



agenda

Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	2025-06-12
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. 2025 Early Career Research Fellowship Fund Grants Advisory Committee Membership

SECTION 4 WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Review of the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan

SECTION 5 NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

1. Update on the Science System Reforms
2. Research Centre Update – Cybersecurity Research Centre
3. Research Centre Update – Environmental Solutions Research Centre
4. 2024 Research Centre Reports
 - a. Ngā Wai a Te Tūi Māori & Indigenous Research Centre
 - b. Digital Heritage Research Centre
5. Transitional Arrangements for Director Research & Enterprise Position

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

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
Hinewaimarama Reihana-White (Early Career)	Nominee of Taharangi Director 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
Dr Norasieh Md Amin (Subject Librarian)	Library
Kathryn George	Student Representative
Arun Deo (Research Advisor)	Tūāpapa Rangahau

In attendance: Brenda Massey (Acting Secretary)

Tūāpapa Rangahau

Up to two members from the MIT Research MIT
Committee

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 [pg5](#)

RECOMMENDATION

That the committee approves the minutes of the meeting of 2025-05-01.

Section 2.3 Mahia Atu | Matters Arising

refer to [pg11](#)

SECTION 3 MEI HEI WHAKAAE | ITEMS TO APPROVE

Section 3.1 2025 Early Career Research Fellowship Fund Grants Advisory Committee Membership

refer to [pg12](#)

SECTION 4 WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Section 4.1 Review of the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan

refer to [pg19](#)

SECTION 5 NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

Section 5.1 Update on the Science System Reforms

refer to [pg32](#)

Section 5.2 Research Centre Update – Cybersecurity Research Centre

refer to [pg36](#)

Section 5.3 Research Centre Update – Environmental Solutions Research Centre

refer to [pg38](#)

Section 5.4 2024 Research Centre Reports

refer to [pg39](#)

- a) Nga Wai a Te Tui, Maori & Indigenous Research Centre [pg40](#)
- b) Digital Heritage Research Centre [pg45](#)

Section 5.5 Transitional Arrangement for Director Research & Enterprise

Position

refer to [pg52](#)

SECTION 6 KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

Section 6.1 Ētahi Kaupapa Anō | Any Other Business

Prof Martin Carroll strongly thanked and acknowledged the committee for its feedback on the Science System Advisory Group Phase 2 Consultation. The feedback was presented to Te Komiti Mātauranga who acknowledged the committee's significant efforts in this space. It was reiterated that Unitec was the only Business Division that responded to the consultation. Before his departure from Unitec the former Director Research & Enterprise asked that this feedback please be passed onto the committee again.

Section 6.2 Komiti Self-Assessment

refer to [pg53](#)

Section 6.3 Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Karakia

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



minutes

Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	2025-05-01
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

Hinewai Reihana-White performed Unitec's karakia tīmatanga and provided the committee with a brief explanation to its meaning.

Item 1.2 Mihi Whakatau | Welcome from the Chair

The chair warmly welcomed members of the committee to the meeting.

SECTION 2 – STANDING ITEMS

Item 2.1 Ngā Whakapāha | Attendance, Apologies & Quorate Status

Members Present

1. Hadley Brown (Chair)
2. Hinewai Reihana-White
3. Nora Md Amin
4. Kathryn George
5. Xinxin Wang
6. Krisite Cameron
7. Lian Wu
8. Arun Deo
9. Leon Tan
10. Daisy Bentley-Gray
11. Khaled Ibrahim (from 1.20 to 2pm)

Total members represented: 11 members

Apologies

1. Hamid Sharifzadeh
2. Kambiz Borna
3. Helen Gremillion
4. Aiono Manu Fa'aea, MIT Research Committee

Total apologies:

4 members

MOTION

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

Moved: Kristie Cameron

Seconded: Lian Wu

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

The Chair thanked Brenda Massey for her detailed minutes.

MOTION

That the committee approves the minutes of the 2025-04-10 meeting as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Kristie Cameron

Seconded: Daisy Bentley-Gray

MOTION CARRIED

Item 2.3 Mahia Atū | Matters Arising

It was queried how Pacific research will be incorporated into this year's ITP Research Symposium, which Jamie Smiler confirmed is going ahead, particularly if the symposium is hosted by an institution that is undertaking minimal Pacific research. Unitec and MIT both have a strong culture of Pacific research, and it is important that Pacific staff and students have an opportunity to share and network.

Action: Hadley Brown to raise this with Jamie Smiler.

Agenda Item(s)	Action	Responsible	Outcome
2.3	Establish a working group to scope the mahi required to update the current	Nora Md Amin / Arun Deo / Hamid Sharifzadeh	An update on the outcome of the review of the guidelines is on the agenda (item 3.1 refers).

	Unitec Scholarly Communication Guidelines. Present the results of the scoping work to the committee mid-2025.		
2.3	<p>Form a small working group to consider and respond to a question about Individual Research Plans in which it says:</p> <p><i>“How will your research impact Māori research leadership, capability, excellence, partnership, processes and governance? “</i></p> <p>The question is, can this question be broadened to include Pacific or Indigenous research?</p> <p>The working group should report back to the committee next month.</p>	Hadley Brown	A working group of Hadley Brown, Daisy Bentley-Gray and Hinewai Reihana-White has been established to address this matter and an update on progress will be provided at the June meeting.

SECTION 3 – MEA HEI WHAKAAE | ITEMS TO APPROVE

Section 3.1 Unitec Scholarly Communication Guidelines Review

Nora Md Amin, Arun Deo and Hamid Sharifzadeh formed a working party to review and update the Unitec Scholarly Communication Guidelines. The proposed updated guidelines were presented to the committee for their review and approval.

Nora provided the committee with a summary of the updates and changes that have been made to the guidelines.

It was queried why no changes have been made to section 4.7 “Māori Culture and Identity”. From Ngā Wai a Te Tūi’s (NWaTT’s) perspective, this section does need some adjustments. Hinewai Reihana-White offered to assist the working party to update this section. Nora Md Amin asked that Arun Deo work with NWaTT to progress this.

Until section 4.7 has been finalised, the new guidelines are unable to be approved.

Action: Hinewai Reihana-White to meet with other staff in NWaTT to review section 4.7, draft up new wording, and send the revisions to Arun Deo. Arun Deo to present the guidelines incorporating the updated section 4.7 to the committee’s June meeting for approval.

Nora queried when the date of the next review of the guidelines should occur. Leon Tan dropped a link to a document on Te Aka | The Nest into the meeting chat called “[A Framework for the Development of Policy, Procedures, Guidelines & Statutes](#)”. It states (Section 7.3) that “documents

should normally be reviewed 2-3 yearly and are carried out by the Document Owner (or his or her delegate)".

SECTION 4 - WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

There were no items to discuss this meeting.

SECTION 5 - NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

Section 5.1 Updating Guidelines for Pacific Social Cultural Responsiveness

Daisy Bentley-Gray and A/P Dion Enari are leading an update of the [Guidelines for Pacific Social Cultural Responsiveness](#) in consultation with Tūāpapa Rangahau. The guidelines were last updated in June 2016 and since then a lot has changed.

It was queried whether Unitec has any centralised document management system and whether policy owners are issued prompts when policies are due to be updated?

Nora Md Amin advised that the Library was not prompted to update the Scholarly Communication Guidelines, rather Nora became aware in her normal course of business that the guidelines had not been reviewed for a considerable amount of time.

To get new or updated academic policies and procedures housed on Te Aka | The Nest, staff are advised to contact [Te Korowai Kahurangi](#). For non-academic documents, staff are advised to contact [Fiona Riches](#).

Section 5.2 Research Centre Update – Centre of Research in Education for Healthcare Professionals

The committee agreed to put the Centre of Research in Education for Healthcare Professionals in abeyance last year following the departure of its former founder and director, A/P Samantha Heath, from Unitec.

The Head of School, Healthcare and Social Practice, and Director Research and Enterprise have now mutually agreed to close the centre as the school does not have the capacity or capability to retain it at this juncture.

Section 5.3 2024 Research Centre Report – Applied Molecular Solutions Research Centre

The committee received the 2024 Applied Molecular Solutions (AMS) Research Centre report. AMS is housed within the School of Environmental and Animal Sciences and its Director is currently Dr Sarah Wells.

The report confirms that the centre is in good condition, which is reassuring. It continues to win external grants, has some good iwi affiliations and is doing some excellent work, particularly around the preservation of indigenous flora and fauna. The ability of the centre to involve both undergraduate and postgraduate students in its work is very gratifying for both the school and the institution as a whole.

