



TE KUNENGA | **MASSEY**
KI PŪREHUROA | **UNIVERSITY**
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND



COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, 30 September 2026, 10.00am

A meeting of Massey University Council will be held in Room 2.31,
Sir Neil Waters Building, Auckland Campus.



Council Meeting - Part I

30 September 2026 10:00 AM



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UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

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Register of Council Member Interests – September 2026

Alistair Davis, ONZM, LLB, BCA (VUW)	
Position	Council Member – Council Appointee
	Chancellor
Responsibilities	People and Culture Committee Member Finance and Assurance Committee Member
Term	17 May 2018 - 16 May 2022 20 May 2022 - 19 May 2026 20 May 2026 – 19 May 2030 (final term)
Interests	Senior Advisor Chair Member Examining Chaplain & Diocesan Advisor Toyota New Zealand CMD Nominees Ltd (Toyota New Zealand's Pension Fund) New Zealand Initiative Anglican Diocese of Wellington
Caren Rangi, Rarotonga, Rakahanga, Manihiki, ONZM, FCA, BBS (Massey)	
Position	Council Member – Council Appointee
Responsibilities	Pro-Chancellor People and Culture Committee Member
Term	1 September 2023 – 31 August 2027
Interests	Sole Trader Chair Deputy Chair Member Board Member Co-facilitator Rangikaitao Pacific Homecare Pacific Co-operation Broadcasting Ltd Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Risk and Advisory Committee New Zealand Rugby Iti Kopara Public Governance Aotearoa
Professor Pierre Venter, PhD, BSc (Hons), BSc (UFS)	
Position	Council Member – Council Appointee
Responsibilities	Vice-Chancellor Ex-officio Council member Finance and Assurance Committee member People and Culture Committee member
Term	2 February 2026 – 1 February 2031
Interests	Board Member Board Member Member Massey University Riddet Institute Massey University Foundation Universities New Zealand Vice-Chancellor's Committee

Part I: Paper for Information



Rebecca Argyle, LLB, BSc (VUW), Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa	
Position	Council Member – Elected by Permanent Members of the Professional Staff
Responsibilities	Council Member Finance and Assurance Committee Member
Term	1 January 2024 – 31 December 2026
Interests	
Business Executive Manager	Students and Global Engagement, Massey University (Staff Member)
Trustee	Puarere Trust
Shareholder	Studio BBA
Director	Taumata Island Dairy Limited
Beneficiary	Tupu Trust
Member/ Secretary	PNBHS PTA
Member	Kairanga School Home and Schools Committee

Paul Brock BBS (Massey)	
Position	Council Member – Vice-Chancellor Nominee
Responsibilities	Council Member People and Culture Committee Chair
Term	1 July 2023 – 30 June 2027
Interests	
Chair	Tourism New Zealand
Chair	Chubb Life Insurance New Zealand
Chair	Foley Wines and Subsidiaries
Independent Director	Southern Sky Dairies and Subsidiaries
Director/Shareholder	StratX Ltd
Past dealings on Ethical Leadership	Victoria University
Trustee/Beneficiary	Brock Family Trust
Shareholder and Director	Lighthouse Distillery
Shareholder and Director	Breadlebane Estates

Part I: Paper for Information



Ross Buckley, BBS (Massey) FCA, FCPA, CMInstD	
Position	Council Member – Minister of Tertiary Education Appointee
Responsibilities	Council Member Finance and Assurance Committee Chair
Term	1 January 2026 – 31 December 2029
Interests	
Non-Executive Director	ASB Bank
Non-Executive Director	Stride Property Group
Chair	ASB Bank Audit Committee
Chair	Service Foods Limited Board
Chair	Institute of Directors of NZ – Auckland Branch
Director	Investore Property Limited
Member	Investore Property Limited – Audit and Risk Committee
Member	Institute of Directors of NZ National Council
Member	ASB Risk and Compliance Committee
Member	ASB Bank Appointments and Remuneration Committee
Member	Stride Property Group Audit and Risk Committee

Jo Davidson, BHortSci (Massey)	
Position	Council Member – Minister of Tertiary Education Appointee
Responsibilities	Council Member People and Culture Committee Member
Term	18 June 2024 – 17 June 2028
Interests	
Sole Trader	d2 Consulting
Director	Auora Ltd
Director	Wahanga Ltd
Director	Kono General Partner Ltd
Director	Wakatu Resources Ltd
Advisory Board Lead	Within Works Ltd

Part I: Paper for Information



Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin, MSc, PhD (Michigan), FRSNZ FASL FAMS FNZMS	
Position	Council Member – Elected by Permanent Members of the Academic Staff
Responsibilities	Council Member
Term	1 January 2024 – 31 December 2027
Interests	
Distinguished Professor	NZ Institute of Advanced Studies, Massey University (Staff Member)
Member	Ministerial Advisory Committee – Literacy, English and Mathematics School Curriculum

Michelle Matson	
Position	Council Member – Elected by Students
Responsibilities	Council Member Finance and Assurance Committee Member
Term	7 December 2024 – 6 December 2026
Interests	
Director/Shareholder	Matson Contracting Ltd.

Mads Moller	
Position	Council Member – Minister of Tertiary Education Appointee
Responsibilities	Council Member
Term	5 August 2026 – 4 August 2030

Part I: Paper for Information



Right Honourable Sir Jerry Mateparae, Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Ati Haunui-a-Pāpārangi, Ngāti Rangi, Ngāti Tamakōpiri, Ngai Tūhoe, GNZM, QSO, KStJ, MA(Hons)(First Class) (Waikato), HonDLit (Massey)

Position	Council Member – Vice-Chancellor Nominee
Responsibilities	Council Member
Term	24 July 2024 – 23 July 2028
Interests	
Member	Judicial Conduct Panel
Member	RNA Development Platform Steering Group
Chair	Koi Tū Forum Guardians
Member	Kāpuhipuhi Uni Professional, Security Facilitator
Moderator	UN, PNG, Bougainville Consultations
Chairman	Viet Nam Veterans and Their Families Trust
Chairman	Antarctic Heritage Trust

Mark Ratcliffe, BSc Accounting (University of Huddersfield), CMInstD

Position	Council Member – Minister of Tertiary Education Appointee
Responsibilities	Council Member Finance and Assurance Committee Member
Term	18 June 2024 – 17 June 2028
Interests	
Trustee/Beneficiary	Ratcliffe Barker Family Trust
Director/Shareholder	Mark Ratcliffe Consulting Ltd
Independent Non-Executive Director	ikeGPS Group Ltd
Chair	Kaibosh Food Rescue
Shareholder, Non-Executive Director and Chair	WilliamsWarn Ltd
Investments	Novolabs through the Climate Venture Capital Fund
Investments	Biolumic via IceHouse Ventures
Investments	AndFood via IceHouse Ventures
Director	One NZ



MINUTES OF MASSEY UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

**THE MEETING OF MASSEY UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
HELD AT THE WELLINGTON CAMPUS
on
THURSDAY 16 JULY 2026 AT 9.30 AM**

PART I

Present: Chancellor Alistair Davis, Pro-Chancellor Caren Rangi, Vice-Chancellor Professor Pierre Venter, Rebecca Argyle, Paul Brock, Jo Davidson, Angela Hauk-Willis, Distinguished Professor Gaven Martin, Sir Jerry Mateparae, Michelle Matson, and Mark Ratcliffe.

In Attendance: Chief of Staff Jodie Banner, Governance Advisor Christabelle Marshall, Communications Manager Aden Morunga, Professor Leigh Signal and Chief Financial Officer Carolyn Dimond.

Apologies: Ross Buckley.

1.0 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

1.2 KARAKIA/WHAKATAUĀKĪ/WELCOME (VERBAL)

The Chancellor provided a karakia to open the meeting.

1.3 APOLOGIES (VERBAL)

The Chancellor noted the apology from Mr Buckley and confirmed the meeting was quorate.

