appointed as Chairperson of AUTEK for a 3-year term.

Duolingo English Test (DET)

The Board:

- Approved the Duolingo English Test as an approved English language proficiency assessment for admission to AUT qualifications.



AGENDA ITEM

8.1

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: **Health, Safety and Wellbeing Report: 6 May to 26 June 2026**

Date: **29 June 2026**

From: **Andrea Binning, Director Health & Safety**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the current state of Health, Safety and Wellbeing at AUT and support Council's responsibilities for governance and oversight aligned with their duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

This report covers incidents reported in the period 6 May to 26 June 2026, with information and actions that have occurred or been reported over that period.

2. HSW Open Action Item

Action Items:

Date Raised	Action	Due Date	Current state
28th April	4.1 HSW Report Provide additional reporting where there is an increase in trends for incidents and identify local leadership pressures around the identified trends	July 2026/Open	To be included in Sept papers – Awaiting full data set from software provider.
5th May	4.1 HSW Report Management to provide a paper for discussion to address key governance points from the HSW training.	Sept 2026/Open	Brief update below, full update in Sept papers
25 May 2026	7.2 Health & Safety Roles and Responsibilities	July 2026/Open	Update below.



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	Management to confirm what, if any, roles met the legal definition of officer in AUT, beyond Council members.		
25 May 2026	23.3 HSW Report Management to provide assurance on timelines to resolution of safety showers installation as well as evidence that interim mitigations were removing people from risk.	July 2026/Open	Update below
25 May 2026	23.3 HSW Critical Risk Management to provide a list of critical risks for discussion.	Sept 2026/Open	Critical risk paper to be brought to Sept meeting
25 May 2026	From H&S Governance training: Management to identify the executive risk owner for key operational H&S risks, present to Council on current state, known gaps, actions to address gaps and what is required from Council to next meeting. This will form part of the point above and be included in the full Sept paper.	Sept 2026/Open	Critical risk paper to be brought to Sept meeting
25 May 2026	From H&S Governance training: Management to draft a Council statement on Council's responsibilities in relation to mental health, as part of the work currently underway. July meeting.	Sept 2026/Open	Update to be included in Sept H&S Update, once responsibilities have been defined for mental health/ psychosocial risk

Key governance points from the H&S training

Following consultation with Mike Cosman following the recent Council health and safety governance training, Central Health and Safety will work with the Executive to finalise AUT's critical health and safety risks. A paper will then be developed setting out ownership, current state, known gaps, and a forward plan to address those gaps and support implementation.

In parallel, work is progressing on the development of a new AUT health and safety framework. This includes the design and phased implementation of supporting protocols, guidance, and digital tools, expected to continue through to late 2026 and early 2027. The framework will incorporate an assurance



approach to ensure key health and safety matters are effectively identified, escalated, and reported to Council.

A further paper on critical risk and Council governance assurance will be presented to the September Council meeting for discussion.

H&S Officers for AUT

Based on legal advice previously sought in 2024, no additional roles at AUT can be definitively confirmed as “Officers” beyond Council members and the Vice-Chancellor at this time. However:

- The legal definition of “Officer” is broader than Council and the VC and may include other senior leaders (e.g. Executive or Strategic Leadership Team members) where they exercise significant influence over the management of AUT.
- Whether any specific roles beyond Council and the VC meet that definition is fact-dependent and has not been formally assessed at AUT.
- Although WorkSafe has historically focused on Boards and CEOs, this is not a binding legal limit and may change, meaning additional roles could be captured in future.

Conclusion:

Management cannot conclusively identify further “Officer” roles beyond Council and the VC without a role-by-role assessment. However, it is possible that some senior leadership roles could meet the legal definition, depending on the level of influence they exercise.

Safety Shower & Emergency Eye Wash Remediation

Progress on remediation of safety controls within the six identified laboratories is as follows:

- Two emergency eye wash stations have been installed and certified, this work is now complete.