Section 5.4 2024 Early Career Researcher Fund Final Report – Dr Caralyn Kemp

The committee received and acknowledged the 2024 Early Career Researcher Fund Final Report from Dr Caralyn Kemp.

Following on from this project, earlier this year Caralyn won a \$10k grant from Healthy Pets NZ to continue on with her work on the benefits to dogs of dog parks.

SECTION 6 - KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

Section 6.1 Ētahi Kaupapa Anō | Any Other Business

Kristie Cameron advised that an ITP Early Career Research (ECR) group has been created, with representation from most of the ITPs. The group will focus on ensuring the ECRs and new and emerging researchers in their areas are disseminated information about opportunities specific to their career stage. The group will also feed into the Royal Society ECR Forum. That Royal Society's Forum has connections with Science NZ, the Universities group and the CRI group, and now with the ITP group. The ECR forum will be responding to the University Advisory Group's and Science System Advisory Group's consultations and reports.

On Monday, 5 May the first 2025 Emerging and ECR Researchers' Coffee Catch Up will take place at Long Black. This is an informal opportunity to exchange ideas, seek support, share concerns and find out about a little more as to what's happening in the Unitec and wider research landscape.

At the beginning of June the annual 3 Minute Speil Competition will be held for ECRs.

The Director of Research position has been advertised. The role has a remit for both Unitec and MIT.

Section 6.2 Komiti Self-Assessment

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

Hinewai Reihana-White advised that Unitec's karakia whakamutunga was developed by Matua Hare Paniroa. She provided a brief explanation of its meaning before performing the karakia to close the meeting.

MEETING CLOSED:	1405 h
------------------------	---------------

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Agenda Item(s)	Action	Responsible	Outcome
2.3	Raise with Jamie Smiler whether and how Pacific research and researchers will be incorporated into this year's ITP Research Symposium.	Hadley Brown	

2.3	<p>Form a small working group to consider and respond to a question about Individual Research Plans in which it says:</p> <p><i>“How will your research impact Māori research leadership, capability, excellence, partnership, processes and governance? “</i></p> <p>The question is, can this question be broadened to include Pacific or Indigenous research?</p> <p>The working group should report back to the committee next month.</p>	Hadley Brown / Daisy Bentley-Gray / Hinewai Reihana-White	
3.1	<p>Meet with other staff in NWaTT to review section 4.7 of the Scholarly Communication Guidelines, draft up new wording, and send to Arun Deo.</p> <p>Present the guidelines with the updated section 4.7 to the committee’s June meeting for approval.</p>	<p>Hinewai Reihana-White</p> <p>Arun Deo</p>	

MATTERS ARISING

Agenda Item(s)	Action	Responsible	Outcome
2.3	Raise with Jamie Smiler whether and how Pacific research and researchers will be incorporated into this year's ITP Research Symposium.	Hadley Brown	Complete
2.3	<p>Form a small working group to consider and respond to a question about Individual Research Plans (IRP) in which it says:</p> <p><i>"How will your research impact Māori research leadership, capability, excellence, partnership, processes and governance?"</i></p> <p>The question is, can this question be broadened to include Pacific or Indigenous research?</p> <p>The working group should report back to the committee next month.</p>	Hadley Brown / Daisy Bentley-Gray / Hinewai Reihana-White	<p>Complete. The working group has recommended to Tūāpapa Rangahau that the IRP statement be amended to read:</p> <p><i>"How will your research impact Māori or Pacific research leadership, capability, partnership, and processes?"</i></p>
3.1	<p>Meet with other staff in NWT to review section 4.7 of the Scholarly Communication Guidelines, draft up new wording, and send to Arun Deo.</p> <p>Present the guidelines with the updated section 4.7 to the committee's June meeting for approval.</p>	<p>Hinewai Reihana-White</p> <p>Arun Deo</p>	In progress

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2025

Title	2025 ECR Fellowship Fund Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) Membership
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Senior Grants Advisor
For:	APPROVAL

Recommendation/s

That the committee approves the membership of the 2025 Early Career Researcher (ECR) Fellowship Fund Grants Advisory Committee (GAC), a sub-committee of the Unitec Research Committee, as follows:

GAC membership who will consider every application:

A/P Marcus Williams, Director Research and Enterprise

Diane Tamati, Māia

A/P Leon Tan, School of Creative Industries

Purpose

Three early career researchers have submitted applications for 2025 Early Career Researcher Fellowship Funding. The applications need to be assessed by members of a GAC.

Next Steps

GAC members will read, consider, and provide feedback on the applications to decide whether the applications should be funded.



Early Career Researcher Fellowship Guidelines

1. Rationale

These are guidelines for Early Career Researcher (ECR) Fellowships, responding particularly to the need for the concentrated time and mental space needed to develop research capability, opportunity, productivity, planning and/or networks for Early Career Researchers at Unitec. The central purpose of the Fellowships is to support and strengthen the establishment and development of ECR careers and the development of new research leadership. Early Career Researchers are providing the renewal of research culture at Unitec and will be the future leaders of research and enterprise at Unitec.

There are two types of fellowships available;

FELLOWSHIP ONE: to support the implementation of research projects

FELLOWSHIP TWO: to support professional research and research leadership development

2. Underlying principles

- To invest in our research future, based on high quality, emerging researchers;
- To provide for the establishment of high quality research track records;
- To foster research leadership;
- To provide opportunities for researchers to gain skills, experience and knowledge;
- To support career development and to support innovative and valuable research activities and outcomes.

3. Criteria *you must meet both criteria*

3.1 All of the following three criteria have to be fulfilled for eligibility.

The applicant must (1) be :

- a permanent full time Unitec employee or
- a permanent part-time Unitec employee or
- on a fixed term contract of two years or more

and is (2) employed on an **FTE of 0.2** or more and (3) *teaches 0.2 FTE or more on any course in a degree level programme and/or supervises on a 90 credit or higher postgraduate programme.* *Note there are exceptions for non degree teaching research staff, please contact the Research Office for details.



Early Career Researcher Fellowship Guidelines

3.2 The applicant must be a member of the Unitec ECR Forum for which they must meet the definition of an ECR at Unitec. This definition distinguishes between those researchers at the very beginning of their research activities, such as master's or doctoral candidates, or practitioners and/or teachers making a transition to research activity, and *independent, early career researchers*:

An **ECR** at Unitec lies between 'emerging/beginner' and 'senior/advanced'. An ECR is within 10 years (prior to the closing date for full applications for ECR funding) of becoming an 'independent' researcher, which is defined as one or both of the following, whichever comes first:

1. A researcher who has been awarded a PhD or a professional doctorate with a significant research component.
2. A researcher who has been the primary author of an independently investigated (i.e. unsupervised, disseminated quality assured research output. This criterion excludes conference presentations and typically also excludes very short written outputs.

Time taken for parental leave is not counted as part of the 10-year window (i.e. one year of parental leave would extend the eligibility period to 11 years since achieving criterion 1 or 2). Note that other forms of extended leave may be considered by negotiation with Tūāpapa Rangahau.

3.3 Any application for this fellowship must be developed from the outset with full knowledge and *support in principle*, of the relevant Head of School.

4. Fellowship Outcomes

- Strengthening of Unitec support for emerging research leaders;
- Development of research leadership;
- Development of industry and institutional research partnerships;
- Development of external grant applications or other contract arrangements
- Development and recognition of high quality researchers;
- Increase in volume and quality of research outcomes, reflecting Unitec research priorities.
- Deepened Unitec research culture;



Early Career Researcher Fellowship Guidelines

5. Vision Mātauranga

[Vision Mātauranga](#) is a policy about innovation, opportunity and the creation of knowledge that highlights the potential contribution of Māori knowledge, resources and people. There are four themes:

- Indigenous Innovation, which involves contributing to economic growth through *distinctive research and development*;
- Taiao, which is concerned with achieving *environmental sustainability* through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea;
- Hauora/Oranga, which centres around improving *health and social wellbeing*; and
- Mātauranga, which involves exploring *indigenous knowledge*.

Where research projects are of relevance to Māori or involve Māori, Tūāpapa Rangahau expects that applicants are in consultation with Māori at the planning stage, so as to achieve the best possible outcomes. Unitec's Research Ethics Committee has produced [Guidelines for Māori and Community Social and Cultural Responsiveness](#) to assist researchers who intend undertaking research that may involve Māori participants (through random selection), involve Māori, Māori centered research and kaupapa Māori research. If unsure about the relevance of the proposed study for Māori, researchers should consult Unitec's [Research Partners](#) or [Kaihautu Mātauranga Māori](#).