1.4 OPEN FORUM - NIL

1.5 DECLARATION OF INTEREST/REGISTER OF INTEREST (C26/66)

1.6 CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA AND URGENT ITEMS (VERBAL)

The agenda was received with all papers taken as read.

1.7 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - PART I COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14 MAY 2026 (C26/67)

26-15 RESOLVED:

(Agreed)

**“THAT the minutes of the Massey University Council meeting held on 14 May 2026
[Part I Public] be confirmed as a true and correct record.”**

CARRIED

1.8 MATTERS ARISING

The Chancellor noted there were no matters arising from the 14 May 2026 Part I Council minutes.

2.0 STRATEGIC

2.1 CHANCELLOR'S AND PRO-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT - PART I

Council received a verbal report from the Chancellor on key engagements undertaken since the May meeting, including attendance at the Auckland graduation ceremonies. The Chancellor also noted that the Pro-Chancellor had served as Acting Chancellor from 1 June to 9 July. The Pro-Chancellor provided an overview of key engagements undertaken during her period as Acting Chancellor and updated Council on the recent Chancellors' meeting.

2.2 VICE-CHANCELLOR'S REPORT - PART I (C26/68)

The Vice-Chancellor provided an overview of recent engagements, including his visit to China, attendance at Fieldays, and meetings with key stakeholders. The Vice-Chancellor further noted that World of WearableArt (WOW) was relocating their key collection management and operations to Pukeahu campus. He further noted that Massey University's commitment to sustainability had been recognised with a top 100 global ranking and joint first place in Aotearoa New Zealand in the 2026 Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

Council discussed the development of the University's new strategy, opportunities to strengthen connections with alumni, and potential opportunities arising from the relationship between Massey University and WOW.

2.3 STRATEGY IN ACTION: SLEEP/ WAKE RESEARCH CENTRE (C26/69)

The Vice-Chancellor introduced the paper and provided an overview of the Sleep/Wake Research Centre, including its operations and key partnership with Air New Zealand. Professor Leigh Signal introduced herself and outlined the Centre's purpose, history, and research activities and noted the Centre was unique within New Zealand. She highlighted the wide-ranging impact of the Centre's work, research activities, teaching portfolio, industry partnerships, and applied research initiatives. Council discussed the broad impact of the Centre's work, opportunities to strengthen its national and international profile, the balance between research, teaching and commercialisation, and the potential for greater transdisciplinary collaboration.

Professor Leigh Signal left the meeting at 10.09am.

2.4 ACADEMIC BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT (C26/70)

Council noted the Academic Board Chair's Report. It was noted that Academic Board had received a presentation from Massey University College, and a Council member suggested that a presentation be scheduled for a future Council meeting. Council also discussed the new Master of Business Administration specialisation in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Strategic Decision-Making and noted that a discussion on Generative AI was scheduled for the July Academic Board meeting.

ACTION: Schedule a Massey University College presentation for an upcoming Council meeting.

3.0 OPERATIONAL

3.1 MONTH END FINANCE REPORT– PART I (C26/71)

The Part I Finance Report was received by Council and taken as read.

4.0 PAPERS FOR NOTING

4.1 AB MINUTES 27 MAY 2026 – PART I (CONFIRMED) (C26/72)

4.2 AB MINUTES 24 JUNE 2026 – PART I (UNCONFIRMED) (C26/73)

5.0 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC (C26/74)

26-16 RESOLVED:

(Agreed)

“THAT Council excludes the public from papers as noted in the table.”

CARRIED

THAT the Council excludes the public from the papers as noted in the following table:

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason	Section 48(1) grounds
C26/75	Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting 14 May 2026 – Part II	For the reasons set out in the Part I minutes of 14 May 2026 held with public present	
Verbal	Chancellor’s Verbal Report – Part II	Personal Privacy	s7(2)(a)
C26/76-77	Vice-Chancellor’s Report – Part II	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/78	EFTS Paper	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/79	Investment Fund Paper	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/80	FAC Chair’s Report	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/81	Business Case	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/82	Five Year Forecast	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/83	Financial Sustainability Plan Update	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/84	University Benchmark Information	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/85	PAC Chair’s Report	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/86	Council Succession Planning	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/87	Council Member Fees	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/88	OHSW Q2 Report	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/89	Month End Finance Report – Part II	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/90	Ratification of E-Ballot	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)

C26/95	Council Action Schedule – Part II	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/96	Council Workplan 2026/2027	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
Noting Papers			
i)	Academic Board Minutes 27 May 2026 – Part II Confirmed (C26/91)		
ii)	Academic Board Minutes 24 June 2026 – Part II Unconfirmed (C26/92)		
iii)	FAC Minutes 11 June 2026 – Part II Unconfirmed (C26/93)		
iv)	PAC Minutes 7 July 2026 – Part II Unconfirmed (C26/94)		

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

CARRIED

The Chief Financial Officer and Communications Manager left the meeting at 10.24am.

Part I of the meeting closed at 10.24am

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Vice-Chancellor's Part I Report to Council

Recommendation

- That Council note this update on key achievements and highlights demonstrating Massey's impact during the period July – September 2026.

Purpose

- This report provides a high-level overview of the period, highlighting how activity and achievements align with our new Strategy 2026 – 2030 and offers links for further detail. While it cannot capture all the outstanding mahi of Massey staff, students and partners, it records key accomplishments and points readers to [Massey News](#) and other internal channels where many additional stories can be found.

Executive Summary - Vice-Chancellor's Insights and Outlook



1. Key activities during the reporting period included the launch of the university's new strategy, consultation on the Enabling the Strategy Proposal for Change, and stakeholder engagement across New Zealand and the Pacific.

2. The new Strategy 2026-2030, People, Place and Possibility, was launched across all three campuses, setting the strategic direction to 2030 and establishing a programme of work to translate priorities into measurable actions and outcomes.
3. Achievement of the strategy will be assessed against key performance indicators and targets, with detailed performance reporting provided separately to Council through dashboards. This report to Council highlights notable actions, progress, and achievements aligned with the four strategic outcomes.

Future-ready learners

- [Partnership with Northern Arena helps elite swimmers combine high-performance sport with tertiary study](#), creating a pathway that supports them to train, compete and achieve academically.
- [Massey builds on success of student ag summit](#) following the success of the [inaugural Food Innovation Youth Summit](#) an expanded programme is planned for January 2027, with two summits giving Year 12 and 13 students a first-hand look at the food and fibre sector and a glimpse of where a career in agriculture could take them.
- [Partnership powers disaster resilience training for Manaaki scholars](#). Massey University's Joint Centre for Disaster Research, in partnership with Te Tumu Whakatipu, delivered a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)-funded programme that equipped Manaaki scholars with practical skills in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Combining academic expertise, cultural engagement and real-world learning, the programme is helping strengthen resilience and leadership capacity across participating countries.
- [Ākonga explore future opportunities at Te Matapihihi Discovery Days across Massey campuses](#) discovering where their strengths, interests and curiosity can take them.
- [Agriscience alumna earns recognition as an emerging leader](#) at the 2026 Primary Industries New Zealand Awards.