Engineering and design for the remaining four showers has been completed. Quotes have been provided between \$60,000 and \$70,000 per laboratory/shower installation. Next steps for the four remaining showers are as follows:

Faculty of Design & Creative Technology

- Work requiring a safety shower is unable to be relocated from WE705 due to its dependency on other equipment within the space. Shower installation is being scheduled to align with other council approved work, to the workshop, for the end of year break. Additional temporary mitigations include additional PPE (full body protective suits and full-face masks, which aren’t a practical permanent solution) and additional hazardous substance handling, storage and decanting measures.
- WZ328A. This area is a sectioned off workshop within a much larger construction workshop. A safety shower already exists on the lower level of the construction workshop, so DCT are currently considering a relocation of activity to the lower level to leverage the existing shower. At the time of writing a decision was pending, but it is expected prior to the council meeting so a verbal update will be provided then.



Faculty of Health & Environmental Sciences

- Work requiring a safety shower is unable to be permanently relocated from WS509 due to its dependency on other equipment within the lab. Additional temporary mitigations are in place for chemical storage, handling and use and temporary addition of extra PPE is being applied. Scheduling of works to install shower is being confirmed with Estates contractors currently.
- The requirement for a safety shower in WS602 is to support future intended chemical storage, handling and use, so currently no risk is present. Works to transform this space won't occur until timeframes to install a safety shower are confirmed with Estates contractors and the installation is completed.

Insurance Risk

Current installed and new installations of safety showers present a foreseeable risk that, when activated, the high volume of water will overwhelm existing floor drainage and cause localised flooding. This flooding is likely to migrate to lower levels, creating a material risk of damage to equipment and infrastructure below. While upgrades to the showers will improve the situation, they will not remove the likelihood of flooding if the showers are used.

This type of outcome is not uncommon in comparable university settings, although such installations are typically not located above sensitive assets. Importantly, any resultant water damage is likely to be uninsured, as the consequences are known and effectively accepted. While the use of safety showers is essential to prevent harm to people and remains the overriding priority, their activation is expected to result in consequential, and potentially significant, property damage.

3. Governance Knowledge and Awareness

Key developments in legislation, regulation, or guidance

During May 2026, the New Zealand health and safety landscape continued to evolve, with a clear policy shift towards:

- Greater emphasis on the management of critical risks (those with the potential to cause fatality or serious harm).
- Continued progression of the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill.
- Increased reliance on Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs) as practical benchmarks for compliance.
- Ongoing regulatory focus on occupational health, including hazardous substances, asbestos management, and psychosocial risks.
- Continued expectations that organisations demonstrate the effectiveness of controls in practice, rather than relying solely on documented systems.

These developments align strongly with AUT's strategic direction to strengthen critical risk management, assurance activities, and health, safety and wellbeing governance.



Key External Developments

1. Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill Progression

MBIE continued progressing the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill through Parliament.

Key proposed changes include:

- Increased focus on managing critical risks.
- Clarification of PCBU and officer duties.
- Expanded use of Approved Codes of Practice (ACOPs).
- Reduced compliance burden for some low-risk organisations.
- Greater certainty regarding regulatory expectations.

The reform signals a shift away from process-heavy compliance towards demonstrable management of serious risks.

2. WorkSafe Consultation on New Approved Codes of Practice

WorkSafe commenced consultation on three draft Approved Codes of Practice and reinforced its intention to use ACOPs as practical compliance tools.

For organisations, ACOPs are expected to become increasingly important indicators of what constitutes "reasonably practicable" controls.

3. Increased Focus on Occupational Health

WorkSafe's May 2026 Work-Related Health Newsletter highlight several priority areas:

- Updated asbestos guidance.
- New hazardous substances learning modules for the agriculture sector.
- Consultation on a national Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Increased attention to customer aggression and psychosocial hazards.
- Changes to ACC work-related claims data.

This reflects a continued regulatory shift towards preventing long-term work-related illness alongside acute injury prevention.

4. Continued Emphasis on Critical Control Assurance

Recent WorkSafe communications and enforcement activity continue to reinforce that organisations must be able to demonstrate:

- Identification of critical risks.
- Implementation of effective critical controls.
- Ongoing verification and assurance that controls remain effective.



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The focus is increasingly on "work as performed" rather than "work as documented".