Examples of relevance could include proposals that involve biomedical research of significance to Māori health, social research, educational research, entrepreneurship, indigenous research, natural hazards, native flora and fauna, anthropology, the environment, sporting and cultural activities, literature, and language (even if the approach to these topics is seemingly irrelevant, such as algorithm development, biochemical pathways or mechanical properties).

ECR Fellowships applicants need to indicate whether or not Māori will be directly involved or impacted by the project. If Vision Mātauranga is not relevant, you should explain why not.

FELLOWSHIP ONE: to support the implementation of research projects

Purpose:

- To provide for Unitec ECRs opportunity to pursue quality research that will help establish their research track record;
- To support the development of high quality, applied, potentially impactful research;
- To support the development of research expertise and leadership at Unitec;
- To provide Unitec ECRs with the time and resource required to achieve these outcomes;



Early Career Researcher Fellowship Guidelines

- To facilitate Unitec ECRs with high quality support, in the form of research mentorship.

Support:

The Research Fellowship is intended to support the conduct of emerging research and therefore could provide different forms of support:

- Teaching and administration relief, to provide time to conduct the research (duration determined in negotiation with Head of School and Research Partner)
- It can be portable to existing research projects;
- Research expenses (NB – the ECR Contestable Research Fund templates need to be utilised if new project funding is being sought in addition to teaching buy out);
- Mentorship - receipt of a Research Fellowship will be contingent on suitable mentorship arrangements (internal or external);
- 3 months to 1 year duration, part or full time, (determined in negotiation with Head of School and Research Partner);
- Under normal circumstances would only be held once;

Assessment:

- Clearly defined research project (description of research, including relationship to existing research projects or programmes);
- High quality research design (reflecting Unitec research priorities); potential for opportunity, engagement and impact (description of potential; impact defined broadly);
- Potential to provide opportunity for other Unitec researchers
- Appropriately industry engaged and partnered;
- Strong mentorship arrangements in place (defined broadly, may include culturally appropriate forms of guidance and support related to proposed project);
- Realistic outcomes identified;
Participation in Unitec research events;
- Clearly defined research project (description of research, including relationship to existing research projects or programmes);
- Inclusion of student integrated research;
- Issues of sustainability are addressed - if applicable.



Early Career Researcher Fellowship Guidelines

FELLOWSHIP TWO: to support professional research and research leadership development

Purpose:

- To provide for Unitec ECRs opportunity to pursue a clearly defined applied research publication or research dissemination project that will establish and/or strengthen their research track record;
- To support the development of an industry partnered, team based external research grant application or contract;
- To support the professional development of research expertise and leadership;
- To provide Unitec ECRs with the time and resource required to achieve these outcomes.

Support:

The Research Fellowship is intended to support the dissemination of research and professional development in research and research leadership;

- Teaching and administration relief, to provide time to write, develop grant applications, plan or undertake professional development (duration determined in negotiation with your Head of School and Research Partner);
- Research development expenses (NB – this is not a research project fund);
- Mentorship - receipt of a research Fellowship will be contingent on mentorship arrangements (internal or external);
- It can be portable to existing research projects;
- 3 months to 1 year duration, part or full time, (determined in negotiation with your Head of School and Research Partner);

Assessment:

- Clear description of high quality completed or near completed research for dissemination;
- Clearly defined research dissemination strategy (of research, including relationship to existing research projects or programmes);
- Strong Grant Application Plan, appropriately industry engaged or partnered;
- Mentorship arrangements in place (defined broadly, may include culturally appropriate forms of guidance and support related to proposed project);
- Realistic outcomes identified;
- Participation in Unitec research events;
- Addressed any issues of sustainability - if applicable.

Please contact your [Research Partner](#) if you have any questions. For both Fellowships a signed Project Plan with milestones will be required. Please note:



Early Career Researcher Fellowship Guidelines

1. funds from a fellowship awarded must be utilised within the time frame of the agreement and in the relevant financial year
2. the funds can only be used as detailed in the Project Plan.

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2025

Title	Review of the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan
Provided by:	Hadley Brown, Chair URC
For:	DISCUSSION

Recommendation

That the committee reviews the Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan.

Purpose

The Unitec Research Strategy Action Plan is due to be reviewed to ensure it has been appropriately responding to the Unitec Research Strategy 2020 – 2024.

Information/Background

In January 2025 the committee agreed to roll over the 2020 - 2024 Unitec Research Strategy into 2025.

It was agreed in the consultation and development of the 2020 - 2024 Unitec Research Strategy that an Action Plan would be developed subsequently.

It is the responsibility of Tūāpapa Rangahau to implement the Action Plan. The implementation of actions and outcomes of these actions is reported in the Annual Unitec Research Report. The KPIs are reported in the Unitec BI Dashboard and indicate to the committee the effectiveness of the Action Plan.

The committee's Work Plan requires that the Action Plan be reviewed annually.

Attachments

Unitec Research Strategy - Action Plan

Unitec Research Strategy 2020-2024

Unitec Research Strategy – Action Plan

Priority One	Goal one	KPI	Action Summary	Actions
Research that is aligned with Te Tiriti o Waitangi Unitec will ensure that its support for research, governance and processes is aligned with Tiriti o Waitangi. In this way, Unitec will exemplify leadership in Māori research in the NZIST sector and in Aotearoa. The principle of rangatiratanga expressed through our partnership document, Te Noho Kotahitanga, will apply to research at Unitec: that Māori will have authority over and responsibility for all research related to Māori dimensions of knowledge. Vision Mātauranga will be integrated into all research processes and researchers will be supported to understand and fulfil these requirements. We will resource and grow the numbers and capability of Māori researchers, including Māori supervisors of our postgraduate programmes. We will actively seek and maintain partnerships with iwi, hapū, Māori businesses, institutions and peak Māori bodies. We will evolve our research office appropriately to ensure Māori research governance and rangatiratanga.	Unitec has strong Māori research leadership, capability, excellence, partnerships, processes and governance.	Rangahau Māori productivity; QA outputs that demonstrate excellence in Vision Mātauranga, QA outputs by Maori staff, funded projects with named Māori researchers and accredited Vision Mātauranga and Kaupapa Māori professional development	Review research policy, guidelines and processes to ensure rangatiratanga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve consultation processes with Māori researchers and use feedback to inform how contracts are managed so that Māori researchers are appointed through culturally appropriate procedures - regularly review policies and procedures to ensure rangatiratanga – agency and autonomy for Tūāpapa Rangahau and Ngā Wai a Te Tūi to determine cultural appropriateness of all research policies and procedures
			Review all funding frameworks, guidelines and processes to incorporate Vision Mātauranga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review guidelines and processes as above - ensure appropriate Māori representation on research funding application assessment panels - establish a funding calendar system to promote and manage funding opportunities in a timely manner - seek advice from the Senior Grants Adviser regarding Vision Mātauranga and incorporation into funding frameworks
			Increase Māori postgraduate supervisors and student scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - grow the capacity of the Kaupapa Māori Advisor/Supervisor role and explore different funding models for sustaining it - continue to work with the postgraduate committee to increase Māori scholarships - continue to develop strong Mahi Kotahitanga between programme and Māori scholarship committees - facilitate writing retreats and activities through Mai ki Wairaka for Māori postgraduate students.
			Provide professional development by Māori for Māori researchers and postgraduate supervisors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support the professional development of kaimahi to undertake culturally appropriate supervision

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contract an administrator/co-ordinator to support the Kaupapa Māori Advisor/Supervisor in delivering the Mai ki Wairaka programme - consult with Research Leader in the Pacific Centre regarding administrative support for the Māori and Pacific Postgraduate Support Rōpu)
			Support and resource Ngā Wai a te Tūi appropriately	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide contract oversight, compliance support and administrative expertise
			Review capability and plan for institutional research co-governance and leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ngā Wai a Te Tūi leads the development of a research governance model in line with Te Tiriti o Waitangi for consideration and approval by the Academic Committee and Unitec ELT - consider resourcing requirements in line with the above
			Tell stories of Māori research projects, outcomes and success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - advocate to Unitec Corporate Comms for Māori research stories - Publish Māori research in ePress - include Māori research stories in the Unitec Research Blog

