

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Mātauranga

4th November 2020

Title	Academic Recovery Committee Summary for late August/September to October
Provided by:	Chris King – Chair of Academic Recovery Committee
For:	Information for Te Komiti Mātauranga

Recommendation

That Te Komiti Mātauranga receives this update for its information.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide a Chair's summary of Academic Recovery Committee meetings from late August/September to October 2020, and a link to Minutes approved to date for the same period.

Key Points

ARC last reported to Academic Board on the 26th of August, providing a Chair's summary for June to August, and minutes for May to early-August. This summary noted the change of Chair to Chris King, and the reformation of ARC in response to the second Covid-19 lockdown. Since then ARC has formally met 10 times, on the 18th, 20th and 27th of August, the 1st, 3rd, 10th, 18th and 24th of September, and the 1st and 15th of October.

During and subsequent to the second lockdown on the 12th of August, the majority of the committee's work has been focused on principles, processes, and communication related to online teaching, staff access to campus, classes returning to campus or remaining online, assessment changes, and course extensions under Level 3, Level 2.5 and 2, and Level 1. Student experience and learner success was prioritised in all discussion, and all decisions were under-pinned by our values of Te Noho Kotahitanga.

Requests to remain online under Level 2

Under Level 2 ARC set an expectation that, unless a decision was made in the best interests of learners to remain online, all courses would resume face-to-face teaching on campus from Monday the 31st of August. Any decisions to remain online required support and approval from the Academic Programme Manager, the Head of School, and ARC. The majority of courses returned to campus at the end of August/start of September, with a small number of courses approved to remain online. This was primarily for a further two-weeks, and primarily in Applied Business, Environmental and Animal Sciences, and Building & Construction. All courses across Unitec are now back to pre-lockdown timetables and delivery modes.

Assessment Changes

ARC direction was that while Unitec campuses are open to students, any assessments required to be held under secure, invigilated, or closed book conditions must be conducted on campus and cannot be shifted online. Further communication to academic staff was that significant changes to assessments (which are any changes that deviate from the course descriptor including changes in type, weighting, or mode) require prior approval from Te Puna Ako and Te Korowai Kahurangi before submission to ARC. Approval is not required for minor changes to assessments that do not result in a deviation from the course descriptor. No assessment change requests have been received by ARC to date.

Extensions to Course Durations

Extensions beyond course or semester end dates have a significant impact on students, including StudyLink for domestic students, visa implications for international students, and disruptions to work and family commitments. The decision of ARC was therefore that other than for work placement related reasons, course duration extensions would only be approved in exceptional circumstances. Applications require support from Te Puna Ako, Te Korowai Kahurangi, the Student Rep or Student Council, Unitec staff responsible for TEC and StudyLink funding, Timetabling, and International Student Support before submission for approval by ARC.

As of the 28th of October, one course duration extension (HTCS6707-SB Cybersecurity Project) has been approved and one set of course duration extensions is on the Agenda for consideration in the 29th of October ARC hui (NZCCT New Zealand Certificate in Construction Trade Skills).

Attachments

[Link to minutes approved to date for ARC meetings from August to October](#)