Vice-Chancellor's Part I Report to Council

- [Massey alumnus inspiring future innovators through STEM](#) that passion took his robotics team all the way to the VEX Robotics World Championship in the United States.
- [Outstanding achievements recognised in Alumni Excellence Awards](#) representing the breadth and diversity of the Massey alumni community.
- [Emerging leader earns international recognition at global symposium in Switzerland](#) Master of Arts in Defence and Security Studies graduate wins a highly competitive essay competition, securing a place at the prestigious Leaders of Tomorrow Symposium in Switzerland.
- [Massey builds on success of student ag summit](#) following the success of the inaugural Food Innovation Youth Summit an expanded programme is planned for January 2027, with two summits giving Year 12 and 13 students a first-hand look at the food and fibre sector and a glimpse of where a career in agriculture could take them.
- [From tradie to filmmaker: Commercial Music student turns his love of music and film into Scenic Soundscape](#) creating his own film series, Scenic Soundscape, with support from Greater Wellington Regional Council, the French Embassy, Fujifilm New Zealand, CentrePort, and Boosted.
- [Ian Shirley Award winner passionate about advocacy and empowering whānau](#) Bachelor of Social Work graduate awarded for outstanding academic achievement in social policy.
- The Massey-China Scholarship Council (CSC) PhD Scholars Programme continues to deliver strong outcomes, with 18 students awarded fully-funded PhD scholarships - Massey's largest CSC-funded doctoral cohort to date. This success enhances Massey's international research profile, strengthens strategic partnerships and collaborations, and supports the university's goals of research excellence, internationalisation, and real-world impact.
- [Te Ara ki Pūrehuroa marks the next chapter in Massey's student success initiative.](#) While building on the foundations established through Pūrehuroatanga, Te Ara ki Pūrehuroa will place greater emphasis on what happens within the classroom. In particular, this new phase intentionally aligns student success with the

implementation of our Curriculum Framework, a multi-year programme focused on how the curriculum supports excellent quality learning and teaching experiences. This greater alignment will ensure that the evolution of Massey's student success approach is grounded in academic quality, student wellbeing and teaching practices that work together to support learner success.

National capability & productivity

- [Massey is introducing new graduate and postgraduate diplomas in agriculture and horticulture in 2027 to meet growing industry demand](#), creating flexible study opportunities for professionals looking to upskill, retrain or advance their careers in Aotearoa New Zealand's primary industries.
- [Learning from communities to better serve communities](#). Future clinical psychologists at Massey are learning directly from Pasifika communities as part of a unique annual event designed to strengthen culturally responsive mental health care in Aotearoa.
- [Turning apple leftovers into tomorrow's food packaging innovation](#). Fourth-year food technology student Ed Ron Ng is exploring how food processing by-products can be transformed into sustainable, high-performance packaging materials thanks to a new scholarship from Revo Packaging.
- [Psychology Professor elected a Fellow of the New Zealand Psychological Society](#), in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the profession. [Read more](#).
- [CanConstructNZ team wins Research Team of the Year Award for impact on New Zealand's construction sector](#). The team, which includes construction and built environment researchers from the School of Built Environment, won the Research Team of the Year Award at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Awards, in recognised the CanConstructNZ team's efforts to better understand construction-sector workloads and the industry's capacity and capability to deliver planned construction projects.

Vice-Chancellor's Part I Report to Council

Research & Innovation with impact

- [Researcher awarded Health Research Council Explorer Grant to improve sleep and mental wellbeing for new mothers](#), through investigating how wearable technology and artificial intelligence could improve sleep, mental wellbeing and postnatal care for new mothers in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- [Innovation with impact recognised in 2026 KiwiNet Awards](#). The university is showcasing its entrepreneurial talent with three finalists being named in the 2026 KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards.
- [Successful Health Research Council \(HRC\) Explorer Grants 2026](#) awarded for REST-Māmā: Restoring Circadian Sleep through Technology-Enhanced Midwifery, receiving up to \$150,000 over 24 months. The result highlights innovative health research at Massey and supports the development of new approaches to improving maternal wellbeing.
- Applied Doctorates Scheme strengthens industry-connected research. Massey secured four projects in the highly competitive Applied Doctorates Scheme (ADS), a \$20 million MBIE-funded programme designed to develop industry-engaged doctoral researchers. The projects, spanning sustainable energy, thermal energy storage, UV disinfection and energy efficiency, demonstrate Massey's research capability and strong partnerships with industry while preparing future research leaders with real-world impact.
- [Riddet Institute landmark protein study reveals food quality wins The Journal of Nutrition's inaugural Teresa A. Davis Award](#) in Growth and Protein Nutrition from the American Society of Nutrition.
- [Outstanding contributions to chemistry and physics](#) Distinguished Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, NZ Institute of Advanced Studies, College of Sciences, has been honoured by the international journal Molecular Physics, which has published a special issue celebrating his 70th birthday and recognising his outstanding contributions to chemistry and physics. The articles featured in the special issue reflect the breadth of his scientific influence.

- [Staff and students from the School of Food Technology and Natural Sciences have been recognised for their contributions to food science and innovation](#) at the 2026 New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology Conference.
- [Professor elected President of the Mathematics Education Research Group of Australasia](#). The first academic outside of Australia to lead the organisation in its 50-year history.
- [International honour for leadership on academic freedom](#). Professor Mohan Dutta, Dean's Chair in Communication, Center for Culture-Centered Approach to Research & Evaluation, has been recognised with one of the highest service honours in communication, receiving the Presidential Citation from the National Communication Association (NCA).
- [Massey researcher helps set the record straight on volcanic eruption myths](#). When a volcano erupts, misinformation can spread almost as quickly as the ash cloud itself. That's one of the key findings behind a newly published international paper, [Getting the Story Straight: Common Misconceptions Around Volcanoes and Eruptions with Case Studies of Recent Events](#), co-authored by Associate Professor Carol Stewart.
- [Massey Partnership to advance Food Technology research and education and strengthen international collaboration in food science and technology](#) through a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India's National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K).
- [New research finds gut bacteria connection to celiac disease](#). One of the reasons some people develop celiac disease and others remain healthy could be linked to fibre metabolism in the gut, according to new research.

Trusted and sustainable Massey

- [Massey's centenary – A year to celebrate, connect and look forward](#). As we approach 2027, we will celebrate [Massey University's centenary](#), a significant milestone represents for our university. This celebration provides a unique opportunity to recognise Massey's contribution to Aotearoa New Zealand and the

Vice-Chancellor's Part I Report to Council

world over the past 100 years, while also looking ahead to the impact we will continue to make in the future. The theme of our centenary is '100 Years of the University of New Zealand', and a key part of this will be the sharing of stories that showcase the people, innovation and achievements that have shaped Massey and our communities.

- [50 years of social work, generations of impact.](#) From supporting whānau through crisis and helping communities navigate life's toughest challenges, to influencing social policy and leading some of Aotearoa New Zealand's most respected organisations, generations of Massey social work graduates have made a lasting difference in communities across the country and beyond.
- [What makes studying Communication at Massey unique.](#) As Massey celebrates 50 years of teaching communication, the programme's enduring strength lies not only in its history, but in how it equips students to thrive in an ever-changing world.
- [Massey launches special Ag and Hort courses for secondary school teachers](#) to help excite kids about agriculture and horticulture.
- [A new suite of Impact and Innovation qualifications will be introduced for the 2027 academic year.](#) designed for students wanting to tackle real-world challenges with study pathways at bachelor's, postgraduate diploma and master's level. These new qualifications draw on expertise from across the university, enabling graduates to develop a set of highly transferable skills that are increasingly valued in today's employment environment.
- [The Bachelor of Animal Science is expanding with the addition of two new majors: Animal Agri-Technology and Pastoral Livestock Production.](#) The new majors are in response to growing demand for graduates with the skills to meet the challenges and opportunities facing modern agriculture in Aotearoa New Zealand's primary industries.
- [New course launched to strengthen support for consumers experiencing vulnerability.](#) Working with Consumers in Vulnerable Circumstances: Principles and Professional Practice the new course designed to help professionals better support people experiencing consumer vulnerability is set to go live next month.

- [New communication pathways emerge from Massey and Mahindra partnership](#) following a recent visit from a Mahindra University delegation to the Pukeahu and Manawātū campuses to explore opportunities for students, academics and research collaboration.

Supporting document:

- [Environmental Sensing – Potential Impacts \(July – September\)](#)

Strategy in Action: Massey University College

Recommendation

That Council note the Strategy in Action paper on Te Ara Whakawhiti Massey University College.

Purpose

- This paper has come to Council as evidence of Te Kūnenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University's Strategy in Action.