Strategic Implications for AUT

The external environment reinforces the importance of AUT continuing to mature its Health, Safety and Wellbeing Framework, particularly in the following areas:

- Strengthening the identification and governance oversight of critical risks.
- Embedding critical control verification and assurance activities.
- Continuing development of AUT's Assurance First Framework.
- Maintaining a strong focus on occupational health and psychosocial risk management.
- Ensuring university procedures remain aligned with emerging ACOPs and legislative reforms.
- Supporting officers to meet their due diligence obligations through meaningful health and safety reporting.

4. Te Ara Haumaru Programme

In addition to the update provided above for safety showers & emergency eye wash stations, the programme recently went live with the Safety Culture, software being used to under inspection and audits within technical spaces.

Ventilation and Extraction Remediation

Validation of issues identified during external audits is now complete. Estates will engage with their contractors for design and quotation of required works.

Scope Update

- **228 items (91%)** have been completed or are no longer required (due to changes within spaces or activity)

Workstreams	Total Rec's	% of Rec's	Not Started	In Progress	Complete	Not Required	% Complete
Regulatory Compliance	130	47%	0	8	113	9	94%
Safe Workplace, Safe Worker	19	7%	0	6	13	0	68%
Risk Prevention & Control	52	19%	0	5	40	7	90%
Digital Solutions	19	7%	0	4	14	1	79%
Building Remedial Work	37	14%	0	1	33	3	97%
Organisational Management	8	3%	0	0	7	1	100%
Strategic AUT wide Initiative/Future Strategic Planning	9	3%	0	0	9	0	100%
Totals	274		0	24	229	21	91%



5. Understanding AUT's Operations and Risk Landscape

WorkSafe Workplace Assessments

WorkSafe Assessment in two School of Science laboratories, the Dangerous Goods Store and two workshops within the Faculty of Design and Creative Technologies. Both visits have been positive, seen as very collaborative between AUT and WorkSafe. No major concerns were noted at the end of the assessments.

WorkSafe have requested additional supporting documentation for the spaces visited (due 3rd August), following the review of this document the following will occur:

- They may request additional onsite visits.
- The matter may be closed, with notification provided via a closure email.
- WorkSafe may identify gaps in our processes or systems and work collaboratively with us to resolve them.
- WorkSafe may issue a formal improvement notice to AUT, with a specified timeframe for compliance.

Critical risk themes and trends

In the reporting period 6 May to 26 June 2026, 78 incidents were reported.

The clearest critical risk themes in this period remain concentrated within Health and Environmental Sciences, with smaller secondary clusters evident across other operational areas. Activity in these environments continues to reflect sustained exposure to a wide range of teaching, laboratory, clinical and practical risks.

The main incident trends remain consistent with previous periods, dominated by manual task and physical injuries, including slips, trips and falls, along with strains, sprains and contact injuries. Cuts and lacerations associated with tools, sharps and equipment continue to feature prominently, particularly in laboratory, workshop and clinical settings. Health-related events, such as collapse, fainting and illness during teaching and recreational activities, also remain a recurring feature. In addition, there are ongoing control-related events, including chemical handling issues, minor spills, and procedural lapses.

A small number of higher consequence events and near misses continue to be reported, including incidents with the potential for more serious harm where controls are not effectively applied. While overall injury severity remains low, the dataset continues to show repeated exposure to known critical risk precursors, indicating the importance of consistent supervision, adherence to safe systems of work, and maintenance of effective controls.

Higher consequence events identified during the reporting period have been appropriately investigated, with follow-up actions underway. A small number of matters remain open to support completion of investigations and implementation of corrective actions.



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Incidents by Faculty/Directorate

Faculty / Directorate	Current Period	Previous Period	Change
Health and Environmental Sciences	53	31	+12
Design and Creative Technology	7	3	+4
Estates	5	1	+4
Business, Economics and Law	3	1	+2
Culture and Society	2	3	-1
Student Services and Administration	3	6	-3
Brand & Marketing	1	1	0
AUT International	0	1	-1
Brands & Marketing	1	0	+1
People & Culture	3	0	+3
PVC Teaching & Learning	1	0	+1

Key insights:

- Health and Environmental Sciences remain the primary hotspot, reflecting the breadth and intensity of higher-risk activities across clinical, laboratory and teaching environments.
- Slips, trips, falls and sharp object injuries continue to dominate the incident profile, reinforcing the need for sustained focus on environmental controls, safe work practices and supervision,
- Higher consequence incidents and near misses remain present, particularly in relation to control failures and health-related events, indicating ongoing exposure to critical risk precursors despite generally low injury severity outcomes.