Priority Two	Goal Two	KPI	Action Summary	Actions
A flourishing, collaborative research culture Unitec will grow a productive, diverse, student integrated, engaged and sustainable research workforce with the necessary resourcing and infrastructure. There will be an inclusive pipeline of support for developing the capability of our people and empowering them toward transformative outcomes for our communities; from the beginnings of their research independence through to leadership at the highest level, as expressed in Unitec's Research Competencies. Grounded in Te Tiriti and Te Noho Kotahitanga partnership, this will be inclusive and provide opportunity for the diverse cultures and individuals who make up our institution and the varied nature of that activity we call research and its related enterprises. This pipeline will be aligned with and actively support the initiatives at the heart of Te Manaakitia te Rito, Unitec's Renewal Strategy.	The diverse people of Unitec have fit-for-purpose capability development and support toward sustainable, collaborative research productivity and excellence	QA Outputs, Student Integrated Research, Research Engaged Programmes	Provide high quality, diverse, multi-level research professional development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide a range of research blended workshops - provide research master classes - run writing retreats - offer developmental research for emerging researchers
			Implement formalised research planning at individual and School level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide continuously improved templates for Individual Plans - support and oversee compliance - implement a School Plan review and improvement process
			Support degree teachers to be research engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor Research Traffic Light to identify staff most needing support - Prioritise Research Dissemination funding to improve Traffic Light - run writing retreats - offer developmental research funding for emerging researchers - run an externally engaged research symposium
			Increase research excellence and productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - monitor ROMS to identify staff most needing support - prioritise Research Dissemination funding to build strong portfolios - run an internal review and publicity campaign in preparation for PBRF - provide Research Partners - provide support for the professoriate
			Develop Research Groups in every School offering degree programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide Research Partner support to develop Research Groups in schools - structure the Unitec symposium around Groups
			Develop Research Centres, facilitate concomitant business planning and annual evaluations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide Research Partner support to Research Centres - provide expert administrative, contractual and IP support - implement annual reviews and tri-annual re-accreditation as per the procedure - publicise to groups the procedure to become a research centre

			Support Strategic Research Foci <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide research assistants and associates - provide research materials and equipment - help resolve accommodation, facility and branding needs - provide support with publicity
			Support emerging and early career researchers; grow leaders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide expert administrative, contractual and IP support to ECRs - provide ECR research support funding (Parental Leave support etc) - provide ECR contestable research funding - provide ECR Research Fellowships - provide support to PIs of ECR funded projects toward external funding - support ECRs with external funding grant development and writing - support the ECR Forum - fund ECR Forum Chair to attend Royal Society meetings - provide Emerging Researcher Start-up Funding - provide comprehensive PD opportunities for emerging researchers
			Collate, authenticate, sustainably disseminate and publicise research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - publish double blind peer reviewed papers with ePress - publish three journals at ePress; Whanake, Perspectives in Biodiversity and Asylum - publish Unitec Research Symposium papers - provide advice to manage predatory and vanity publishing risks - oversee Research Output Management System and verify all research outputs - report research outputs in the Annual Research Report - monitor research at programme level for Research Traffic Light - liaise with Corporate Comms to publicise Unitec research

			<p>Support and resource postgraduate student research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lead and administer the Postgraduate Research and Scholarship Committee - administer all scholarships - review the effectiveness of scholarships - review the accessibility of scholarship processes for students - implement improvements which emerge from the reviews - promote all scholarships - offer specialist scholarships to Māori and Pacific students - offer Bold Innovator Scholarship and mentor the recipient - ensure high quality professional development for supervisors - facilitate writing retreats for Pacific postgraduate students - offer and maintain high quality, specialist postgraduate study space - provide specialist research software for postgraduate students and related PD
			<p>Increase student involvement in research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - offer contestable Industry Scholarships with strong partnerships criteria - develop criteria for 5th research goal - Student Integrated Research - ratify a 5th research goal at Academic Committee for Student Integrated Research - modify ROMS to allow input of Student Integrated Research data - monitor and report productivity of this goal in Annual Research Report - offer expert administrative support for Research Studentships - ensure Student Integrated Research is a criteria for Research with Impact Award - ensure Student Integrated Research is a criteria for internal contestable funding

			Foster research into Wairaka, our place; the natural environment, history and wairua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - liaise with roopu Kaitiaki, Nga Wai a te Tui, Sustainability Manager & Pae Arihi - pilot a 2021 contestable fund; Wairaka - natural environment, history and culture - create an ongoing fund; Wairaka - natural environment, history and culture
			Embed sustainability into all funding guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review all internal funding documents to ensure sustainability questions are asked

Priority Three	Goal Three	KPI	Action Summary	Actions
Partnered research and innovation Research at Unitec will concentrate on opportunities and problems identified by Māori, industry and community partners. Strong, enduring partnerships will be facilitated and valued, with investment in capacity building, innovation and leadership in this space. The reciprocity created by these partnerships will enhance opportunity for student work-integrated learning.	Research that is industry/community partnered and promotes innovation	Industry/Community Funded Research, External Research Income	Weave, ignite and nurture long-term partnerships across community, academia and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seed fund industry partnered conferences and seminars at Unitec - encourage strong industry partnerships in contestable funding frameworks - provide expert industry partnership support (Research Partner Enterprise) - provide expert legal, contractual and administrative support
			Facilitate subsidised research consultancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - fund and administrate the research voucher scheme - assist in growing resulting partnerships
			Implement industry/community-partnered postgraduate research scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - create guidelines for Industry Scholarships - fund and administrate Industry Scholarships - assist in growing resulting partnerships
			Provide industry partnering, IP, innovation and commercialisation advice and practical support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide expert commercialisation support (Research Partner Enterprise) - provide expert legal, contractual and administrative support - ensure contracts and agreements protect IP appropriately as per policy
			Develop reputation through the establishment of Research Centres with strong partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide funding to Research Centres which are Strategic Foci - work with the Unitec Communications Team to publicise achievements - provide support to develop funding applications - provide support to maximise collaboration between Research Centres
			Identify areas of future importance and opportunity; Research Sandpits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensure school plans have Research Groups - keep schools aware of the Research Sandpits and other areas of priority in Auckland, New Zealand and the Pacific

UNITEC

Research Strategy 2020-2024

NB – in keeping with Unitec process on strategies, a separate action plan will outline how we implement the actions, how we show the progress of that implementation and what indicators we use to measure success. This will follow approval of this draft research strategy.

Vision

To undertake research of excellence that aligns to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and has transformative outcomes for the communities we serve.

Mission

We undertake impactful research in order to provide significant economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits to Māori, New Zealand communities, industries and the environment. We do this by igniting the power of our founding document, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, partnering with tangata whenua, our communities and industry. This partnering is at the heart of our value proposition and is fundamental to research from the beginning of the research process, through to the dissemination of the outcomes. Unitec's strengths lie in its kaupapa Māori capability, its applied and practical focus, its mixture of programmes involving research and enterprise at postgraduate and undergraduate levels, and its strong relationships with community and industry. We will develop these strengths through focused, sustainable research and enterprise activity that is Treaty aligned, integrated with teaching and learning and undertaken within networks of stakeholders and partners, enabling effective knowledge transfer. In these networks we aim to contribute to better knowledge bases for decision making, improved wellbeing, socioeconomic resilience, cultural diversity, flourishing communities and improved productivity, policy, technologies, products or processes.

Background

During the 2015 – 2019 Research Strategy period, three Strategic Research Foci were developed: the Cybersecurity Focus, the Applied Molecular Solutions Focus and the Kaupapa Māori Focus. Through mechanisms such as the Research Voucher Scheme, the strategy successfully drove institutional change toward higher levels of industry-partnered research resulting in many funded projects. Coupled with an emphasis on building staff capability and research leadership, Unitec has experienced growth in its research, with externally funded research increasing by 450%, increased external partnering with 184% more industry-funded projects, improvement in excellence with a 97% success rate through the PBRF Quality Evaluation and increased NZQA compliance with 91% of degree programmes research compliant. The Kaupapa Māori Focus led to the appointment of two highly respected Māori professors, and the establishment of Ngā Wai a te Tūi Māori and Indigenous Research Centre, which is now leading numerous externally funded projects, including an Endeavour Fund Research Programme and a National Science Challenge project.

This next strategic period will see Unitec continue investing in our Strategic Research Foci with an emphasis on rangatiratanga, embedding a flourishing, diverse and sustainable research culture and weaving strong, enduring industry/community partnerships.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Noho Kotahitanga

Unitec will uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the founding document of our nation and its principles, through our research. Our commitment to Te Noho Kotahitanga, which express Unitec's Treaty partnership and its principles, underpins the values and kaupapa of our organisation, including our approach to research.