Alignment to Strategy/Governance Responsibilities

1. This item focuses on Massey University College (MUC) under the strategic pillars Equip and Connect.
2. The Equip pillar focuses on providing support to students at every stage of their learning journey. Students engaging with Massey University College are engaging in a pathway to a Massey University degree, so it is their first touchpoint with the university.
3. The Connect pillar focuses on building trusted relationships, which MUC is clear evidence of. MUC is a partnership between the university and Kaplan International (NZ) Limited that has been in place since 2021.

Background

In 2021, an agreement was signed between Massey University and Kaplan International that appointed Kaplan as the provider of pathway programmes to international students through MUC. These programmes were rolled out in 2022 to an initial cohort of 89 students.

Kaplan is one of the world's largest and most diverse education providers, with a longstanding presence in Aotearoa New Zealand. The collaboration agreement with Kaplan established a mutually beneficial partnership, facilitating the design,

recruitment and delivery of high-quality programmes that align with Massey's academic standards and internationalisation strategy. Programmes under MUC include: Foundation Certificate (international), Foundation Certificate (International – Accelerated), Diploma (Business), Graduate Diplomas (Management) and (Marketing) and a Generic Pre-Master. Another agreement was signed with Kaplan Professional to provide two online financial qualifications for domestic students: the Certificate in Financial Advice and the Diploma in Business Studies – Financial Advice Specialisation.

MUC has experienced significant growth since it began, with enrolments growing to 428 in late 2025. The College now has 25 dedicated staff, plus casual staff, based in Auckland. MUC will reach its fifth anniversary in 2027, the same year Massey University celebrates its centenary.

What Massey University College does

MUC provides a supported pathway into university study for international students who may not yet be ready for direct entry to Massey. Its role extends beyond academic preparation, helping students transition between education systems, cultures and ways of learning.

Students typically spend their first six months to a year with MUC, developing academic and English-language skills while adapting to life in Aotearoa New Zealand. Students receive dedicated academic and pastoral support, with small classes and opportunities to engage with Massey facilities and services.

Director Joy Hotter, who has been with MUC since its inception, says students often come with learning difficulties and the transition issues that result from being in a new country.

Strategy in Action: Massey University College

“It’s a huge responsibility for us to help the students navigate a new culture, a different education system and new ways of learning and communicating. And to do it safely and do it well. When you see them moving on as someone who’s a little bit more confident or is now able to ask questions, for us that’s a huge achievement.”

The College also places strong emphasis on belonging and cultural connection. For example, its annual cultural festival attracts approximately 300–400 people and celebrates a student community representing around 30 different ethnicities. The annual excellence awards also recognise student achievement.

Student Outcomes

Progression from MUC into Massey University programmes has averaged approximately 90 per cent. MUC pathway students have also achieved strong academic outcomes following progression to Massey. Successful course completion was 95.56 per cent in 2023, 95.51 per cent in 2024, and 95.70 per cent in 2025, compared with 93.78 per cent, 93.46 per cent and 95.51 per cent respectively for international students overall.

Academic success aside, Joy says one of the most rewarding measures of success is the feedback she hears from Massey academics about MUC students.

“When I have a conversation with someone from another college who is teaching one of our students and they say our students are doing well and come well prepared. I hear that feedback from different academics and I think gosh, we’re doing something right.”

These outcomes show that MUC is providing an effective pathway into Massey, as well as helping students prepare for university-level study.

2026 – a year of improvement

Following rapid growth, 2026 is being positioned as a year of improvement and consolidation. The priorities for MUC are to:

- Support sustainable growth
- Review, refine and formalise College processes
- Implement Massey’s Qualification Lifecycle Review Process and Procedures;
- Develop a college retention strategy;
- Manage external factors affecting international students, including student visas;
- Participate in Massey’s Kaiārahi Tiriti Programme
- Deliver the first Pre-Master programme.

At this year’s graduation ceremonies, 58 students who began their journeys with MUC graduated. One of them was Loyd Gorme Doron from the Philippines, who achieved a Bachelor of Screen Arts in Film Production after first enrolling in MUC’s Certificate in Foundation Studies. A talented filmmaker, Loyd has won a number of awards for his short films, which have featured in local festivals and university showcases.

Loyd is just one of many inspiring examples of the life-changing impact MUC has made, and continues to make, in the lives of international students.

Strategy in Action: Massey University College



The Massey University College team at their 2025 end of year Christmas celebration.

Academic Board Chair's Report

Recommendation

That Council note the recent activity of Academic Board from their meetings on 22 July, 26 August and 23 September 2026.

Purpose

- To provide an update for Council on activities of Academic Board from July – September 2026.

Governance Responsibilities

- This report provides Council with an update on the activities of the Academic Board in its capacity as a subcommittee of Council, including the exercise of powers delegated to it by Council and the fulfilment of its responsibility to provide academic advice to Council.

Executive Summary

- Update on Generative AI – Policy and Readiness** – The Chief Information Officer Martin Catterall and Professor Naomi Cogger facilitated a Board discussion on Generative AI and provided an update on work underway to uplift the University's AI Readiness Baseline (refer to 22 July minutes attached). The Board agreed to table an additional in-depth discussion on Generative AI at their meeting in October.
- Policies approved:**
 - Inherent Requirements of Qualifications Policy
 - Verified Assessment Policy
 - Doctoral Supervision Policy

- Proposal for Change** – The Board discussed the Proposal for Change at the 26 August Board meeting (refer to 26 August minutes attached) and submitted their collective Academic Advice to Council on 4 September 2026.
- Research Rankings** – The Board discussed the University's current research rankings and noted that new rankings targets should be set to align with the new University Strategy.
- Developing a Coordinated Response to AI in Teaching** – The Board had a fulsome discussion on AI in Teaching and it was noted that the Board would have a further discussion on AI at their October Board meeting.

Supporting Documents

- Academic Board Minutes 22 July 2026 – [Part I](#) and Part II
- Academic Board Minutes 26 August 2026 – [Part I](#) and Part II

August 2026 Finance Report

Recommendation

That Council note the August 2026 Finance Report and the University's forecast financial position for the year ending 31 December 2026.

Purpose

- To provide Council with a concise overview of the University's financial performance to 31 August 2026, the full-year forecast for the year ended 31 December 2026, and the principal financial matters requiring ongoing monitoring.

Executive Summary

- The University's year to date (YTD) operating surplus was \$17.3m, \$26.4m favourable to budget. While enrolments are forecast to be below budget, resulting in lower student revenue, this has been more than mitigated by lower expenditure to date across all activity areas.
- YTD expenses of \$367.1m were below budget by \$26.1m driven by staff vacancies, project delays, reduced research activity, lower depreciation, and lower discretionary spend.
- The July forecast indicates a year-end surplus of \$10.2m (1.7%) which is \$7.2m above budget. Liquidity remains strong, no borrowing is expected to be required in 2026, and the University is forecast to remain compliant with its financial covenants. The forecast surplus includes a \$4.9m non-cash accounting adjustment from a change in actuarial assumptions used in the independent actuarial valuation of long-service leave obligations. This reduces the liability the university needs to recognise for future long-service leave, improves the reported surplus, but does not generate cash for the university. The forecast also benefits from a \$2.6m one-off gain on sale of the Manukura land which had originally been expected to occur in 2025.

- Massey's balance sheet remains strong. Net equity as at 31 August 2026 was above budget driven by higher current assets following the achievement of a 2025 year-end surplus, which increased cash balances. The University and Group had no debt as at 31 August 2026 and were compliant with all TEC and Bank covenants.
- The YTD Cash and Cash Equivalent balance was above budget mainly due to increased opening balances and decreased operating and capital expenditure during the period.

