agenda

Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	**2024-09-12**
Scheduled Start:	1300h
Scheduled End:	1500h
Location:	Microsoft Teams

SECTION 1 — NGĀ KUPU ARATAKI | PRELIMINARIES

1. Karakia Tīmatanga | Opening Prayer
2. Mihi Whakatau | Welcome from the Chair
3. Membership
4. Terms of Reference

SECTION 2 — STANDING ITEMS

1. Ngā Whakapāha | Attendance, Apologies & Quorate Status
2. Pitopito Kōrero o Ngā Hui | Minutes of the Previous Meetings
3. Mahia Atu | Matters Arising

SECTION 3 — MEA HEI WHAKAAE | ITEMS TO APPROVE

1. Nomination for Appointment of an Honorary Research Fellow – Joanne Aley, Environmental & Animal Sciences
2. Nomination for Appointment of an Honorary Research Fellow - Dr Pouroto Ngaropo, Creative Industries

SECTION 4 — WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. URC Representation on the MIT Research Committee
2. Feedback from the VET Reform Unitec Kaimahi Workshop

SECTION 5 — NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

1. Outcome of Review of Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan
2. 2024 Early Career Researcher Funding Progress Reports

      a. Dr Caralyn Kemp
      b. A/P Kristie Cameron
      c. Dr Mary Yan
      d. Tanya White
3. 2023 Early Career Researcher Funding Final Reporting
      a. Madhusudan Vyas
      b. Dr Irene Ayallo
4. 2025 MBIE Endeavour Fund Smart Ideas – Internal Triaging Process

SECTION 6   KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

1. Ētahi Kaupapa Anō | Any Other Business
2. Komiti Self-Assessment
3. Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Karakia

SECTION 1   NGĀ KUPU ARATAKI | PRELIMINARIES

Item 1.1   Karakia Tīmatanga | Opening Prayer

KARAKIA TĪMATANGA	OPENING PRAYER
Manawa mai te mauri nuku	*Embrace the power of the earth*
Manawa mai te mauri rangi	*Embrace the power of the sky*
Ko te mauri kai au	*The power I have*
He mauri tipua	*Is mystical*
Ka pakaru mai te pō	*And shatters all darkness*
Tau mai te mauri	*Cometh the light*
Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē!	*Join it, gather it, it is done!*

Item 1.2   Mihi Whakatau | Welcome from the Chair

Item 1.3   Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec Membership

Hadley Brown (Chair)	Nominee of Director Research & Enterprise
Daisy Bentley-Gray (Emerging)	Nominee of Interim Manager Pacific Success
Tanya White (Early Career)	Nominee of Director (Acting), Māori Success
Dr Helen Gremillion (Professor)	Healthcare and Social Practice
Xinxin Wang	Architecture
Kambiz Borna	Building Construction
Dr Lian Wu (Associate Professor)	Healthcare and Social Practice
Dr Hamid Sharifzadeh (Professor)	Computing, Electrical and Applied Technology
Dr Leon Tan (Associate Professor)	Creative Industries
Dr Kristie Cameron (Associate Professor/ Early Career)	Environmental & Animal Sciences
Khaled Ibrahim	Applied Business

Vacant	Bridgepoint
Dr Norasieh Md Amin (Subject Librarian)	Library
Christine Fusio (Student President)	Nominee of Student Council
Arun Deo (Research Advisor)	Tūāpapa Rangahau
In attendance: Brenda Massey (Acting Secretary)	Tūāpapa Rangahau

Item 1.4   Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec Terms of Reference

The powers and functions of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec (URC) shall be to:

a. Foster the conduct of research, and support the achievement of Unitec's strategic research, enterprise and innovation priorities.

b. Propose and advise on strategic directions and priorities for research, enterprise, and innovation.

c. Provide expert advice on institutional policy.

d. Develop protocols and guidelines and make recommendations in relation to the conduct of research, enterprise, and innovation.

e. Oversee the Grants Advisory Committee and the reporting of funded projects.

f. Encourage and enhance the development of the research, enterprise, and innovation culture along with student and staff research capability, with emphasis on the development of Māori and Pacific research capability.

g. Oversee the monitoring of research outputs and research reporting.

h. Foster Māori and Pacific, transdisciplinary, collaborative and externally engaged research, enterprise, and innovation.

SECTION 2   STANDING ITEMS

Section 2.1   Ngā Whakapāha | Attendance, Apologies & Quorate Status

RECOMMENDATION
That the committee accepts the apologies of today's meeting.

Section 2.2   Pitopito Kōrero o Ngā Hui | Minutes of the Previous Meetings
refer to pg6

RECOMMENDATION
That the committee approves the minutes of the meeting of 2024-08-08.