Rangatiratanga

Whakaritenga

Kaitiakitanga

Mahi Kotahitanga

Ngākau Māhaki

Authority and Responsibility

Legitimacy

Guardianship

Co-operation

Respect

 <p>RANGATIRATANGA AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY</p>	 <p>WHAKARITENGA LEGITIMACY</p>	 <p>KAITIAKITANGA GUARDIANSHIP</p>	 <p>MAHI KOTAHITANGA CO-OPERATION</p>	 <p>NGĀKAU MĀHAKI RESPECT</p>
<p><i>E whakarite ana te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka ki te pūtake ake o te rangatiratanga o te Māori me ngā mātauranga Māori.</i></p> <p>Unitec accepts the principle that Māori have authority over and responsibility for all teaching and learning relating to the Māori dimensions of knowledge.</p>	<p><i>E whakarite ana te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka ki te mana o tena, o tena, ki te noho kotahi, ki te puaki i tona ake reo, ki te whakamahi i ngā rawa mo ngā iwi katoa.</i></p> <p>Unitec believes that each partner has a legitimate right to be here, to speak freely in either language, and to put its resources to use for the benefit of all.</p>	<p><i>E whakarite ana te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka ki te kaitiakitanga o ngā taonga mātauranga.</i></p> <p>Unitec accepts responsibility as a critical guardian of knowledge.</p>	<p><i>E whakarite ana te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka kia tau he ngākau māhaki i roto i ngā mahi katoa.</i></p> <p>Unitec affirms that a spirit of generosity and co-operation will guide all its actions.</p>	<p><i>E whakarite ana te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka ki te whakanui i ngā taonga tuku iho o ngā ao e rua, a hiko ki mua. Ko te Māori me te Pākehā e mahi tahi ana mo Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka.</i></p> <p>Unitec values each partner's heritage and customs, current needs and future aspirations. Māori and Pākehā working together within Unitec.</p>

Vision Mātauranga

Unitec acknowledges and actively supports staff in engaging with the Vision Mātauranga policy as outlined by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The policy aims to unlock the innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources and people to assist New Zealanders to create a better future.

Code of Practice and Research Ethics

Research at Unitec will function within Ngā Tikanga Whakahaere (Unitec's Code of Conduct) and the research-specific Code of Professional Standards and Ethics developed by the Royal Society Te Apārangi. All human research is conducted with guidance from the Unitec Research Ethics Committee, an accredited research ethics committee, and animal research is overseen by an approved committee.

Priorities

The Unitec Research Strategy 2020 – 2024 has three key priorities which underpin our goals, our actions and the way we measure success:

Priority One	Research that is aligned with Te Tiriti o Waitangi
Priority Two	A flourishing, collaborative research culture
Priority Three	Partnered research and innovation

Priority One – Research that is aligned with Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Unitec will ensure that its support for research, governance and processes is aligned with Tiriti o Waitangi. In this way, Unitec will exemplify leadership in Māori research in the NZIST sector and in Aotearoa. The principle of rangatiratanga expressed through our partnership document, Te Noho Kotahitanga, will apply to research at Unitec: that Māori will have authority over and responsibility for all research related to Māori dimensions of knowledge. Vision Mātauranga will be integrated into all research processes and researchers will be supported to understand and fulfil these requirements. We will resource and grow the numbers and capability of Māori researchers, including Māori supervisors of our postgraduate programmes. We will actively seek and maintain partnerships with iwi, hapū, Māori businesses, institutions and peak Māori bodies. We will evolve our research office appropriately to ensure Māori research governance and rangatiratanga.

GOAL ONE:

Unitec has strong Māori research leadership, capability, excellence, partnerships, processes and governance.

Actions:

- Review research policy, guidelines and processes to ensure rangatiratanga
- Review all funding frameworks, guidelines and processes to incorporate Vision Mātauranga
- Increase Māori postgraduate supervisors and student scholarships
- Provide professional development by Māori for Māori researchers and postgraduate supervisors
- Support and resource Ngā Wai a te Tūi appropriately
- Review capability and plan for institutional research co-governance and leadership
- Tell stories of Māori research projects, outcomes and success

Priority Two - A flourishing, collaborative research culture

Unitec will grow a productive, diverse, student integrated, engaged and sustainable research workforce with the necessary resourcing and infrastructure. There will be an inclusive pipeline of support for developing the capability of our people and empowering them toward transformative outcomes for our communities; from the beginnings of their research independence through to leadership at the highest level, as expressed in Unitec's Research Competencies. Grounded in Te Tiriti and Te Noho Kotahitanga partnership, this will be inclusive and provide opportunity for the diverse cultures and individuals who make up our institution and the varied nature of that activity we call research and its related enterprises. This pipeline will be aligned with and actively support the initiatives at the heart of Te Manaakitia te Rito, Unitec's Renewal Strategy.

GOAL TWO:

The diverse people of Unitec have fit-for-purpose capability development and support toward sustainable, collaborative research productivity and excellence.

Actions:

- Provide high quality, diverse, multi-level research professional development
- Implement formalised research planning at individual and School level
- Support degree teachers to be research engaged
- Increase research excellence and productivity
- Develop Research Groups in every School offering degree programmes
- Develop Research Centres, facilitate concomitant business planning and annual evaluations
- Support Strategic Research Foci
- Support emerging and early career researchers; grow leaders
- Collate, authenticate, sustainably disseminate and publicise research
- Support and resource postgraduate student research
- Increase student involvement in research
- Foster research into Wairaka, our place; the natural environment, history and wairua
- Embed sustainability into all funding guidelines

Priority Three - Partnered research and innovation

Research at Unitec will concentrate on opportunities and problems identified by Māori, industry and community partners. Strong, enduring partnerships will be facilitated and valued, with investment in capacity building, innovation and leadership in this space. The reciprocity created by these partnerships will enhance opportunity for student work-integrated learning.

GOAL THREE:

Research that is industry/community partnered and promotes innovation.

Actions:

- Weave, ignite and nurture long-term partnerships across community, academia and industry
- Facilitate subsidised research consultancy
- Implement industry/community-partnered postgraduate research scholarships
- Provide industry partnering, IP, innovation and commercialisation advice and practical support
- Develop reputation through the establishment of Research Centres with strong partnerships
- Identify areas of future importance and opportunity; Research Sandpits

RESEARCH SANDPITS HAVE:

- the values of Te Noho Kotahitanga
- high societal need
- student-involved research and learning potential
- existing external partnerships
- cross-school transdisciplinary opportunity

POTENTIAL FUTURE DIRECTIONS (MANAAKITIA TE RITO)

- Business, finance and professional services
- Maori and indigenous research
- Construction and infrastructure
- Health and wellbeing
- Transport and logistics
- Education and training
- Environmental services
- Creative industries and arts
- Computing and services

Glossary

Ngā Tikanga Whakahaere – Unitec’s Code of Conduct

NZIST – the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology incorporating 16 Institutes of Technologies and Polytechnics

Research Centres – Formally structured research institutes governed by the Unitec Research Committee

Research Competencies – Detailed description of what it means to be research competent at Unitec

Research Groups – Informal groups of researchers around a theme, identified in School Research Plan

Research Sandpits - areas of future research importance and opportunity

Strategic Research Foci – Research Centres which receive seed funding from Unitec

Te Manaakitia te Rito – Unitec’s Renewal Strategy 2019 – 2022

Te Noho Kotahitanga – Unitec’s Partnership agreement under Te Tiriti and our values

Te Tiriti o Waitangi – the founding document of Aotearoa, New Zealand

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2025

Title	Update on the Science System Reforms
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Acting Secretary
For:	INFORMATION

Recommendation

That the committee receives an update on the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment's (MBIE)'s progress towards the Science System Reforms.

Purpose

MBIE's Programme Director Science and Science System Reforms, Iain Cossar, recently provided an update on progress towards the Science System Reforms:

- Investment in a new advanced technology research platform, as a first step towards establishing the new advanced technology Public Research Organisation (PRO).
- Crown Research Institutes' merger into three new future-focused entities.
- The disestablishment of Callaghan Innovation.
- Names of the Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council members that will set the direction for science and innovation in Aotearoa New Zealand.

In addition, on 15 May MBIE announced that the Endeavour Fund 2026 round will not invite applications.

Information

Strategic Investment in Advanced Technology

The Government has announced a \$71 million investment in an advanced technology science platform to accelerate innovation and grow the Aotearoa New Zealand economy.