Supporting Document

- [Part I Finance Dashboard](#)

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

As at: 31 August 2026

Income Statement	YTD Actual (\$000)	YTD Budget (\$000)	YTD Variance (\$000)	YTD Status	FY Forecast (\$000)	FY Budget (\$000)	FY Variance (\$000)	FY Status
Government Grants	143,833	143,645	188	●	215,666	215,468	199	●
Student Fees	143,739	145,788	(2,049)	●	228,702	232,643	(3,942)	●
Research Income and Other Income	96,893	94,714	2,179	●	146,527	140,633	5,894	●
Total Income	384,466	384,147	319	●	590,895	588,744	2,151	●
Staff Related Expenses	206,438	215,109	8,671	●	312,872	323,736	10,864	●
Depreciation	47,756	50,911	3,155	●	72,646	76,729	4,084	●
Other Expenditure	112,943	127,236	14,293	●	195,219	185,359	(9,860)	●
Total Expenses	367,137	393,257	26,120	●	580,737	585,824	5,087	●
University Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	17,328	(9,110)	26,439	●	10,158	2,920	7,238	●
<i>(Deficit)/Surplus %</i>	<i>4.51%</i>	<i>(2.37%)</i>	-	-	<i>1.72%</i>	<i>0.50%</i>	-	-
University EBITDA	62,292	40,346	21,946	●	79,515	77,759	1,756	●
<i>University EBITDA % of university income</i>	<i>16.32%</i>	<i>10.50%</i>	-	-	<i>13.52%</i>	<i>13.21%</i>	-	-
(Deficit)/Surplus from Controlled Entities	7,141	6,074	1,068	●	8,813	10,756	(1,942)	●
Group Operating (Deficit)/Surplus	24,469	(3,037)	27,506	●	18,971	13,676	5,296	●
<i>Group Operating (Deficit)/Surplus %</i>	<i>6.25%</i>	<i>(0.77%)</i>	-	-	<i>3.16%</i>	<i>2.26%</i>	-	-
Group EBITDA	69,370	46,366	23,004	●	88,219	88,430	(211)	●
<i>Group EBITDA % of group income</i>	<i>17.73%</i>	<i>11.77%</i>	-	-	<i>14.71%</i>	<i>14.60%</i>	-	-
Balance Sheet	YTD Actual (\$000)	YTD Budget (\$000)	YTD Variance (\$000)	YTD Status	FY Forecast (\$000)	FY Budget (\$000)	FY Variance (\$000)	FY Status
Current Assets	214,145	163,363	50,781	●	260,719	199,689	61,030	●
Non-Current Assets	1,753,046	1,776,898	(23,851)	●	1,777,120	1,792,328	(15,208)	●
Current Liabilities	226,124	240,389	14,266	●	272,352	278,519	6,168	●
Non-Current Liabilities	31,990	32,821	831	●	33,159	34,417	1,257	●
University Net Assets	1,709,077	1,667,051	42,027	●	1,732,328	1,679,081	53,247	●
University Equity	1,709,077	1,667,051	42,027	●	1,732,328	1,679,081	53,247	●
Net Assets - Controlled Entities	80,193	75,680	4,512	●	81,829	80,362	1,466	●
Group Net Assets	1,789,270	1,742,731	46,539	●	1,814,157	1,759,443	54,713	●
Group Equity	1,789,270	1,742,731	46,539	●	1,814,157	1,759,443	54,713	●

KEY

● ≥ \$1m ● > -\$1m and < \$1m ● ≤ -\$1m

YTD Year to Date FY Full Year

CASH FLOW & COMPLIANCE

As at: 31 August 2026

Statement of Cash Flows	YTD Actual (\$000)	YTD Budget (\$000)	YTD Variance (\$000)	YTD Status	FY Forecast (\$000)	FY Budget (\$000)	FY Variance (\$000)	FY Status
Opening Cash and Cash Equivalents - University	64,146	47,801	16,345	●	64,146	47,801	16,345	●
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	89,935	98,304	(8,368)	●	89,632	83,683	5,948	●
Net Cash Flow from Investing Activities	(104,816)	(102,907)	(1,909)	●	(53,331)	(91,724)	38,394	●
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Foreign Exchange Gain (Loss)	138	-	138	●	-	-	-	-
Closing Cash and Cash Equivalents - University	49,404	43,197	6,206	●	100,447	39,759	60,687	●
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Controlled Entities	6,106	3,221	2,886	●	4,768	2,929	1,839	●
Group Cash at End	55,510	46,418	9,092	●	105,215	42,688	62,527	●
Compliance	YTD Status	FY Status						
TEC financial covenants	N/A	●						
Bank borrowing covenants	●	●						

* N/A Note



TEC financial covenants are calculated on FY results.

Centenary Programme Update

Recommendation

That Council note the update on the Massey University Centenary Programme.

Purpose

- To provide Council with an update on planning for Te Kūhenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University's 2027 Centenary, marking "100 Years of the University of New Zealand".
- To outline the strategic purpose of the Centenary, current programme status, key activities and milestones, and opportunities for Council to support the success of the Centenary.

Background and Context

1. The Centenary is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate Massey's contribution to Aotearoa New Zealand, strengthen relationships with alumni, donors, partners and communities, and showcase the University's future-focused impact through teaching, research, innovation and engagement.
2. Guided by the Centenary Steering Group and several years of planning, the programme extends beyond events to create long-term value through stronger reputation, stakeholder engagement, fundraising opportunities, community participation and enduring legacy assets.
3. The programme supports Massey's strategic priorities by showcasing teaching and research excellence, strengthening key relationships, supporting growth, and demonstrating the University's contribution to New Zealand through innovation and research leadership.

Executive Summary

4. The Centenary Programme is on track and has moved from strategic framing into detailed delivery planning and communications.
5. Key progress to date includes endorsement of the overall centenary direction, including the 2026/2027 programme of events, the 100 Stories initiative, centenary branding, stakeholder engagement and legacy focus. Current activity is concentrated on finalising the calendar of events, populating event plans, progressing the Community Picnic and Formal Centenary Dinner, developing the 100 Stories long-list into written/visual content, collating the multi-campus Centenary Exhibition, and expanding communications following the June/July soft launch.
6. A request to the July Investment Board for operational funding was approved. The programme will be actively pursuing sponsorship, donations, community grants and in-kind support to maximise value and reduce net cost to the University.

Key Programme Elements

7. **100 Stories: A Century of Impact** - The 100 Stories project is a central legacy initiative for the Centenary. It will explore and share stories demonstrating Massey's impact across teaching, research, innovation, alumni success, community contribution and global engagement, creating a permanent digital legacy resource.
8. **Multi-campus Centenary Exhibition** - Planning is progressing for a multi-campus Centenary Exhibition, by way of a panel-board display to be hosted in the entrance of our campus libraries. This will showcase Massey's history, achievements and future aspirations through displays, artefacts, research stories, images and interactive content.