Section 2.3   Mahia Atu | Matters Arising
refer to pg13

SECTION 3   MEI HEI WHAKAAE | ITEMS TO APPROVE

SECTION 4   WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

SECTION 5   NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

SECTION 6   KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

Section 6.1   **Ētahi Kaupapa Anō | Any Other Business**

Section 6.2   Komiti Self-Assessment
refer to

Section 6.3   Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Karakia

TE KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA	CLOSING PRAYER
Ka wehe atu tātou	*We are departing*
I raro i te rangimārie	*Peacefully*
Te harikoa	*Joyfully*
Me te manawanui	*And resolute*
Haumi ē, Hui ē, Tāiki ē!	*We are united, progressing forward!*

Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	2024-08-08
Scheduled Start:	1300h
Scheduled End:	1500h
Location:	Microsoft Teams

MEETING OPENED:	1300h

SECTION 1 – NGĀ KUPU ARATAKI | PRELIMINARIES

Item 1.1   Karakia Tīmatanga | Opening Prayer

Item 1.2   Mihi Whakatau | Welcome from the Chair

Marcus Williams chaired today's meeting as Hadley Brown is on leave. The meeting had student representation today, with Christine Fusio, Student President, in attendance. Christine was warmly welcomed to the meeting.

SECTION 2 – STANDING ITEMS

Item 2.1   Ngā Whakapāha | Attendance, Apologies & Quorate Status

Members Present

1. Marcus Williams (Acting Chair)
2. Christine Fusio
3. Arun Deo
4. Nora Md Amin
5. Daisy Bentley-Gray
6. Xinxin Wang
7. Helen Gremillion
8. Kristie Cameron
9. Lian Wu
10. Hamid Sharifzadeh
11. Leon Tan
12. Khaled Ibrahim

Total members represented: 12 members

Apologies

1. Kambiz Borna
2. Tanya White

Total apologies: 2 members

MOTION

That the committee accepts the apologies for today's meeting.

Moved: Marcus Williams
Seconded: Kristie Cameron

MOTION CARRIED

Quorate Status

A minimum of seven representatives is required; the meeting was quorate.

Hunga Mahi | Staff in Attendance

1. Brenda Massey, Acting Secretary

Item 2.2   Pitopito Kōrero o Ngā Hui | Minutes of Previous Meeting

---

MOTION

That the committee approves the minutes of the 2024-07-11 meeting as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Arun Deo
Seconded: Nora Md Amin

MOTION CARRIED

Item 2.3   Mahia Atu | Matters Arising

Agenda Item(s)	Action	Responsible	Outcome
2.3a	Seek a memo from Marcus Williams updating the committee on whether there will be a 2024 Unitec Research Symposium.	Hadley Brown / Brenda Massey	Complete – on agenda
2.3b	Consult Hinekura Smith, Daisy Bentley-Gray and Marcus Williams on proposed revisions to the Actions under Priority One of the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan and then report back to the committee.	Hadley Brown/ Tanya White	Complete – a memo will be presented to the committee next month
4.1	Propose a new exclusion criteria for the RPTL to Te Komiti Mātauranga (TKM): that staff returning from extended medical leave be excluded from the RPTL for a period of one year following the sickness; extended leave being defined as a period of medical leave lasting three months or more. Ensure the RPTL guidelines are explicit that programmes have the option to exclude staff returning from maternity or extended medical leave, as some staff may still produce	Arun Deo	Complete – these matters will be considered by TKM at its meeting next week.

outputs during these types of leave, and it would therefore be beneficial to include them in the RPTL.		

SECTION 3 – MEA HEI WHAKAAE | ITEMS TO APPROVE

Section 3.1   2023 Unitec Research Report

This item should have been scheduled in Section 5. The report is meant for the committee to receive not approve, as the report is commissioned by Te Komiti Mātauranga (TKM). It will be going to them for approval next week.

Arun Deo talked the committee through the Executive Summary section of the report, noting that this section is partitioned in line with the three priorities of the Unitec Research Strategy.

Priority One: Research that is aligned with Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Highlights include Ngā Wai a Te Tūī contributing 34% of the total external research income (ERI) at Unitec in 2023.

Priority Two: A flourishing, collaborative research culture. Highlights include that 441 research outputs were produced in 2023 (335 of these being quality assured), including 85 where the co-authors with staff were current or recent Unitec students. Eighty eight percent of degree programmes are green-lit, with an average of 2.09 quality assured outputs to FTE of degree teaching staff.

Priority Three: Partnered research and innovation. Highlights include that there were 39 industry-funded projects in 2023 and that ERI totalled $1.46m. Four Research Centres contributed 82% of Unitec's ERI, while the Schools produced 18%. The inaugural Pacific Research Symposium was another highlight, as well as ePress publishing quality assured research outputs for 50 Unitec staff members and 106 staff members from other ITPs.

