
To	Te Poari Mātauranga Academic Board Chairs Ako Ahimura, QAB, Academic Approvals Committee	From	Simon Nash, Chair Academic Board
Title	NZIST and Academic Governance	Date	2 April 2020

Recommendation/s

That the recipients listed above accept the following report, and that Academic Committee Chairs include this memo in agendas for discussion at their respective committees.

That you make a cup of tea to read this...

Purpose

To provide Academic Governance Committee members with current advice on the impact of NZIST formation on Unitec's academic governance arrangements.

Structural Changes

The new decision-making structure is as per the diagram on the final page. Key points:

Unitec became a fully-owned subsidiary of NZIST on 1st April. The relevant statutes for formation of NZIST and Unitec as a subsidiary are:

- Education Act 1989, as amended by the Education (Vocational Education and Training Reform) Amendment Act 2020
- Crown Entities Act 2004
- Companies Act 1993

Unitec NZ Limited is now subject to that legislation, and must comply with an *Operational And Financial Parameters Direction* (OFP), which sets out what operational decisions Unitec can make, and what we need to consult with NZIST on, and what matters NZIST will make decisions on.

A number of these structural changes are relevant to our academic governance:

(1) Our new Unitec Board of Directors

- We must have a **Board of Directors** (this is a company 'board', not to be confused with an 'academic board'). Our Board of Directors has been appointed and is here <https://www.iestablishment.ac.nz/news/mit-and-unitec-subsidary-board-of-directors-appointed/>
- Boards of Directors replace Councils, and in our case, replaces our Commissioner Murray Strong.
- Boards are appointed initially for two years. This is largely because NZIST is now developing its own management and leadership structures and decision-making structures and will want to review the Board structure and membership at some point.

(2) A new national NZIST Academic Board

- We also have an NZIST **Academic Board** that will be appointed by NZIST's Council. This is yet to be done. It will also have a new title – something other than 'Academic Board'.
- Unitec's Academic Board (you) will become an NZIST Subsidiary 'Academic Committee' of the new NZIST Academic Board.
- Our subcommittees of Academic Board (also you) will become 'Academic Subcommittees' of the Unitec Academic Committee.

Impact of these changes on academic governance

Impacts will emerge over time. Unitec will continue to operate as it has, but subject to the restrictions set out in the 'Governance Framework' and OFP for each NZIST Subsidiary. That framework makes it clear where Unitec needs consent, or to consult with NZIST.

Where NZIST needs to make a decision on an academic matter, the NZIST Council will refer the matter to its Academic Board.

Unitec's Academic Committee will have responsibility to two new bodies:

- First, our delegated authority will come from our '**Board of Directors**' rather than our 'Council' or 'Commissioner'. We'll get a new delegated authority and Terms of Reference, but for now there's no immediate change to functions or your membership. It's likely that over time our Board of Directors will be more active in seeking changes such as different reporting from us. As the Board makes strategic decisions about Unitec's direction, this will filter through in the substance of decisions Academic Board must make.
- Second, we will report to the **NZIST Academic Board**. This Board is not yet formed, but over time we will see changes to things like how much autonomy Unitec has over programme design and curriculum.

For now, our committee structure will remain as it is, and your membership remains. Our titles will change to Academic 'Committee' and Academic 'Subcommittees', and there will be some things our Committees secretary needs to do differently in the background over time, e.g. you'll see things like name changes coming through on documentation.

Next Steps

We will continue to exercise our existing delegated authority and responsibilities as Academic Board and Subcommittees of Academic Board. We have many important points of oversight for learner success and academic quality that are not changing in the near future, and for which we need to continue to take responsibility.

I will keep you informed of changes and impacts as they arise, and we will keep discussing them. At this stage, as Chair of Academic Board I have had no direct communication from NZIST or our new Board on any forthcoming changes.

We will establish a plan for changeover of things like titles, documentation, etc.

B. NZIST Academic Decision Making Structure