The platform host, Paihau—Robinson Research Institute based out of Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington, is known for world-leading expertise in superconductors, magnets and materials technologies that have many applications including developing portable MRI machines and building smaller and faster engines. A science platform is a combination of people, facilities, information and knowledge that provide on-going science and innovation capability for New Zealand. This platform will enable innovation to improve our daily lives while boosting economic growth in sectors such as health, transport, energy and our space industry.

The investment will grow and diversify our economy and build high quality jobs for people in Aotearoa New Zealand in the long term. Funding is being provided over seven years through the MBIE-administered Strategic Science Investment Fund and is the first step towards establishing the new advanced technology Public Research Organisation.

Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council

The Prime Minister recently announced the members of the Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council. This council will provide advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet on ways to leverage science, innovation, and technology to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life for New Zealanders now and in the future.

The members of the Council are, Sir Peter Gluckman, Craig Piggott, Merryn Tawhai, Komal Mistry-Mehta, and Malcolm Johns, and will also include the new Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor, Dr John Roche. The members will bring a whole-of-economy perspective to the investment decisions made in our Science, Innovation and Technology system. Science, Innovation and Technology Minister Dr Shane Reti will act as Chair for the Council, and Dr John Roche will be Deputy-Chair. MBIE will be secretariat and will be setting up an initial meeting of the council members soon.

This council is a first of its kind for Aotearoa New Zealand and will shape the long-term direction and high-level priorities, as well as what areas could be de-prioritised for government-funded science, innovation and technology.

Update from Crown Research Institutes mergers

Significant progress has been made since the announcement that Aotearoa New Zealand's seven Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) will merge into three Public Research Organisations, focused on the bioeconomy, earth sciences and public health and forensic sciences.

The CRIs are working closely and constructively together at all levels, driven by a shared sense of excitement and optimism about the opportunities this change presents. Transitional governance groups have been established to oversee the process, with cross-organisational working groups actively advancing key areas such as scientific capability, infrastructure, people, and commercial partnerships.

Alongside this preparatory work, CRIs remain focused on delivering for their partners and customers. Continuity, stability, and high-quality science continue to underpin all activity, with research programmes and commercial projects progressing as planned. As work continues, the transition is being carefully managed to minimise disruption and provide increasing clarity. The shared goal is to create unified, future-focused organisations that build on the strengths of each CRI, while continuing to meet the evolving needs of stakeholders across Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

The new institutes will be:

- **New Zealand Institute for Bioeconomy Science** (bringing together AgResearch, Plant & Food Research, Scion, and Manaaki Whenua | Landcare Research) – advancing innovation in agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, biotechnology and manufacturing; protecting ecosystems from biosecurity threats and climate risks; and developing new bio-based technologies and products.
- **New Zealand Institute for Earth Science** (combining The National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), GNS Science and MetService) – supporting energy security and sustainability; developing land, marine and mineral resources; and improving resilience to natural hazards and climate-related risks.

- **New Zealand Institute for Public Health and Forensic Science** (formed by re-purposing the Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR)) – strengthening public health through disease detection and response; and supporting public safety through forensic science services.

Update on Callaghan Innovation

Callaghan Innovation is being disestablished and a number of its important functions transferred to the relevant Public Research Organisation or to MBIE to better support and incentivise innovation for economic growth.

Callaghan Innovation is working with MBIE and the CRIs to plan for the smooth transfer of functions, and once these plans are in place they will be shared across the sector.

All the functions that are transferring will move by 30 June 2026. For many functions, a change in legislation is the best way to enable transfer – and this may take some time.

Some changes have already been made, and some functions are being shut down - for these functions this is happening by 30 June 2025. MBIE wants to thank the team, leadership and board for their professionalism during a difficult time.

Endeavour Fund 2026 round will not invite applications

To support a smooth transition and provide certainty to New Zealand's science organisations as MBIE transitions to the science, innovation and technology system of the future, the decision has been made to not invite applications for the 2026 round of the Endeavour Fund.

To reduce the operational burden of applying for funding while Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) transition into new merged entities, the Endeavour Fund will not be inviting applications to the 2026 round. Funding will instead be directed to support eligible contracts that would otherwise be coming to an end. This will allow them to continue scientific activity, increase impact and retain core science capability. This will provide certainty for the broader science, innovation and technology sector as the science reforms are implemented.

Contracts eligible for extension will be assessed to ensure that they align with government priorities and represent good use of taxpayer money. The Science Board will make the final decision about individual contract extensions. MBIE will work with Science New Zealand, Universities New Zealand and the Independent Research Association of New Zealand (IRANZ) to ensure this is done fairly and equitably with minimum compliance costs.

Pausing applications to large contestable funding rounds during transitional periods is not without precedent. The contestable funding round managed by the Foundation of Research, Science, and Technology (FRST) was cancelled and contracts scheduled to end were extended with funding for one year when the Ministry of Science and Innovation was established.

Note this is a one-off stop to applications to allow the science system reforms to be implemented. The 2025 round will complete as planned and as described in the Gazette Notice. MBIE expects that a contestable round will be undertaken in 2027 subject to further work as part of the science reforms.

Endeavour funding will continue to be invested in excellent science with the potential to positively impact New Zealand's economy, environment and society. Further information, including the maximum available funding to be reinvested into existing Endeavour Fund contracts and any eligibility requirements for continued funding, will be published in a future Gazette Notice.

Background

Science, innovation and technology are key drivers of economic growth, with huge potential to improve the lives of everyday New Zealanders. But to harness that potential, MBIE needs to get the system settings right.

Earlier this year, the Prime Minister announced the most significant changes to our science, innovation and technology system in more than 30 years in response to a full review of the system by the Science System Advisory Group. Since then, MBIE has been working collaboratively and at pace to shape the science organisations of the future.

This effort involves all Crown Research Institutes, Callaghan Innovation and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, alongside staff, industry, government and the wider sector.

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2025

Title	Research Centre Update – Cybersecurity Research Centre
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Acting Secretary
For:	INFORMATION

Recommendation

That the committee receives an update on the future of the Cybersecurity Centre Research Centre.

Purpose

The Cybersecurity Research Centre became inactive in the wake of Denis Lavrov's impending departure from Unitec. At the time there was no-one able to take over the directorship of the centre. In June 2024 the committee approved the operation of the centre be paused for one year to ascertain if there is a change.

An update on the future of the Cybersecurity Research Centre has been provided by the Head of the School of Computing, Electrical and Applied Technology, Susan Bennett as below.

Information

Recovery and Leadership of the Centre

- The School plans for the centre to widen its discipline focus to include Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things (AIOT). There is a new AIOT centre in the school that has the backing of Spark and AWS that will join the Cybersecurity Research Centre. The leadership will be held by Dr Bashar Barmada, in collaboration with other senior researchers in the school.

Integration with School Research Groups

- The school has six research groups, with two of these directly connected to the mahi of the centre. These include Cybersecurity and Networking, AI, Data and Software Systems.
- A further research group - Education and Educational Technologies, will be connected to the centre for the purposes of developing educational solutions.

Focus of External Funding Opportunities

- The School is actively seeking external funding across a range of computing-related opportunities. For example:

- KiwiNet funding has been secured for one of the projects connected to the centre, with the intention of expanding that project into some commercial solutions.
- Additional support from industry is being sought, including extended partnerships with Spark, AWS and other industry partners.
- As part of an international team, in March 2025 the school submitted an MBIE funding application (for a total of \$5M) focused on AI in healthcare. The outcome is expected in mid-May.

Connecting the Centre with Postgraduate Programmes Within the School

- The centre is very well aligned with the postgraduate programmes, as the academic team associated with the centre has been supervising research theses in areas such as AI applications and cybersecurity. Specifically:
 - Students completing the MAT will be encouraged and supported to engage with research activities connected to the centre.
 - Students in the DComp programme will work directly with the academic team on research aligned with the centre's focus areas.

Proposed Next Steps

That the Cybersecurity Research Centre be requested to provide a 2025 Annual Research Centre Report during next year's reporting round in order that the committee can be updated on the activities and the outcomes of the centre over the ensuing 12 months.

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2025

Title	Research Centre Update – Environmental Solutions Research Centre
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Acting Secretary
For:	INFORMATION

Recommendation

That the committee is advised of the closure of the Environmental Solutions Research Centre.

Purpose

Founded by Prof Terri-Ann Berry, the Environmental Solutions Research Centre became inactive in the wake of her departure from Unitec at the beginning of 2024. With the approval of this committee, the operations of the centre were paused for one year in order to ascertain whether the centre could continue operating without its Founder and Director.