Centenary Programme Update

9. **Community and Stakeholder Engagement** - A programme of university-wide activities is being developed across campuses and audiences. These include:
 - Community Picnic (14 February) in partnership with PNCC, Fonterra and BSi
 - Formal Centenary Dinner (22 May) including the Distinguished Alumni Awards
 - Matariki/Puanga Event (June)
 - International Partners Forum and Campus Visits (15-18 November)
 - International Alumni and Partners Event (15 November)
 - Other Alumni Events – including investigating a Pub Crawl around graduation
 - Student Celebrations (TBC) working with Te Tira Ahu Pai and Ngā Haumi ki Te Ao.
 - Sport - Rugby Initiative (March/April) pre-season
 - Teaching and Research Showcase (TBC) discussions include a regional Ted-Talk Series
 - VC staff events (launch 2026 and end of Centenary celebration)
10. As well as leveraging international cultural events, reunions and existing University activities such as Open Days, Orientation, scholarships, awards, orientation, Fielddays, Rural Delivery, publications and current alumni engagement.
11. Dedicated stakeholder and invitation lists are being developed to support major events, community engagement initiatives and strategic communications. Work is underway to ensure alumni, iwi, donors, community organisations, industry partners and government stakeholders are appropriately invited and represented.
12. **Communications, brand and visibility** - A Centenary Communications Plan has been drafted, and the first round of soft-launch communications to all audiences is complete. Dedicated centenary webpages are live and will remain the primary public-facing platform for centenary information through 2026, 2027 and into 2028. These are being enhanced as more details and content are finalised.
13. Centenary brand assets have been developed, including email signatures, social media assets and eDM banners. Additional assets, including pull-up banners, flags, signage, merchandise and publication collateral, are in development. A Centenary Staff Toolkit is being prepared to make approved assets, key messages and promotional resources available to staff.
14. How Council can support the Centenary - Council has an important role in supporting the visibility and reach of the Centenary. Council members can support the programme by:
 - Championing the Centenary externally, particularly with alumni, donors, industry partners, community leaders, government stakeholders and philanthropic networks.
 - Identifying potential sponsors, donors or in-kind supporters, especially where Council members have existing relationships that could help reduce the net cost to the University or enhance programme impact.
 - Supporting the Formal Centenary Dinner and key stakeholder events, including advice on priority invitees, hosting opportunities and strategic relationship-building.
 - Helping surface and sharing compelling Massey stories, particularly stories that demonstrate Massey's national and international contribution, research impact, community role, alumni achievement and future relevance.
 - Encouraging alumni and stakeholder participation, especially in relation to reunions, regional engagement, sharing 100 Stories content.
 - Reinforcing the future focus, ensuring the Centenary is positioned not only as a celebration of the past, but as a platform for future engagement, reputation-building, philanthropy and institutional confidence.
 - Promoting a shared institutional narrative, helping ensure that the Centenary consistently communicates Massey's impact, distinctiveness and future contribution to New Zealand and the world.

Centenary Programme Update



15. **Key Message for Council** - The Centenary is not simply a celebration of Massey's past. It is an opportunity to tell Massey's story with confidence, showcase the impact of our teaching and research, strengthen relationships with alumni and partners, deepen community connection, and create enduring assets that support the University's reputation and future opportunities.



**MASSEY UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD**

**HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
ON
WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2026 AT 1.30PM**

PART I

Present: Professor Fiona Te Momo (Chair), Provost Professor Giselle Byrnes, DVC Māori Paora Ammunson, Dr Maria Borovnik, Te Tira Ahu Pae student representative Ayla Brook, Professor Darryl Cochrane, Professor Naomi Cogger, PVC Massey Business School (MBS) Professor Jonathan Elms, Professor Bill Fish, Ngā Haumi Ki Te Ao Kaiwhakahaere o Manawatahi Joseph Freeman, PVC College of Sciences (CoS) Professor Ray Geor, Dean Pacific Professor Tasa Havea, Dr Simon Hills, PVC College of Health (CoH) Professor Jill McCutcheon, DVC Students and Global Engagement (SaGE) Dr Tere McGonagle-Daly, Associate Professor Tara McLaughlin, Professor Hatice Ozer Balli, Professor Diane Pearson, Associate Professor Sam Richardson, Dr Marta Rychert, Professor Rochelle Stewart-Withers, Professor Kaye Thorn and PVC College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CoHSS) Professor Cynthia White.

In Attendance: Chancellor Alistair Davis, Chief Information Officer Martin Catterall, Governance Advisor Christabelle Marshall and three members of the public.

Apologies: Vice-Chancellor Professor Pierre Venter, Te Tira Ahu Pae appointed student representative Mary Ieremia-Allan, Professor Huia Jahnke, Te Tira Ahu Pae General President Takunda Mabonga, PVC College of Creative Arts (CoCA) Professor Margaret Maile, Ngā Haumi Ki Te Ao Co-Tumuaki o Ōteihā/Pāmamao Mathew Rope, Professor Nicolette Sheridan, Pūkenga Tiriti Associate Professor Veronica Tawhai, Rongomaiaia Te Whaiti, and Matt Tini.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome/Karakia

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia and welcomed all members present.

1.2 Apologies/Quorum

The apologies were received and accepted, with quorum confirmed.

1.3 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were noted.

1.4 Meeting Agenda Review

The Agenda Part I was received and confirmed with all papers taken as read.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 24 June 2026 – Part I (AB26/07/105)

AB26-33 RESOLVED:

(Agreed)

“THAT the Academic Board adopts the minutes of Part I of the meeting held on 24 June 2026 as a true and correct record”

CARRIED

1.6 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

1.7 Action Schedule – Part I

Nil.

1.8 Academic Board Workplan 2026/2027 - Part I (AB26/07/106)

The Board noted the workplan for 2026/2027.

2. STRATEGIC UPDATES

2.1 Chair's Report (Verbal)

The Chair noted that there were opportunities for Board members to stand on Doctoral Research Committee, University Academic Promotions Committee and Honorary Awards Committee. Board members were encouraged to contact the Governance Advisor with expressions of interest.

The Chair further noted recent events, including orientation week, and the International Communication Association's 2026 Conference hosted on the Manawatū campus, and acknowledged staff for their commitment to teaching and research.

2.2 Vice-Chancellor's Report (AB26/07/107)

The Board noted the Vice-Chancellor's report.

2.3 Provost Report (Verbal)

The Provost provided an update on curriculum transformation and changes in the external operating environment, including research funding, academic quality assurance, and Universities New Zealand discussions on generative AI. The Board discussed the Transition Research Fund 2027 and the limit on proposal submissions for organisations.

2.4 Student Report (Verbal)

The student representatives provided an update on the recent orientation events and noted that Te Tira Ahu Pae elections would commence next month.

2.5 Update on Generative AI – Policy and Readiness (AB26/07/108)

Professor Naomi Cogger joined the meeting at 1.48pm.

The Chief Information Officer introduced himself and provided an overview of the IT Governance Board and the University's exploration of technology partnerships. Professor Cogger provided an overview of the paper and noted work underway to uplift the University's AI Readiness Baseline. The Board discussed risks and opportunities related to GenAI use and noted that an AI policy and guidelines for general use would be tabled at a future Board meeting for consultation and feedback. The Board discussed staff capability development, graduate attributes, curriculum integration, assessment and assurance of learning, and plagiarism detection in the context of GenAI. Student representatives highlighted evolving expectations and varying levels of AI literacy, noting the need for greater clarity on appropriate AI use, and opportunities to incorporate student perspectives into the University's approach to AI. A Board member proposed a dedicated future discussion on GenAI, including a presentation from student representatives. The Chancellor noted that Council would value Academic Board advice on the academic risks and opportunities associated with GenAI.

ACTION: Schedule a deep dive on GenAI for a future Board meeting, with advice to be presented to Council.

ACTION: Student representatives to share student voice around Gen AI at a future Academic Board meeting.

Professor Naomi Cogger, Chief Information Officer Martin Catterall and one member of the public left the meeting at 2.44pm.

2.6 Inherent Requirements of Qualifications Policy (AB26/07/109)

The Provost spoke to the paper and sought Board approval for the new Inherent Requirements of Qualifications Policy.

AB26-34 RESOLVED: (Agreed)

THAT the Academic Board approves the Inherent Requirements of Qualifications Policy.

CARRIED

2.7 Verified Assessment Policy (AB26/07/110)

The Provost spoke to the paper and sought Board approval for the new Verified Assessment Policy.

AB26-35 RESOLVED: (Agreed)

THAT the Academic Board approve the Verified Assessment Policy.

CARRIED

3. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

3.1 CUAP Proposals (AB26/07/111)

AB26-36 RESOLVED: (Agreed)

THAT the Academic Board recommends the CUAP proposals to the Vice-Chancellor for approval and forwarding to CUAP for approval/noting.

CARRIED

4. PAPERS FOR NOTING

The Board noted the papers as listed.