The committee reviewed Table 3 which depicts research output counts where the co-authors were current or recent Unitec students. The general trend since data began to be collected in 2020 shows that there has been an increase in the number of student integrated research outputs year on year, although there was a slight drop in 2023 from 2022. Reasons for this could have been changes to Unitec's postgraduate programmes in 2023 and/or that a Research Symposium was not held in 2023 (staff and students often present together).

While there were many highlights in 2023, Unitec continues to experience disruption due to the ongoing reform of the ITP sector, with three of our Research Centres now on hiatus for example. Nevertheless, we can be proud of the ongoing success in our space despite the challenges and some losses.

Action: Arun Deo to distribute the report once it has been approved by TKM as follows: Senior Leadership Team, Heads of School, Research Leaders, Academic Programme Managers. Recipients should be encouraged to distribute it as they see fit, with a note that it is a document produced predominantly for internal purposes.

Marcus Williams thanked Arun for leading the development of the report.

SECTION 4 - WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Section 4.1   University Advisory Group: Submissions Sought for Phase 2

The committee was presented with the questions for submission for Phase 2 for the University Advisory Group (UAG).

The consultation questions are targeted at universities, rather than tertiary education organisations in general, so engaging with them as an ITP is challenging. Martin Carroll tasked Marcus Williams with facilitating a consultation session with the Senior Leadership Team specifically seeking feedback on the questions within the context of 'how could this review impact on our sector'?

For example, for question 8: "How can the university system best respond to the demand for trans-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research and graduates"? it was pointed out that our sector already responds to the demand for trans-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research and graduates very well because we are very community and industry partnered. We are responsive to the needs of industry, rather than being bound by hierarchical structures such as those that exist within universities. While the notion of academic disciplines exists in our sector, they're much more guided and informed by industry and community.

For questions 15 and 16: "Are current arrangements for university governance and management appropriate for ensuring optimal performance, quality assurance, and strategic focus on institutional and national needs"? and "What is the role and scope for academic-led decision-making that is desirable in a university"?, Unitec has some really good systems in place in terms of quality assurance.

In terms of question 17 "Are the policy-setting structures and arrangements for higher education optimal? Are there options for improvement"?, we could advocate for ITPs to have input into this. At the moment, the questions posed are still very high level.

A summary of some of the best comments that came out of the consultation Marcus held was:

- New Zealand is a very small economy, and its higher education ecosystem is concomitantly small. So, while some competition is good, operating within a highly competitive model is not particularly helpful.
- There should be a joined-up governance approach where the sectors that do what they do best are supported to do that and other sectors that do what they do best are supported to do this. Rather than universities competing for the applied teaching and research space, and ITPs competing for blue sky teaching and research space, there could be better leadership and therefore better funding for specialised aspects of the higher education ecosystem.
- The opportunity to reassert those comments that came through in the Science System Advisory Group (SSAG) review around our levels of community and industry connectiveness was emphasised. We have a very wide regional footprint. We are located in our communities in places like Thames and Kaitaia, and we know, and are the people that live in, communities in New Zealand, and this is a strength that the UAG review shouldn't ignore.

Kristie Cameron is part of the Royal Society's ECR Forum and is currently drafting a submission to the SSAG review with a focus on ECRs. During this process it has become apparent that universities don't seem to be navigating what industry partnership relationships they have particularly well. Students often leave university with no idea how to connect with industries or communities. Kristie

is attempting to be as forthright and outspoken as possible about the fact that we've been left out of the consultation, yet we're the best people to be listened to because we've got proof of concept. We are good at this; it is the cornerstone of what we do.

Marcus confirmed that we are articulating our presence clearly and loudly at every opportunity. Jamie Smiler is coordinating feedback to the UAG on behalf of Te Pūkenga. Unitec and MIT may choose to submit feedback separately. All feedback will be divvied up in the most strategic way led by Martin Carroll.

Action: Brenda Massey to summarise the committee's feedback on the UAG's consultation and Marcus Williams to supply it to Martin Carroll and Jamie Smiler.

SECTION 5 - NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

Section 5.1　　　　　2024 ITP Research Symposium

A paper was presented in response to 2.3a of matters arising "will Unitec be holding a 2024 Research Symposium".

Technically the answer is 'no', however Unitec will be hosting a stream of a national symposium that is being held 2-6 December in Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland), Ōtautahi (Christchurch) and wānanga ipurangi (online). A Pacific research stream will run on the 2nd and 3rd. The Unitec stream will run face-to-face on the 2nd. There will be an online stream on the 4th. Otago Poly, SIT and Ara will run a stream on the 5th and 6th.

Unitec's offerings will include workshops, one of which is already in the planning stages: seeking and winning external research funding, and others are being encouraged. There will be meetings of the Communities of Practice that exist across the motu, e.g., CITRENZ which spans all disciplines of computing and information technology education. There will also be a Māori research forum.

The week of events is being convened by Jamie Smiler and registrations are flowing in already.