Open Incidents**Overview – updated 15th July**

There are currently 59 incidents open, up from 47 under the previous period. 47 are older than 28 days. Education for people leaders around investigating and closing Noggins incidents continues, and targeted communication has been sent to people leaders to address older open incidents.

Open Incidents by Faculty/Directorate

Faculty / Directorate	Total Open	28+ days open
Culture and Society	1	1
Design and Creative Technology	2	2
Health and Environmental Science	43	33



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Faculty / Directorate	Total Open	28+ days open
Student Service & Admin	2	2
DVC Research	1	1
Estates	3	3
PVC Learning & Teaching	1	1
DVC Academic	1	1
People & Culture	2	1
VC Group	1	1
Brands & Marketing	1	1
Te Mātāpuna (Library and Learning Services)	1	0
Total	59	47

6. Risk Management Capability

HSW Assurance Programme

There are three current audits that HSW has responsibility or oversight for:

- Hospitality Audit (Internal Audit) – Completed, being reported to CFAC 13th July 2026. Agreed action items for remediation in place within the school.
- Transport Safety (HSW) – Commenced, in documentation gathering and review stage, auditor expected onsite July 2026
- Psychosocial Audit (HSW) – Scoping commenced, expected completion early Q4

MPI Audit

Further to the update provided by Mark Orams at the last council meeting, MPI have accepted AUT's proposal to improve operator controls. An interim Biological Safety Manager (BSM) has been appointed, and recruitment for a permanent role has been successful with the candidate commencing on the 20 July 2026. Our next MPI audit will be undertaken on the 13th of August.

Mark Orams, as the Nominated Delegate of AUT's Transitional Facilities is overseas between 10 July and 2 August 2026. MPI have endorsed Andrea Binning as the Acting Nominated Delegate during this period.



7. Forward Outlook

Priorities and planned initiatives to September 2026

- Finish WorkSafe Workplace Assessments
- Continued roll out of AUT's Health & Safety Management System – Phase one launch in July
- Continued work under the Te Ara Haumaru programme to address major works.
- Progress improvement or replace of AUT's Incident Management system (Noggin)
- Continue Transport audit and commence planning for Psychosocial audit
- Deep Dive into H&S critical risk and bring paper to September meeting
- Strengthen council assurance reporting and address recommendations from the H&S governance training

Council Reporting - proposed changes

Currently, the Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) Report is prepared for both the People and Culture (P&C) Committee and full Council meetings, depending on agenda timing and meeting frequency. Where there is a gap of several weeks between the P&C Committee and full Council, the same report is reused, resulting in information being out of date by the time it is considered at full Council. In addition, HSW reporting is not routinely presented to the CFAC Committee.

To remove duplication and improve the timeliness of reporting, it is proposed that the HSW Report be submitted to full Council only. This will ensure Council receives the most current and relevant information to support its governance and oversight responsibilities.

Targeted Health and Safety papers, outside of the regular HSW report, will continue to be presented to the P&C or CFAC Committees as required.

Endorsement for this reporting change was received at the People and Culture Committee meeting on the 13th of July.

8. Conclusion

This reporting period reflects a continued maturing of AUT's health, safety and wellbeing approach, with increasing alignment to emerging regulatory expectations and a clear focus on identification and management of critical risks. Incident data continues to show generally low severity outcomes; however, persistent exposure to known critical risk precursors—particularly within high-risk teaching, laboratory and clinical environments—reinforces the need for consistent application and verification of effective controls.

Progress under the Te Ara Haumaru programme remains strong, with the majority of identified actions now complete or substantially progressed. At the same time, known infrastructure and design limitations, such as safety shower installations, highlight areas where risk trade-offs are required to prioritise safety of people, while acknowledging consequential impacts such as uninsurable property damage.