The Head of the School of Building Construction, Paul Jeurissen, and the Director of Research and Enterprise, A/P Marcus Williams, have mutually agreed to close the centre, as the school does not have the capacity or capability to retain it.

Information/Background

The Environmental Solutions Research Centre was accredited as a research centre in 2019 under the directorship of A/P Terri-Ann Berry from the School of Building Construction. Terri-Ann left Unitec in January 2024.

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2025

Title	2024 Research Centre Reports
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Senior Grants Advisor
For:	REVIEW

Recommendation

That the committee receives annual Research Centre Reports from Ngā Wai a Te Tūī, Māori & Indigenous Research Centre (NWiTT) and the Digital Heritage Research Centre (DHRC).

Information/Background

The Research Centre Procedure requires Unitec Research Centres to report annually to the URC. Reports will include:

- a) performance against forecast budget and outputs; and
- b) evidence of external funding applications.

Purpose

Unitec's Research Centre Procedure requires all Unitec Research Centres to report annually to the Committee.

Attachments

Annual Research Centre Report – NWaTT

Annual Research Centre Report – DHRC

2024 UNITEC RESEARCH CENTRE REPORT

Unitec's [Research Centre Procedure](#) requires Unitec's Research Centres to report annually to the Unitec Research Committee.

Research Centre:	Nga Wai a Te Tui Māori and Indigenous Research Centre
Centre Director:	Assoc. Prof Deborah Heke

Outline any variations to the vision, mission, aims, priorities and/or distinctiveness of the Centre:

While the core kaupapa and intent of Ngā Wai a Te Tūi remain consistent, the research priorities and areas of focus have started to shift due to new staff appointments. These additions are gradually reshaping the Centre's direction in meaningful ways:

Associate Professor Byron Rangiwai (joined May 2024, contract until April 2027):

- Introduces kaupapa Māori research focused on neurodiversity, particularly ADHD.
- Brings new attention to mental health, education equity, and inclusion from a kaupapa Māori perspective.
- Expands the Centre's ability to respond to lived realities of Māori with neurodivergent experiences.
- Opens opportunities for collaborative work at the intersection of health, education, and social research.
- Encourages the Centre to engage with topics that have previously received limited focus.

Associate Professor Deborah Heke (joined December 2024, Director from April 2025, permanent role):

- Specialises in wāhine Māori health, physical activity, and atua wāhine-based frameworks.
- Her research uses whakapapa, movement, and environmental connection as key entry points for understanding wellbeing.
- Strengthens the Centre's position in kaupapa Māori health research, especially through methods informed by Mana Wahine.
- Brings a distinct approach to leadership that emphasises embodied, place-based and relational research.
- Repositions physical activity not just as health promotion but as a form of identity, expression and mātauranga transmission.

Associate Professor Dion Enari (joined March 2025, contract until February 2028):

- Adds a Pasifika research focus, grounded in Fa'a Samoa, sport, and identity in transnational contexts.

- Highlights the value of cultural continuity and intergenerational knowledge among Samoan communities in diaspora.
- Strengthens Indigenous–Pasifika research partnerships, especially across Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.
- Introduces research into sport as a platform for cultural expression, wellbeing and belonging.
- Enhances the Centre’s engagement with Pasifika youth, language revitalisation, and cultural resilience.

Vision Mātauranga aims “to unlock the innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources and people to assist New Zealanders to create a better future”. Provide an overview of how the Centre has responded to this kaupapa:

Vision Mātauranga is a critically important strategy in research and rangahau across Aotearoa New Zealand in those spaces that may not centre Mātauranga Māori, tikanga and te reo Māori but are looking to grow their capability and capacity around Vision Mātauranga principles. NwaTT is a Kaupapa Māori rangahau centre and as such the principles, practices and intentions congruent with Vision Mātauranga are embedded.

Summarise any opportunities afforded to students to be involved in the Centre and its activities:

MAI ki Wairaka is based at Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka, Unitec, and is part of a national network within Te Pae Whakatairanga Hiranga, the Capability Building programme of Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga (NPM). Hosted by Ngā Wai a Te Tūi, the MAI ki Wairaka programme provides a kaupapa Māori support network for Māori and Indigenous postgraduate students. It offers a range of opportunities, including access to research-focused wānanga, writing sessions, mentoring, and national hui. These activities help strengthen academic confidence, cultural grounding, and enduring connections within the wider MAI community.

In 2024, the following activities were offered:

1. **Regular weekly Tuhi MAI writing sessions** held at Ngā Wai a Te Tūi, creating a consistent, supported space for students to focus on their research and writing goals.
2. **MAI ki Wairaka wānanga** hosted at Te Noho Kotahitanga Marae, providing whakawhanaungatanga, presentations, and focused study and writing time.
3. **Attendance at Te Kūpenga o MAI hui-a-tau**, hosted by MAI ki Tāmaki, Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, where students connected with peers and mentors from across the national network.
4. **Five student presentations from MAI ki Wairaka, Unitec** delivered at the hui-a-tau, strengthening student confidence through sharing their work in a supportive environment.

Through these activities, students benefit from intellectual nourishment, whakawhanaungatanga, and the affirmation of their place within a growing community of Māori and Indigenous scholars.

Outline any changes pertaining to the management and operation of the Centre, including to the Centre's Advisory Board and personnel working in or with the Centre:

On April 1st Assoc Professor Deb Heke took up the Directorship of Nga Wai a Te Tui following the previous Director Assoc. Prof Hinekura Smith stepping down to take up a role at the University of Queensland. AP Heke is a highly capable and experienced research leader, moving from AUT and bringing with her research FTE, including a newly appointed role on the leadership team at Nga Pae o Te Maramatanga as the national MAI doctoral strategy lead.

AP Hinekura Smith maintains a .2 FTE (2025-27).

NWaTT welcomed the return of Aki Te'evale from maternity leave. Aki is a key professional staff member in the Centre with responsibilities around research project support and management; administration; finance support; centre administration.

Outline any changes to the Centre's research streams/themes:

Māori and Pacific Sport, Māori and Indigenous women's wellbeing, Neurodiversity,

Current projects

1. Reconnecting Ngā Hapū o Te Ahuahu: Exploring opportunities and strengths-based approaches to indigenising health and wellbeing. Health Research Council Funded Ngā Kanohi Kitea Development grant (UoA). Co-investigator: AP Deborah Heke (0.05FTE)
2. AP Deborah Heke (0.15FTE) Ngā Pae o Te Māramatanga Kahui Arahi (Research leadership team) as MAI network national strategy lead
3. Te Tahatu o te Rangi Promising Futures Prospective Study. Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga. Co-investigators: AP Deborah Heke (0.2FTE), AP Hinekura Smith (0.2FTE) contracting pending
4. Kanohi-ki-te-kanohi me te matihiko approaches: Promoting equity in stroke rehab (AUT). Health Research Council Project. Co-investigator: AP Deborah Heke (0.05FTE) – contracting pending

Pending projects

1. Health Research Council Emerging Researcher First Grant (3yr \$400k). Principal Investigator: AP Deborah Heke (0.3FTE) – successful outcome embargoed.

Future projects

- TLRI Teaching Learning and Research Initiative. Collaborative project between Ōkura Collective, NWaTT, and Hobsonville Point Secondary School (and other schools) co-designing mentorship/pastoral care systems with wāhine Māori and their whānau.
- MBIE Endeavour fund – AUT team – Looking at youth sport – application is in
- TLRI – Pacific pedagogy through Pacific performing arts
- HRC – Pacific movement
- HRC - Neurodiversity

Outline any changes to the Centre's internal and external partnerships/collaborations, highlighting any new partnerships/collaborations that have been made:

The recent appointment of Associate Professors Heke and Enari brings a range of new networks to the centre, while AP Rangiwai continues to build his vast network.

AP Heke continues her research connections with Taupua Waiora Centre for Māori Research at Auckland University of Technology, as a Research Fellow with the Faculty of Health and Environmental Sciences. She has recently initiated a collaboration with AP Isaac Warbrick (Director Taupua Waiora) on a healthy microbiome study centred at Te Rangimarie Pā Harakeke. AP Heke is founding member of Ōkura Collective, a community-based rangatahi Māori programme aimed at empowering cultural identity and hauora. Recent partnership with Hobsonville Point Secondary School will form the basis of a TLRI project proposal. AP Heke has a vast network of local and international Indigenous scholars (from the US, Canada, Australia, Hawaii, etc), through Te Kupenga Māreikura – a network for Indigenous Women, and as a member of the Kāhui Ārahi for Ngā Pae o Te Māmatanga – the Māori centre for research excellence.