- 4.1 URC Minutes Part I – 28 May 2026 (AB26/07/112)
- 4.2 CoH CB Minutes Part I – 15 May 2026 (AB26/07/113)
- 4.3 CoHSS CB Minutes Part I – 12 June 2026 (AB26/07/114)
- 4.4 CoS CB Minutes Part I – 16 April 2026 (AB26/07/115)
- 4.5 CoS CB Minutes Part I – 18 June 2026 (AB26/07/116)
- 4.7 AC Minutes Part I – 2 June 2026 (AB26/07/117)

5. DECISION RELEASED FROM PART II

4.1 Conferment of Degrees and Awarding of Diplomas and Certificates (AB26/07/121)

AB26-39 RESOLVED: (Agreed)

THAT the Academic Board approves the degrees be conferred, and the certificates and diplomas be awarded to those as listed in the report, with the university seal affixed to the parchments.

CARRIED

6. MOVING INTO PART II - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (AB26/07/118)

AB26-37 RESOLVED: (Chair)

THAT the Academic Board exclude the public from the papers as noted in the table below.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason	Section 48(1) grounds
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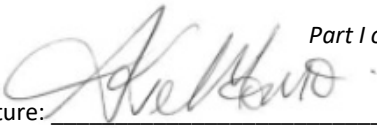
AB26/07/119	Confirmation of Minutes Academic Board Meeting 24 June 2026 - Part II	For the reasons set out in the Part I minutes of 24 June 2026 held with public present	
AB26/07/120	Action Schedule – Part II	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
AB26/07/121	Conferment of Degrees and Awarding of Diplomas and Certificates	Personal privacy	s7(2)(a)
Noting Papers			
URC Minutes Part II – 28 May 2026 (AB26/07/122) CoHSS College Board Minutes Part II – 12 June 2026 (AB26/07/123) CoS College Board Minutes Part II – 16 April 2026 (AB26/07/124) AC Minutes Part II – 2 June 2026 (AB26/07/125)			

This resolution was made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

CARRIED

Two members of the public left the meeting at 3.05pm.

Part I of the meeting closed at 3.05pm

Signature:  _____

Date: 26 August 2026



**MASSEY UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD**

**HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
ON
WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2026 AT 1.30PM**

PART I

Present: Professor Fiona Te Momo (Chair), Vice-Chancellor Professor Pierre Venter, Provost Professor Giselle Byrnes, DVC Māori Paora Ammunson, Dr Maria Borovnik, Te Tira Ahu Pae student representative Ayla Brook, Professor Darryl Cochrane, Professor Naomi Cogger, PVC Massey Business School (MBS) Professor Jonathan Elms, Professor Bill Fish, Ngā Haumi Ki Te Ao Kaiwhakahaere o Manawatahi Joseph Freeman, PVC College of Sciences (CoS) Professor Ray Geor, Dr Simon Hills, Professor Huia Jahnke, PVC College of Creative Arts (CoCA) Professor Margaret Maile, PVC College of Health (CoH) Professor Jill McCutcheon, DVC Students and Global Engagement (SaGE) Dr Tere McGonagle-Daly, Associate Professor Tara McLaughlin, Professor Hatice Ozer Balli, Professor Diane Pearson, Associate Professor Sam Richardson, Dr Marta Rychert, Professor Nicolette Sheridan, Professor Rochelle Stewart-Withers, Professor Kaye Thorn and PVC College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CoHSS) Professor Cynthia White.

In Attendance: Chancellor Alistair Davis, Council Member Michelle Matson [from 2.30pm], Chief of Staff Jodie Banner [from 1.45pm], Director Education Futures Jean Jacoby [until 3.20pm], International Research Rankings Advisor Dr Anita Muthukaruppan [Part I], Governance Advisor Christabelle Marshall and seven members of the public.

Apologies: Dean Pacific Professor Tasa Havea, Te Tira Ahu Pae General President Takunda Mabonga, Ngā Haumi Ki Te Ao Co-Tumuaki o Ōteihā/Pāmamao Mathew Rope, Pūkenga Tiriti Associate Professor Veronica Tawhai, Rongomaiaia Te Whaiti, and Matt Tini.

1. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

1.1 Welcome/Karakia

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia and welcomed all members present.

1.2 Apologies/Quorum

The apologies were received and accepted, with quorum confirmed.

1.3 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were noted.

1.4 Meeting Agenda Review

The Agenda Part I was received and confirmed with all papers taken as read.

1.5 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 22 July 2026 – Part I (AB26/08/126)

AB26-41 RESOLVED:

(Agreed)

“THAT the Academic Board adopts the minutes of Part I of the meeting held on 22 July 2026 as a true and correct record”

CARRIED

1.6 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

1.7 Action Schedule – Part I (AB26/08/127)

1.8 Academic Board Workplan 2026/2027 - Part I (AB26/08/128)

The Board noted the workplan for 2026/2027.

2. STRATEGIC UPDATES

2.1 Chair's Report (Verbal)

The Chair noted that there were opportunities for Board members to stand on Doctoral Research Committee, University Academic Promotions Committee and Honorary Awards Committee. Board members were encouraged to contact the Governance Advisor with expressions of interest. The Chair further noted recent events, including open days, the new University Strategy launch, the current Proposal for Change consultation period and the core constitutional role of Academic Board to nurture Massey's academic integrity and offer deeply considered, constructive advice. Also, that significant academic matters raised in correspondence had arrived outside the standard timelines, were acknowledged and that the statutory duty of the day was to focus on reading, listening, and understanding the *kōrero*, to ensure Academic Board implement formal consideration processes.

Chief of Staff Jodie Banner joined the meeting at 1.45pm.

2.2 Vice-Chancellor's Report (AB26/08/129)

The Vice-Chancellor spoke to the report and noted the recent strategy launch events that had taken place on all three campuses. He acknowledged those staff members involved in planning and preparation activities, particularly those in CoCA and SaGE, who had worked tirelessly in the delivery of the launch and all who attended the launch. It was noted that the University centenary was next year, and he looked forward to further acknowledging excellence through centenary events.

The Vice-Chancellor highlighted recent successes of Massey staff as detailed in his report, in particular the outstanding contributions to chemistry and physics from Distinguished Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, who has honoured with a special issue of the International Journal of Molecular Physics to celebrate his birthday.

2.3 Provost Report (Verbal)

The Provost provided an update on changes in the external operating environment, including research funding, and academic quality assurance. The Board discussed the changing research funding environment and noted the importance of transdisciplinary research.

2.4 Student Report (Verbal)

The student representatives provided an update on scheduled student consultation regarding generative artificial intelligence and noted that Te Tira Ahu Pae elections had commenced. Board members discussed the scheduled student consultation and suggested it would be useful if this included some questions around student perspective on complementary skills in a world with GenAI. Professor Cogger offered to support student representatives with the creation of the feedback form if that would be useful.

2.5 Research Rankings Update (AB26/08/130)

The International Research Rankings Advisor provided an update on Massey's international rankings performance in 2025-2026 and summarised strong performance that had contributed to the improved QS World University Rankings. It was noted that with the new University Strategy,

new rankings targets should be set and noted the importance of continuously lifting research quality and impact.

The Board discussed research quality and impact, and the measures associated with different rankings providers. It was noted that the QS World University Rankings was Massey's priority ranking, and it was questioned whether it would be timely for the university to reestablish a discreet research rankings strategy.

3. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

3.1 CUAP Proposal (AB26/08/131)

AB26-42 RESOLVED: (Agreed)

THAT the Academic Board recommends the CUAP proposal to the Vice-Chancellor for approval and forwarding to CUAP for approval/noting.

CARRIED

4. PAPERS FOR NOTING

The Board noted the papers as listed.

- 4.1 Human Ethics Committees Annual Report (AB26/08/132)
- 4.2 Massey Business School Board Minutes 9 June 2026 – Part I (AB26/08/133)
- 4.3 Massey Business School Board Minutes 16 July 2026 – Part I (AB26/08/134)
- 4.4 College of Health College Board Minutes 16 June 2026 – Part I (AB26/08/135)
- 4.5 College of Sciences College Board Minutes 18 June 2026 – Part I (AB26/08/136)
- 4.6 Academic Committee Minutes 7 July 2026 – Part I (AB26/08/137)
- 4.7 College of Humanities and Social Sciences College Board Minutes 3 July 2026 – Part I (AB26/08/138)

5. DECISION RELEASED FROM PART II

4.1 Conferment of Degrees and Awarding of Diplomas and Certificates (AB26/08/143)

AB26-46 RESOLVED: (Agreed)

THAT the Academic Board approves the degrees be conferred, and the certificates and diplomas be awarded to those as listed in the report, with the university seal affixed to the parchments.