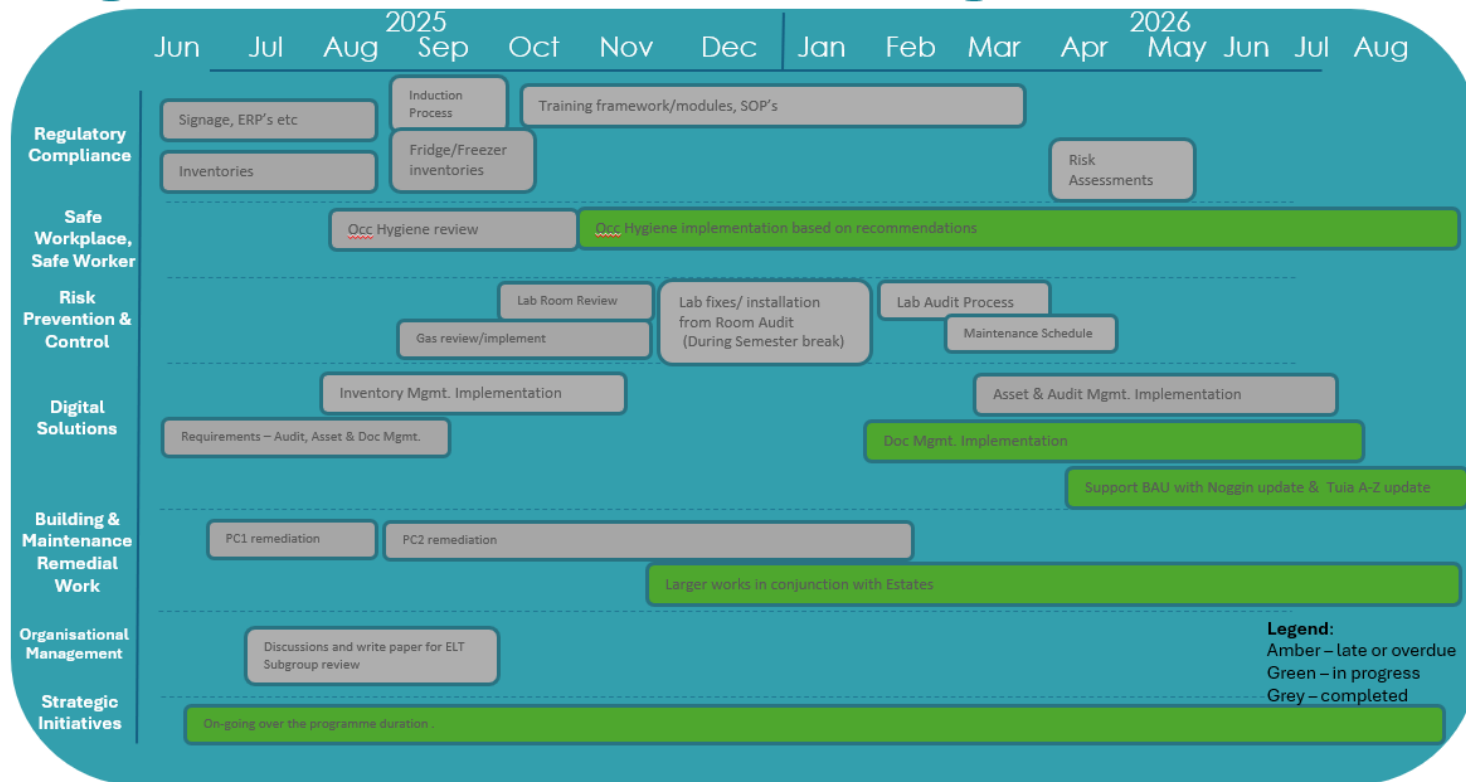


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Work to strengthen governance, including clarification of officer roles, development of the critical risk framework, and implementation of a new health and safety management system, positions AUT well to meet increasing expectations for demonstrable assurance of “work as performed.”

Ongoing focus through to September will be on deepening critical risk oversight, embedding assurance mechanisms, and strengthening risk ownership across the Executive. Continued engagement from all of AUT will be critical to sustaining momentum, ensuring effective governance oversight, and supporting the delivery of a resilient and mature health and safety system across AUT.