The face-to-face events at Unitec will be hosted by Tūāpapa Rangahau, and the Pacific Centre in the case of the Pacific stream with support from Tūāpapa Rangahau. It is hoped that we will get people from other organisations joining us, particularly from NorthTec and MIT.

Jamie Smiler will be releasing a definitive definition of the type of research output that will be generated from this event shortly. He is currently taking advice from the TEC.

SECTION 6 - KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

Section 6.1　　　　　Ētahi Kaupapa Anō | Any Other Business

Hon. Penny Simmonds visited our divisions in Tāmaki last Friday. It allowed the extended Leadership Teams to hear about the Minister's vision for the sector and ask questions. The sessions were part of Minister Simmonds' tour of regional providers and not part of the VET reforms consultation that was released the day before (the visits were originally planned for last month but needed to be rescheduled). However, the Minister did want to emphasise the key role both MIT and Unitec will play in helping their wider communities engage with the change proposals.

The Minister is proposing that the more financially successful business divisions of Te Pūkenga would revert to standing alone once the dissolution of Te Pūkenga is complete, while the less successful business divisions that are currently struggling with reduced student numbers, the current funding model etc would form a federation that would sit under the auspices of the Open Polytechnic. The federation would strive towards achieving a more financially sustainable model than is currently the case.

The proposal is currently open for consultation, with the outcome expected to be released in November.

In the meantime, in the research space, we have a National Research Director, Jamie Smiler, who now chairs the Rangahau Research Forum (RRF) which has existed for many years and of which Marcus Williams is an active member. Jamie is also leading initiatives such as the 2024 ITP Research Symposium, and the full integration of all the business divisions into the Research Output Management System (ROMS). Marcus and Arun Deo led six other ITPs to join the Unitec ROMS licence some years ago. Now approximately 11 or 12 ITPs are utilising ROMS and once Jamie's piece of work is complete, all the ITPs or federation members will be incorporated into ROMS. This means we will have a common way of measuring our productivity and verifying our research outputs. That's very powerful because then we can start to compare, for example, Social Practice's research performance across the motu, we can start understanding the data by programme, by School, by business division etc, and we can start leading change. This will provide us with much more information in terms of how we use the funding and other levers we have to achieve our goals, one of which is to ensure that most staff teaching on degree programmes are research engaged. While the consultation is happening, we will continue to work together within the RRF in a very collaborative manner, and whatever happens, we can still continue to collaborate and to leverage our collaborative potential together.

During the Minister's visit, assurance was sought that our students wouldn't be left at the mercy of the universities making decisions for us. The Minister's response was that degrees and postgraduate degrees, and research are very much part of VET.

It was queried whether there is the option for any kind of function to stay national or be nationally delivered. It doesn't seem like it from the consultation document. So many opportunities have opened up and new connections have been built over the past few years. If we return to the way we were competing with each other in the PBRF, enrolments, EFTs, the international market etc, then that collegiality might not stay the same.

The answer is we don't know, but it seems that the Executive is supportive of some functions remaining national so the opportunity may not be off the table. It was reiterated that, even if there are no national functions, like research for example, we can continue to operate collaboratively and remain hopeful that we can extract some evidence based logical outcomes from the situation. We are already small fish in a big pond and if we're competing with each other as small fish we limit our potential even further.

Section 6.2   Komiti Self-Assessment

An opportunity was given for the committee to reflect on their self-assessment provocations. The committee is reminded that feedback on any aspect of the committee's operation can be emailed to the Chair or the Secretary at any time (in confidence if requested).

Section 6.3   **Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Karakia**

MEETING CLOSED:	1350 h

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Agenda Item(s)	Action	Responsible	Outcome
2.3	Present a memo to the committee next month on proposed revisions to the Actions under Priority One of the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan.	Hadley Brown	
3.1	Distribute the 2023 Research Report once it has been approved by TKM as follows: Senior Leadership Team, Heads of School, Research Leaders, Academic Programme Managers. Recipients should be encouraged to distribute it as they see fit, with a note that it is a document produced predominantly for internal purposes.	Arun Deo	
4.1	Summarise the committee's feedback on the UAG's consultation and supply it to Martin Carroll and Jamie Smiler.	Brenda Massey / Marcus Williams	