CARRIED

6. MOVING INTO PART II - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC (AB26/08/139)

AB26-43 RESOLVED: (Chair)

THAT the Academic Board exclude the public from the papers as noted in the table below.

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason	Section 48(1) grounds
AB26/08/140	Confirmation of Minutes Academic Board Meeting 22 July 2026 - Part II	For the reasons set out in the Part I minutes of 22 July 2026 held with public present	
AB26/08/141	Action Schedule – Part II	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
AB26/08/142	Generative Artificial Intelligence Discussion	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
AB26/08/149	Academic Board advice on Proposal for Change	Improper gain or advantage Free and frank opinions	s7(2)(j) s7(2)(f)(i)

AB26/08/143	Conferment of Degrees and Awarding of Diplomas and Certificates	Personal privacy	s7(2)(a)
Noting Papers			
Massey Business School Board Minutes 16 July 2026 – Part II (AB26/08/144) College of Health College Board Minutes 16 June 2026 – Part II (AB26/08/145) College of Sciences College Board Minutes 18 June 2026 – Part II (AB26/08/146) Academic Committee Minutes 7 July 2026 – Part II (AB26/08/147) College of Humanities and Social Sciences College Board Minutes 3 July 2026 – Part II (AB26/08/148)			

This resolution was made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public as stated in the above table.

CARRIED

Eight members of the public left the meeting at 2.30pm.

Part I of the meeting closed at 2.30pm

Signature:  _____

Date: 23 September 2026

Public Exclusion

Recommendation

That Council exclude the public from the papers as noted in the table below:

General subject of each matter to be considered		Reason	Section 48(1) grounds
C26/107	Confirmation of Minutes Council Meeting 16 July 2026 – Part II	For the reasons set out in the public exclusion resolution of 14 May 2026 held with public present.	
C26/108	External Review Report	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/109 – 115	Vice-Chancellor Strategic Updates and Performance Reporting	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/116	FAC Chair's Report	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/117	Business Case	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/118	Ratification of E-Ballot	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)

C26/122	Council Action Schedule – Part II	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
C26/123	Council Work Plan 2026/2027	Improper gain or advantage	s7(2)(j)
Noting Papers			
i)	AB Minutes, 22 July 2026 (Confirmed) – Part II (C26/119)		
ii)	AB Minutes, 26 August 2026 (Confirmed) – Part II (C26/120)		
iii)	FAC Minutes, 19 August 2026 (Unconfirmed) – Part II (C26/121)		

Environment Sensing – Potential Impacts

Recommendation

That Council note this report.

Purpose

- For context and information.

Alignment to Strategy/Governance Responsibilities

1. This report provides a high-level overview of signals and potential changes in the university's external operating environment and potential impacts on the university strategy, funding and operations.
2. Massey should remain vigilant to policy, funding, and market changes, while maintaining financial discipline and sufficient strategic flexibility to respond quickly to emerging risks and opportunities.

Research, Science, Innovation & Tech System reforms

3. **Research funding environment remains in transition.** The opening of the **Transition Research Fund (TRF)** has been delayed pending publication of Pillar Investment Plans and amendments to the Gazette Notice. While application deadlines remain unchanged, this compresses preparation time and increases workload for researchers and Research Operations.
4. **TREF implementation is progressing into detailed design.** Sector engagement has focused on research impact measurement, commercialisation outcomes, policy impact metrics, future funding settings, and fee regulation. Massey has provided formal feedback to government consultation processes.
5. **Centres of Research Excellence (CoREs) review** may reshape future research investment. The review of the CoRE framework has progressed to ministerial consideration, with potential implementation planning from 2027. This could

reshape future CoRE funding arrangements, university research collaborations and strategic research investments across institutions. During the Minister for Research Science and Technology's visit to the Riddet Institute in August, the Minister was very positive about the Riddet CoRE and its ongoing high-value contribution to the NZ economy, understanding the importance of the link between fundamental research and applied research with industry engagement, and impressed at the large number of doctoral students who study at the Riddet. Recruitment of the new Riddet Director is nearing completion.

6. **National International Science Strategy remains at an early stage.** Initial university consultation has occurred, but no further detail has been provided by MBIE and the implications for Massey remain unclear.

International enrolment changing regulatory environment:

7. **International postgraduate research faces emerging policy risk.**

The Minister for Tertiary Education, Hon Penny Simmonds, has responded positively to concerns raised by universities regarding an upcoming review of International PhD funding and the resulting uncertainty for international students. Minister Simmonds has advised that current domestic fee-status settings will apply to international PhD students who commence study before 1 January 2028 and those who have accepted an Offer of Place with a NZ university and submitted a visa application before 1 January 2028. This decision will be enacted through an update to the Education (Domestic Student: Tertiary Education and Vocational Education and Training) Notice 2025 during 2027, with the updated notice in place before 1 January 2028.

8. Separately proposed caps on international PhD tuition subsidies from 2027 could reduce international doctoral enrolments, with potential impacts on research capacity, talent pipelines, and Massey's international reputation. Research Office

Environment Sensing – Potential Impacts

are working to identify operational implications of this. Note the softcap is not part of the review and comes into effect from 2027.

9. **Funding changes present both revenue opportunities and student retention risks.** Fee cap increases may provide additional tuition revenue, while the phase-out of final-year Fees Free is expected to increase financial hardship and retention pressures for some students.
10. **Online delivery settings reinforce Massey's competitive advantage.** TEC policy clarification provides greater certainty for distance and online education, supporting growth in transnational and blended delivery and reinforcing Massey's market leadership in this area.
11. **International recruitment and compliance requirements are becoming more stringent.** Increased Immigration New Zealand scrutiny and the transition to a continuous, risk-based quality assurance framework (iQAF) heighten the importance of ongoing compliance, partner oversight, and student welfare monitoring. Pathway provider performance will become increasingly important from 2027.

Te Tiriti and Māori Policy Issues

Māori Student Success

12. **Limited pool of Māori school leavers with UE.** Despite gradual recent growth, the pool of Māori school leavers with University Entrance and te reo Māori capability remains limited, relative to the large number of rangatahi Māori leaving school without the qualifications required for tertiary study. This underscores the need for closer engagement with schools to strengthen the pipeline into tertiary study and te reo Māori programme offerings.

Tiriti Matters

13. **Political and social environment.** Te Tiriti o Waitangi issues are likely to remain highly visible during the election period, with concerns about the removal or weakening of Treaty references in legislation and increasingly polarised public discourse. Massey will need to balance academic freedom with ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff and students.
14. **Role of the University.** The current environment presents an opportunity for Massey to strengthen its role as the critical conscience of society by contributing evidence-based, thoughtful perspectives on identity, nationhood, constitutional issues, and social policy.
15. **Implications for practice.** Government policy continues to recognise the importance of Te Tiriti and culturally responsive approaches in areas such as health. Evidence that culturally affirming services achieve better outcomes for Māori reinforces the need for Massey to continue embedding culturally responsive approaches in teaching, student support, engagement, and partnership activities.

Māori and Iwi Relations

16. **Positive engagement and reputation.** Massey successfully hosted Te Huinga Tauira, demonstrating strong Māori student leadership and capability. Feedback from iwi at the Strategy launch was highly positive, particularly regarding the University's strengthened focus on food and fibre, regional development, and partnership.
17. **Emerging partnership opportunities.** Growing iwi interest in innovation and indigenous-led development aligns strongly with Massey's strategic direction. Recent initiatives, including Waikato-Tainui's new innovation fund, highlight potential opportunities for collaboration in indigenous innovation, mission-led research, and regional development.