9. Appendix 1 – Te Ara Haumaru high level timeframes & progress



**PART A****OPEN AGENDA ITEM****13.1**

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Update from the President of AUTSA – James Portegys

Date: 17 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF AUTSA

Report to the Council

Over the past few weeks, AUTSA has been focused on welcoming new students onto campus and helping them make the early connections that shape their sense of belonging. Our flagship club expos are more than orientation activities; they are one of the first opportunities students have to see campus as a place where community, support, and student life are visible.

That work matters because O-Weeks help set the tone for the academic year. They give students information, but just as importantly, they create connection. A student who feels part of campus early is more likely to return, participate, and build the networks that support their success.

This is especially important in light of the new Ministry of Education report on students working while studying. The report shows that more students are now in paid work while enrolled, with employment increasing after 2021 and remaining above pre-2021 levels. It also shows that higher work intensity is not evenly distributed: part-time students, below-degree students, Māori students, and Pacific students are more exposed to higher-intensity work. For AUTSA, this reflects what students have been telling us directly: paid work is increasingly becoming less of a choice and more of a necessity.

This creates a clear challenge for AUT. If students are fitting study around work, rather than work around study, the campus can easily become a place they pass through rather than a place they stay. That has consequences for engagement, belonging, student voice, and the wider campus culture AUT is trying to build.

The report also shows why this cannot be treated as a simple individual time-management issue. Low and moderate levels of work are associated with strong completion outcomes, but higher work intensity is generally associated with weaker completion rates. In other words, the issue is not whether students work; many students need to. The issue is whether the university environment helps students remain connected, supported, and able to succeed while they are managing those work commitments.

This is where student life becomes a strategic issue, not just a nice-to-have. From a student perspective, the reasons to stay on campus are often practical and social: friends being nearby, affordable food, reliable transport, accessible facilities, and spaces that make it easier to study, rest, and participate between commitments.

Initiatives such as free or cheaper gym access, lower-cost shuttle fares, and price-sensitive food options all contribute to this. Individually, they may look like small affordability measures. Together, they help reduce the friction that pushes students away from campus and strengthen the reasons students choose to remain here.

The opportunity for AUT is to make campus easier to stay on, not harder. If AUT wants to be a genuinely sticky campus, it must respond to the reality that many students are balancing study with increasing work pressures. That means investing in the conditions that make campus useful, affordable, welcoming, and worth staying for.

AUTSA will continue to advocate for practical measures that support students' everyday lives while strengthening the campus culture that helps them succeed.

Source

<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/80898/working-while-studying-have-students-working-patterns-changed>



PART A

OPEN AGENDA ITEM

13.2

Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Update from the Council Member Elected by Academic Staff – Welby Ings

Date: 17 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE UPDATE FROM THE COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTED BY THE ACADEMIC STAFF OF THE AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

LEARNING, AI AND CRITIQUE

Background

This paper emanates from two sources. First, from discussions with staff working in sectors of the university associated with media, design and education;¹ second, from papers presented at the recent, 12th Higher Education Advances conference (HEAd26), held in June at the Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) in Spain.²

Issues

Accompanying AI's structured, systemic integration into university education, there are increasing bodies of research and appraisal that relate to its use in learning environments. While AI offers many advantages, it also raises complex issues that warrant complex consideration. Currently, 'front of mind' considerations include the destabilising of traditional assessment methods, data privacy vulnerabilities and faculty training gaps. These are concerns being addressed by the university. However, there are also pedagogical issues surrounding AI. These include cognitive offloading (Gerlich, 2025),³ the diminishment of effort and resulting cognitive atrophy (Hasan, 2025; Kosmyrna et al., 2025);^{4,5} the generation of low

¹ The issues raised have continued to surface across two years as AI has become increasingly integrated with learning environments at AUT. Indicative of current critique is AUT's Research Centre for Journalism, Media and Democracy's (3-4 September) conference, that will host Timothy Ström (Arena Magazine, AUS.), Silvia Montaña-Niño (University of Melbourne), and Nilesh Christopher (from the Nieman Lab. at Harvard University). The event will feature 25 papers that will unpack and critique AI as it impacts on information and communication infrastructures, pedagogy, economic power, social reach and political influence. See <https://www.jmadresearch.com/>

² The conference (June 15-18, 2026), serves as a significant global forum for researchers to discuss teaching methodologies, student preparation, and educational organisation. This year's conference featured papers from over 250 participants from over 50 countries. <https://headconf.org/> (I presented the opening keynote address at this year's event).