MATTERS ARISING

Agenda Item(s)	Action	Responsible	Outcome
2.3 (July URC meeting)	Provide an update to the committee on a draft submission to IT and Academic Committee on the difficulties Unitec's IT policies and procedures are posing to teaching and research endeavours.	Leon Tan	A memo has been submitted to TKM for consideration at their Sept meeting.
4.1 (July URC meeting)	Propose a new exclusion criteria for the RPTL to Te Komiti Mātauranga: that staff returning from extended medical leave be excluded from the RPTL for a period of one year following the sickness; extended leave being defined as a period of medical leave lasting three months or more. Ensure the RPTL guidelines are explicit that programmes have the option to exclude staff returning from maternity or extended medical leave, as some staff may still produce outputs during these types of leave, and it would therefore be beneficial to include them in the RPTL.	Arun Deo	Complete. The request for RPTL criteria change has been approved by TKM. Marcus Williams wishes to thank committee members for their mahi. Arun has implemented the wording change into the terms of reference, and Marcus thanks him also for his work on this.
2.3	Present a memo to the committee on proposed revisions to the Actions under Priority One of the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan.	Hadley Brown	Complete – on agenda
3.1	Distribute the 2023 Research Report once it has been approved by TKM as follows: Senior Leadership Team, Heads of School, Research Leaders, Academic Programme Managers. Recipients should be encouraged to distribute it as they see fit, with a note that it is a document produced predominantly for internal purposes.	Arun Deo	Complete
4.1	Summarise the committee's feedback on the UAG's consultation and supply it to Martin Carroll and Jamie Smiler.	Brenda Massey / Marcus Williams	Complete

memo

To	Unitec Research Committee	Date	August 27th, 2024
From	Associate Professor Laura Harvey		
	Head of Environmental and Animal Sciences		
Subject	Nominations for Appointment of an Honorary Research Fellow		

I am requesting that the Unitec Research Committee approves the appointment of Joanne Aley as an Honorary Research Fellow within the School of Environmental and Animal Sciences.

Jo is an expert in human behaviour change with a wide range of experience across conservation and biodiversity projects. She is currently a Principal Social Scientist with Auckland Council, working on climate action, and previously worked at the Department of Conservation in New Zealand as a Senior Science Advisor in Social and Behavioural Science. Jo's appointment to Honorary Research Fellow would add value to the teaching and research environment in the School of Environmental and Animal Sciences at Unitec via her advanced knowledge in applying behavioural science for environmental, sustainability, and social challenges. This is an area currently limited in our department, but is of great importance as our researchers aim to improve environmental outcomes. Creating a stronger connection between our School and Jo will create opportunities for staff and students in expanding the range of projects we have the skill set to tackle and in improving project outcomes.

Jo has previously been an Honorary Research Fellow with our School, but this period has elapsed. We wish to continue her position with us for another 3 years.

I appreciate your consideration of this appointment.

Nga mihi,

Assoc Prof Laura Harvey MSc(AdvPracVN), PGCertVetEduc, BSc, Te Pōkaitahi Tikanga

Unitec

For Approval

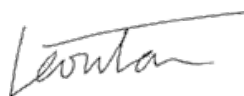| **To**	Unitec Research Committee	**From**	Associate Professor Leon Tan
Title	Nomination for Appointment of an Honorary Research Fellow	**Date**	2024 / 08 / 28

I propose that the Unitec Research Committee approves this request to appoint Dr. Pouroto Ngaropo (Mataatua, Te Arawa, Tainui, Takitimu, Ngātokimatawhaorua) as an Honorary Research Fellow for the period September 2024 to December 2025.

Dr. Ngaropo is a leading tohunga and cultural ambassador for knowledge in mātauranga Māori, kawa and tikanga. His leadership and contribution to Māori education, Māori media and hauora Māori is recognized both nationally and internationally. Ngaropo is a descendent of the ancestress Wairaka, after whom this place is named. As such, he is kaitiaki of the tribal history of the Mataatua as this relates to Te Noho Kotahitanga marae and its wāhi tapu, not least, Te Wai Unuroa o Wairaka (The Long Drink of Wairaka), the aquifer fed freshwater stream that emerges and flows across the Unitec campus and beyond.

As a research partner, Ngaropo has collaborated extensively with Ngā Kaitiaki Taiao ō te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka, Unitec, Te Pūkenga, a rōpu of community stakeholders (including staff, students, iwi, community groups, MHUD, and the Corrections Community Workforce), based at Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae. In 2022, we developed Te Pātaka Art Trail as a 3-month long programme of public art and creative placemaking activities in the current and former campus areas of Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka. We presented and published on this at *Life Changing Design -* the International Association of Design Research Societies Conference in 2023, and are currently developing further collaborations around documenting the narratives of Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae, and amplifying the voice and mauri of Te Wai Unuroa o Wairaka. He also continues to advise Ngā Kaitiaki on applied research around the puna and its surrounding ecology.

Approval of this nomination assists in acknowledging the mātauranga Dr. Ngaropo contributes to applied research here at Unitec, and also assists in consolidating a growing research relationship.

Dr. Ngaropo would benefit from library access during his term as honorary research fellow.

Associate Professor Leon Tan

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee
Date of Meeting: 12 September 2024

Title	URC Representation on the MIT Research Committee
Provided by:	Hadley Brown, Chair
For:	**DISCUSSION**

Recommendation

That the committee considers a suggestion from Prof Martin Carroll, DCE Academic, Unitec/MIT, that two URC committee members join meetings of the MIT Research Committee, as a way to socialise toward speculative integration.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is for the committee to discuss Martin's suggestion and, if agreeable, consider which two members could join the other committee.

Information/Background

The new vocational education and training (VET) reforms consultation document asserts that "mergers of existing ITPs may be required where it makes sense to do so. Examples include Unitec/MIT, noting no decisions have yet been made" (pg 15).

Having two URC committee members join meetings of the MIT Research Committee could be a way to socialise toward speculative integration in the research and enterprise space.

MIT Research Committee Meeting Dates & Times for the rest of 2024

Thursday 22nd August
Thursday 19th September
Thursday 24th October
Thursday 21st November
Thursday 19th December

The meetings are scheduled to run online from 4pm to 5pm.

Next Steps

The committee's feedback on this matter will be conveyed back to A/P Marcus Williams, Director Research and Enterprise, Unitec/MIT, who will progress the initiative if it proceeds.

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee
Date of Meeting: 12 September 2024

Title	Feedback from the VET Reform Unitec Kaimahi Workshop
Provided by:	Hadley Brown, Chair URC
For:	**TO RECEIVE/DISCUSS**

Recommendation

That the committee receives an overview from the Chair of discussions and feedback from the VET Reform Unitec Kaimahi Workshop held on 26 August.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to invite the Chair to provide an overview of the discussions on the three proposals the Government is considering for New Zealand's vocational education system that were had at the recent VET Reform Unitec Kaimahi Workshop.

Information/Background

The new vocational education and training (VET) reforms consultation is open.

The Government wants to hear all views. The detailed knowledge and different perspectives of people across New Zealand will help them to get these proposals right.

Key Points[1]

- Tertiary Education and Skills Minister Penny Simmonds has kicked off consultation on new VET Reforms. She argued that the previous Government's reforms had wasted money and failed to deliver "quality, relevant learning to the regions". She outlined **three new directions**:
  - A redesigned Institute of Technology and Polytechnic (ITP) network that retains access to ITP provision in all regions, through a combination of stand-alone and federated ITPs.
  - Options for an industry-led system for standards-setting and industry training.
  - Changes to vocational education funding from 2026 (in addition to those agreed for 2025) to better support the reformed system.

---

[1] Sourced from Ed Insider's Tertiary Insight email "VET Reforms Consultation Open" 1 August 2024.

- Policy decisions are planned for Nov 2024, but legislative changes and many other decisions will occur in 2025.
- **One of the biggest structural changes is for ITPs**:
    - The ITPs deemed most financially viable will be given more independence from 1 Jan 2025, and autonomy from Jan 2026.
    - The other ITPs will be grouped in a federation, anchored by Open Poly, which will provide online resources and financial/academic back-office functions.
    - Low enrolment face-to-face programmes may be replaced with blended/online delivery, but regional programme choices will be supported within limits.
    - The paper says there will be no head office.
    - Different ITPs might have differing levels of support from Open Poly and might be able to move out of the federation if they were financially sustainable. Autonomous ITPs that failed might choose, or be forced, to move into the federation.
    - All the ITPs would be standalone ITPs under normal TEI legislation (along with a legislative role around regional needs and partnerships).
    - Feedback is sought from regions about what is needed.

- **Industry training and standards setting** might be pursued via two different models:
    - Option 1 would see eight Industry Training Boards (ITBs) that would combine WDC and work-based learning roles. The proposed groupings are only partially defined but are an amalgam of WDC and former ITO coverage. The groups would be independent statutory bodies and have a mix of industry and ministerial board members (mainly industry). Feedback is sought on whether there should be a ban on ITBs delivering training and/or a monopoly on arranging training. There would be stronger expectations on what ITBs must provide to learners. ITBs would also have strong expectations on their standard-setting role.
    - Option 2 would see eight groups doing standards setting, qualification development, and workforce forecasting. Management of apprentices/trainees, pastoral care and arranging and delivering training and assessment would be done by providers (ITPs, former Work-based Learning Division units, wānanga and PTEs). The former ITOs might become PTEs.
- The new organisations would have a narrower role than WDCs' skills leadership role. Under both models, funding for standards setting might be drawn from current work-based learning funding.
- Some standard-setting functions might return to NZQA, where there wasn't an industry to support them. The paper also seeks feedback on how new industries might enter the standards-setting or work-based learning systems.
- The industry-related organisations might have some shared services (insurance, procurement and cybersecurity were given as examples).
- There might be a two-year moratorium on new work-based learning providers to allow for a transition to the new system.
- **Funding might change in 2026.** The paper acknowledges how the Unified Funding System was designed to support Te Pūkenga, and notes changes already under consultation for 2025.
- 2026 changes might include:
    - Fully restoring funding rates to the old SAC rates (utilising much of the Learner Component funding).
    - Using some work-based funding to fund standards-setting.

o Supporting and incentivising ITPs to engage with regional industries and attract international students to regional NZ (the details were not defined).