³ Gerlich, M. (2025). AI Tools in Society: Impacts on cognitive offloading and the future of critical thinking. *Societies*, 15(1), 6. <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc15010006>

⁴ Hasan, M.K. (June, 2025). How AI quietly undermines the joy and effort of learning: A call for rebalancing education in the digital age. *Ann Med Surg (Lond)*. 10;87(8):4693-4694. doi: 10.1097/MS9.0000000000003456.

Kosmyrna, N., Hauptmann, E., Yuan, T., Situ, J., Liao, X. H., Beresnitzky, A. V., Braunstein, I., & Maes, P. (2025). *Your brain on ChatGPT: Accumulation of cognitive debt when using an AI assistant for essay writing task*. [Preprint]. arXiv. doi.org

⁵ If students who rely on large language models to answer questions don't learn how to think by reasoning through evidence to form a conclusion, the concern is that they will become ill-equipped to deal with situations in which AI either can't provide an answer or provides misleading answers.

originality outputs (based on existing patterns) (Günay, 2024),^{6,7} impacts on fluency, elaboration, and originality (Habib et al. 2024),⁸ ethical concerns (Abedin, et al., 2026), and potential impacts on creativity and creative confidence (Hasan, 2025; Moon et al., 2026).⁹ There is also a growing analysis that considers issues of equity inside the ‘digital divide’.¹⁰

Such critique is not luddite behaviour. Much of it is coming from early adopting universities that have identified issues that warrant focused analysis and discussion.¹¹ Current research surfacing in countries like Ireland (Ferreira 2026; Hirley et al., 2026)¹² and the Netherlands (de Raad, et al., 2026),¹³ suggests that teaching staff and university governance need to place higher levels of critical consideration on issues like cognitive offloading and student equity (as the increasing monetisation of currently free tools begins to disadvantage students who will increasingly be unable to afford to purchase them).¹⁴

Recommendation

Currently, AUT’s initiatives are enabling the integration of AI literacy into learning. This is positive and evident in the development of clear, structured assessment policies, free staff access to secure high end,

⁶ Günay, M. (2024). Artificial Intelligence and originality in design, *ART/icle: Journal of Art and Design*, 4 (3), pp. 449-469.

⁷ This becomes significant when positioned alongside Section 268 of the New Zealand 2020 Education and Training Act, that requires universities to be “primarily concerned with more advanced learning, the principal aim being to develop intellectual independence” (s. 268(d)(l, A).

⁸ Habib, S., Vogel, T., Anli, X. & Thorne, E. (2024). How does generative artificial intelligence impact student creativity? *Journal of Creativity* 34, 100072.

⁹ Moon, K., Kushlev, K., Bank, A., Luttges, B. L., Viskontas, I., Kaufman, J. C., & Green, A. (2026, February 5). *The Link Between Diverse Words and Original Ideas Is Weakening in the AI-Era College Admissions*. Retrieved from osf.io/preprints/psyarxiv/jsz58_v6

¹⁰ There are surfacing concerns that paid, premium AI tools will give wealthier students an unfair academic advantage, widening pre-existing socio-economic disparities in education. To ensure that university education remains a space for critical thought and inclusive opportunity, the OECD is suggesting that [targeted interventions](#) are required to ensure disadvantaged students don’t suffer from barriers such as high costs, poor internet access and limited availability of essential resources. For indicative reports see: Varsik, S., & Vosberg, L. (2024). *The potential impact of artificial intelligence on equity and inclusion in education* [OECD Artificial Intelligence Papers, No. 23]. OECD Publishing—Khan, A. S. (2026). AI Divide in Education: A systematic review of the role of Socioeconomic status, Geography, and Educational Institutions. *Pakistan Journal of Social Science Review*, 5(3), 738–754, and Jamal-Eddine, R., Gide, E. & Al-Sabbagh, A. Systematised evidence mapping of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and digital divide phenomena in higher education. *Discov. Computing* 29, 157 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10791-026-10044-w>