Next Steps

Feedback does not need to be limited to the questions asked – all feedback will be considered as the Government makes its final decisions. Submissions close **Thursday, 12 September 2024**.

Individual feedback can be provided through the submission link at Vocational Education and Training Reforms consultation, by filling out the template provided on the Ministry of Education website consultation page, or by emailing VocationalEducation.Reforms@education.govt.nz.

Contributors

- Brenda Massey, Tūāpapa Rangahau

Appendices

- Redesign of the vocational education and training system: Proposals for public consultation
- Regulatory Impact Statement: Vocational Education and Training Systems Redesign
- Vocational Education Reforms Consultation – Submission Template

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 September 2024

Title	Outcome of Review of the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan
Provided by:	A/P Marcus Williams – Director Research and Enterprise
For:	**TO RECEIVE**

Recommendation

That the committee notes that all but one of the improvements to the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan it recommended have been fully implemented and that it receives the updated Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to outline the changes made to the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan and to present the updated document.

Information/Background

The committee reviewed the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan at its June meeting with the purpose of ensuring it is appropriately responding to the Unitec Research Strategy 2020 - 2024.

A small group of committee members was convened to give further feedback on Priority One of the Action Plan. They consulted with A/P Hinekura Smith, Director Ngā Wai a Te Tūī, and A/P Marcus Williams, Director Research and Enterprise, on proposed revisions and were tasked with reporting back to the committee, which they are doing via the presentation of this paper.

Key Points

All but one of the improvements to the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan recommended by the committee have been fully implemented.

The following recommendation has not been implemented:

Review capability and plan for institutional research co-governance and leadership	- consult with Ngā Wai a te Tūī on a research governance model in line with Te Tiriti - consider research office structure in line with above - consult with Unitec Research Committee on this - submit a relevant proposal to ELT

It is not appropriate to expect a Research Centre to lead the design of governance structures. All centres, including Ngā Wai a Te Tūī, must strive for financial sustainability through external funding, which is a challenging goal. The executive will determine the governance structure, receiving advice from appropriate quarters, as indicated in the existing Action Plan. Therefore, the Action has been amended as follows:

Review capability and plan for institutional research co-governance and leadership	- Ngā Wai a Te Tūī leads the development of a research governance model in line with Te Tiriti o Waitangi. - Consider resourcing requirements in line with the above.

Appendices

- Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan: Revisions to Priority One Actions
- Updated Research Strategy Action Plan

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee
Date of Meeting: 12 September 2024

Title	2024 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Funding Progress Reports
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Senior Grants Advisor
For:	**REVIEW**

Recommendation

That the committee receives progress reports from the recipients of 2024 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Funding.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to report to the committee concerning the progress towards outcomes and expenditure of the 2024 ECR funded projects.

Information/Background

The ECR Fund provides annual, contestable funding to emerging and established ECRs at Unitec in order to develop their capability, capacity and career progression as a Principal Investigator on a high quality, externally partnered, applied research project that meets the evaluation criteria. Provision of one progress report and one final report is required as part of the accountability requirements of the fund.

Attachments

- 2024 ECR Progress Report – Caralyn Kemp
- 2024 ECR Progress Report – Dr Mary Yan
- 2024 ECR Progress Report – A/P Kristie Cameron
- 2024 ECR Progress Report – Tanya White

U Unitec

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 September 2024

Title	2023 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Funding Final Reporting
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Senior Grants Advisor
For:	**TO RECEIVE**

Recommendation

That the committee receives a final report from Madhusudan Vyas and an article co-authored by Dr Irene Ayallo who both received 2023 ECR Funding.

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to report to the committee concerning the outcomes and expenditure of two of the 2023 ECR funded projects.

Information/Background

The ECR Fund provides annual, contestable funding to emerging and established early career researchers at Unitec in order to develop their capability, capacity and career progression as a Principal Investigator on a high quality, externally partnered, applied research project. Provision of one progress report and one final report is required as part of the accountability requirements of the fund.

Madhusudan Vyas provided the committee with a report on his 2023 ECR project in April, however the committee was disappointed that the report was not submitted using the correct template and requested that he be asked to submit a fresh report using the appropriate template at a later date. Madhusudan's final report, in the required format, has now been received and is appended for the committee to receive.

Dr Irene Ayallo left Unitec at the beginning of the year and was not in a position to provide a final report on her 2023 ECR funded project before she left. Irene has recently co-authored a paper published in Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences which reports on the work she was supported by the 2023 ECR Fund to undertake.

Final reports from the other three 2023 ECR Funding recipients were received and acknowledged by the committee earlier in the year.