¹¹ A useful literature review that covers 30 peer-reviewed articles published between 2019 to 2025, is available here: Abedin, M. Z., Hayajneh, A., & Raahemi, B. (2026). Pedagogical Use of Responsible Generative AI in Higher Education; Opportunities and Challenges: A Systematic Literature Review. *AI in Education*, 2(2), 11. <https://doi.org/10.3390/aieduc2020011>

¹² Ferreira, K. (2026). *AI-assisted translation and ethical awareness in translator education: An exploratory study*. Paper presented at the 12th International Conference on Higher Education Advances, Valencia, Spain.
Also, Hirley, M., Casey, D., Grimes, D & Morari, V. (2026). *Revisiting Academic integrity after GenAI: Learners’ perspectives on fundamental and novel challenges*. Paper presented at the 12th International Conference on Higher Education Advances, Valencia, Spain.

¹³ De Raad, W., Malinowska, E. Malek, K. & Wojnarowska, A. (2026). *Mind the gap: Positioning generative AI in higher education -A comparative study of academic staff and students’ attitudes*. Paper presented at the 12th International Conference on Higher Education Advances, Valencia, Spain.

¹⁴ As platforms transition from subsidised, ‘free sample’ growth strategies, to direct subscriptions and usage-based pricing, less economically advantaged students are likely to face sudden cost hikes, and a shrinking of free tiers. Increasingly, essential capabilities like document processing, web searching, and deep analysis, are increasingly hidden behind premium paywalls. A phenomenon known as ‘platform dependency’ relates to users who are currently integrating AI deeply into their coding or administrative workflows. This makes them vulnerable to the ‘cost hikes’ that will occur as ‘smaller players’ are acquired or go bankrupt, and a few larger providers gain enough monopoly power to continuously raise prices without losing users. A useful discussion of this issue is available here: <https://www.mindstudio.ai/blog/ai-free-sample-phase-pricing-strategy-what-comes-next>

large language models,¹⁵ and the facilitation of cross-industry collaboration through initiatives like [AiLab at AUT](#). However, many teaching staff are seeking higher levels of formal, critical discussion surrounding learning challenges posed by AI. This is so AUT positions its management of artificial intelligence as critically appraised support, rather than substitution.

In addition, staff interviewed for this paper recommended that the university proactively develops (and clearly communicates) strategies to ensure that disadvantaged students will not suffer from barriers caused by what are about to become increasingly high costs and limited access to AI resources.

¹⁵ AUTGPT is the university's secure GenAI platform that has been designed specifically for staff use. It provides secure access to a range of large language models including ChatGPT 5.5, Gemini 3.1 pro, Claude Sonnet 4.6, Grok 4.20 (reasoning), and DeepSeek V.4 Flash. <https://autgpt.aut.ac.nz/> It has had a significant uptake. However, the facility (or its equivalent) is not available to students.



PART A OPEN AGENDA ITEM	13.4
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Council Agenda Paper

Subject: Strategic planning for the election of professional and academic representatives to the AUT Council in 2027 – Welby Ings and Lani Thomson

Date: 15 July 2026

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT WE CONSIDER PROACTIVE STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING STAFF UNDERSTANDING OF COUNCIL PRIOR TO ADVERTISING THE REELECTION OF STAFF REPRESENTATIVES IN 2027.

SITUATION

In 2027, the terms for staff representation on the university council end. The Academic Representative's term finishes on July 2nd and the General Staff Representative's term is completed on September 10th. Although staff may be appointed to Council as Academic or General Staff representative in consecutive terms for up to 12 years if re-elected,¹ elections will need to be held again (possibly beginning around May 2027).

PROPOSAL

As elected staff representatives we recommend that the council considers ways in which AUT staff might (before the upcoming election) have a more comprehensive understanding of the staff roles on council and a clearer appreciation of the council's role as a governing body.

We might also review and consider strategies for upskilling new staff representatives who may hitherto, have had little experience in governance.

¹ Council Membership statute 7.7. For the Membership Statute and Election procedures please refer to Diligent: Resource Centre > Governance Resources > Council Statutory and Policy Documents 2026.