Attachments

- 2023 Final ECR Report – Madhusudan Vyas
- Irene Ayallo & Ali Rasheed (13 Aug 2024): A qualitative study exploring ethnic youth experiences of navigating multiple cultural identities: a case example with African heritage youth living in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online, DOI: 10.1080/1177083X.2024.2382394

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee
Date of Meeting: 12 September 2024

Title	2025 MBIE Endeavour Fund Smart Ideas – Triaging Process
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Senior Grants Advisor
For:	**TO RECEIVE**

Recommendation

That the committee receives details of the 2025 MBIE Endeavour Fund Smart Ideas opportunity and notes that Tūāpapa Rangahau is operating a 'triaging process' this year due to Unitec now being restricted to submitting only one Smart Ideas application.

Information/Background

Applications for [MBIE 2025 Endeavour Fund Smart Ideas](#) open on 30 September.

MBIE has made some changes to the way the Smart Ideas scheme operates. In 2025 Unitec is restricted to submitting one application, and therefore Tūāpapa Rangahau is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from experienced Unitec researchers who are interested in, and eligible to, apply for a Smart Idea, in order that we can determine which one application to support to submission.

The proposed Principal Investigator must be a Unitec researcher with:

- an excellent track record (e.g., a good record of QA publications and experience in managing and delivering on large, high budget projects involving multiple team members).
- a fully developed project idea that demonstrates end user engagement and end-user input into the design of the research, including engagement and input from Māori if applicable (NB: there is not enough time for researchers to develop a project from scratch of the calibre required to attract Smart Ideas funding).

The proposed project must:

- be designed so that the majority of the public benefits in new knowledge accrue outside of Unitec.
- be for research, science or technology, or related activities, the majority of which are to be undertaken in New Zealand.

The indicative total annual funding available is $17m. Grants range between $0.4m and $1m for a term of 2 or 3 years. Approx. 47 grants will be allocated.

Applications are assessed as follows:

- **The excellence of the science: 50% weighting**. Research should be well-designed, involve risk and/or novelty, and leverage additional value from wider research.
- **The excellence of the team: 15% weighting**. The proposed team should have the mix of complementary skills, knowledge, and resources to deliver the proposed research, science or technology or related activities, and to manage risk.
- **Impact – benefit to NZ: 25% weighting**. Research should have direct and indirect benefits or effect on individuals, communities, or society as a whole, including broad benefits to New Zealand's economy, environment or society.
- **Impact – implementation pathway(s): 10% weighting**. Research should have an indicative implementation pathway(s) to deliver public benefit to New Zealand that is not limited to a single firm or end-user, and an understanding of the barriers to impact.
- Where applicable, proposals must consider the relevancy of the **Vision Mātauranga (VM) Policy**. While it is expected that VM will not be relevant to all proposals, assessors will be asked, in their opinion, is VM policy relevant to the proposal? If they answer yes, and VM hasn't been addressed, the proposal will score as VM is absent.

Researchers who wish to apply for a Smart Ideas grant need to email a completed EOI to Senior Grants Advisor, Brenda Massey, before COB Friday, 20 September.

EOIs will be assessed by Tūāpapa Rangahau, and one applicant will be chosen to be supported through to the full proposal stage.

NB 1: the internal EOI selection process is only applicable to Unitec-hosted Smart Ideas applications (i.e., applications being submitted to MBIE via Unitec's online application portal). There is no restriction on the number of staff that can be named as members of research teams on proposals being submitted through non-Unitec institutions (universities, CRIs, independent research organisations, other ITPs etc). EOIs are not required from researchers in these instances, although they will still need to work with Tūāpapa Rangahau to budget their involvement in any non-Unitec hosted proposal.

NB 2: MBIE 2025 Endeavour Fund Research Programmes also open on 30 September. There are no restrictions on the number of applications Unitec can submit for Research Programmes, so there is no internal EOI process for that opportunity. Applicants will, however, need to signal their intention to apply for a Research Programme so that Tūāpapa Rangahau can set them up with access to MBIE's online application portal.

Attachments

- 2025 Smart Ideas Expression of Interest Form
- 2025 Smart Ideas Call for Proposals and Scoring Sheet

Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee Self-Assessment

Purpose: NZQA requires the Committees of Unitec's Academic Board to provide evidence of self-assessment.

Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec Self-Assessment Provocations

- Can we improve the way the committee is run?
- Is time well managed?
- Are issues under discussion well-handled and resolved?
- Are the agenda and minutes well handled?
- Are the perspectives of committee members respected and heard?
- Are actions completed and accounted for?
- Were there matters raised and dealt with in the meeting that were particularly helpful or unhelpful?
- Does the committee oversee and ensure compliance within its mandate?
- Does the committee show foresight and proactively engage in continuous improvement?
- Does the committee review and improve the relevant policies, guidelines and regulations?