AP Enari has established networks with the following organisations: MIT Pasifika, Oceania Institute Melbourne University, Griffith Pasifika Association, Moanaroa Pacific research network AUT, Fofonga Pacific research excellence – University of Auckland, Ministry of Pacific People, Football NZ, Moana Connect, Pacific Island Centre Otago University, Radio New Zealand, Tagata Pasifika, NZ Herald, Coconet, Village Connect New Zealand Rugby Union Pacific Council (member), Sport New Zealand Whau Pasifika Pacific Advance Secondary School, Australian Dictionary of Biography, South Seas Healthcare, Va Moana, Pacific success – University of the Sunshine Coast, QUT Māori and Pacific equity.

AP Rangiwai has established a vast network of academic, clinical, and community partners from the following organisations/institutions: University of Auckland, University of South Australia, University of Singapore, Tan Tock Seng Hospital (SG), University of Otago, University of Queensland, University of Canterbury, Singapore Institute of Technology, Auckland Bioengineering Institute, National Neuroscience Institute (SG), Starship Hospital, Griffith University, Edith Cowan University, Victoria University of Wellington, Massey University, AUT, Mātai Medical Research Institute, De La Salle University (Philippines), Pūrangakura, NZ Police, Ako Aotearoa

Please list all submitted and successful external funding applications (a spreadsheet or similar can be appended if easier):

Funding source	Amount applied for	Project	Result
International Teaching Artist Conference	\$8,695	ITAC6-7	Won and contract delivered
MBIE	\$149,945	Ka Tu Te Ra	Won. Being novated to University of Waikato

Please find a summary of projects that completed in 2024 and are ongoing and newly commissioned in 2025:

PROJECT	Contract Value	Completion date	Revenue 2024
RE22011 Pou Rataki Kounga MAI	134,947	31 Dec 24	\$81,422
RE22024 Taiora Hauora	60,000	31 Dec 24	\$50,525

RE22025 Toi ora, Whatu ora, Whatauroa	224,650	31 Dec 24	\$90,905
RE23008 Generation Kainga	259,866	December 26	\$71,070
RE23011 Apple in Kura	35,060	March 24	\$24,073
RE24001 ITAC6-7	8,695	July 24	\$9,194
RE24007 Ka Tu Te Ra*	149,945	Undergoing novation	\$5,528
RE21008 Storylines of Pacific Wāhine*	300,000	Novated	\$8,338
Total	\$1,173,183		\$341,055

New Projects 2025 (to date)

PROJECT	Contract Value	Completion date
RE25003 Pou Rautaki Kouna MAI	88,038	31 December 2026
RE25002 Reconnecting Ngā Hapū o Te Ahuahu: reindigenising health and wellbeing	5,224	31 July 2025
RE25004 Apple In Kura Phase 2 (Te Tai Tokerau)	39,808	10 September 2025
Total	\$133,070	

Briefly account for any difference between budgeted and actual income:

N/A

If there is anything else you wish to report, please do so here:

N/A

2024 UNITEC RESEARCH CENTRE REPORT

Unitec's [Research Centre Procedure](#) requires Unitec's Research Centres to report annually to the Unitec Research Committee.

Research Centre:	Digital Heritage Research Centre
Centre Director:	Renata Jadresin Milic

Outline any variations to the vision, mission, aims, priorities and/or distinctiveness of the Centre:

The Digital Heritage Research Centre was established in July 2022. In 2024, there were no variations to the vision, mission, aims, or priorities to report on at this point. However, please see below the last paragraph of the section "Outline any changes pertaining to the management and operation of the Centre".

Vision Mātauranga aims "to unlock the innovation potential of Māori knowledge, resources and people to assist New Zealanders to create a better future". Provide an overview of how the Centre has responded to this kaupapa:

Core team members in our projects teams are tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti committed to co-designing the research project with mana whenua and manuhiri communities to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The solutions our projects aim to develop would have directly impacted New Zealand's ability to preserve Māori cultural heritage, including marae. While a previous MBIE Endeavour Fund Research Programme proposal was unsuccessful, feedback received from the assessment panel included, "The project focuses on an important topic of cultural heritage that is fragile but essential in maintaining diversity and cultural values".

Our research approach embodies the relationality of whakapapa and whanaungatanga. Heritage is understood as connections between people and place, with mana whenua recognised as having the deepest lived connection to place. This distinguishes us from common approaches usually aimed at capturing and presenting heritage.

See also below, the second paragraph of the section "Outline any changes pertaining to the management and operation of the Centre".

Summarise any opportunities afforded to students to be involved in the Centre and its activities:

Students have been actively involved in our work since the establishment of DHRC. Students take part in all phases of digital recording, processing, modelling of heritage places, and interpretation of the data; in public presentations and engagement with the community, industry professionals in the field, and the research team.

In 2024, our MARCP student Arlene Sisarich actively participated in the second phase of the Digital Heritage Research Centre's most recent ongoing project and work on the *St David's Memorial Church* on Khyber Pass Road in Auckland. Arlene was directly engaged with both the industry and community, while doing the digital recording of St David's, processing, 3D modelling, visualisation of the developed material, etc. Arlene learned a

whole range of digital heritage methodologies, together with traditional historiography methodology, while directly developing the material that the community needs to protect and adaptively reuse the heritage building.

MARCP student Hannah Adolf (who was awarded a Unitec industry scholarship in 2023 to work with the DHRC) continued to gain and extend her new knowledge while working on the research project devoted to Carlile House (a heritage building in Grey Lynn, Auckland, built in 1886).

Former MARCP student Rohan Sadhu (who was previously awarded the ICOMOS NZ General Assembly Conference Sydney Scholarship and became the ICOMOS ANZ Emerging Professional member) continues his engagement in the heritage field and with the DHRC. In 2024, Rohan became a member of the ICOMOS ANZ Legislation and Policy Committee and started working full-time for DPA Architects, founded by heritage architect Dave Pearson.

There are multiple other examples of continual engagement with former and current students where they have been involved in the DHRC and its activities. A few academic papers, in preparation for submissions, are another outcome of these engagements.

Outline any changes pertaining to the management and operation of the Centre, including to the Centre's Advisory Board and personnel working in or with the Centre:

We did have changes in personnel in 2024. The two research assistants, Viola Vadász and Iman Khan, joined the DHRC in November 2022, and in 2023 actively worked: assisting with all research projects organisation; assisting with surveys and focus groups; assisting with the evaluation of data; assisting with writing funding applications; assisting with writing research papers; assisting with writing research papers and organising online talks/lunchtime talk series; assisting in expanding our working network, including Heritage NZ and Auckland City Council – Heritage Unit. However, they could not continue their engagement with DHRC in 2024 in the same capacity. Iman Khan started working as a lecturer in the School of Architecture and became engaged with other research groups. Viola Vadász was engaged in the smaller capacity from April 2024 but eventually resigned in October 2024.

To keep up the momentum with the external grant application, a Professional Services Contract was set for Abigail Temby Spence to support the DHRC. Abigail was our MARCP student and was also awarded the ICOMOS ANZ Emerging Professional memberships through DHRC and RJM. Her original research on tangata Tiriti allies working alongside Māori colleagues and clients means Abigail brought insight and a relational network of Māori and tangata Tiriti allies to DHRC research projects that other project members cannot offer. This has been a very successful engagement.

October/November 2024: Meetings between the Tūāpapa Rangahau Director and one of the DHRC Advisory Committee members, Marcus Williams, HoS Architecture Peter McPherson, and DHRC establishing and current director Renata Jadresin Milic: The problem identified that the centre has become a solo effort, even while achieving remarkable things right up to a Ministerial level. Recognised and suggested concepts toward a resolution: Take steps toward the future potential for co-directorship of the centre or/and maybe assigned areas of leadership which allows breathing room for each skillset; A range of support products and processes from Tūāpapa Rangahau to be orientated toward Groups/Centres rather than individuals. It was decided that starting in

2025, DHRC will have shared leadership between Renata Jadresin Milic, Christoph Schnoor, and Peter McPherson.

Outline any changes to the Centre's research streams/themes:

Not directly applicable in 2024. As per above, outcomes of the shared leadership of DHRC between Renata Jadresin Milic, Christoph Schnoor, and Peter McPherson. More about new research streams/themes will be reported in 2025.

Outline any changes to the Centre's internal and external partnerships/collaborations, highlighting any new partnerships/collaborations that have been made:

External and Internal:

Since the establishment of DHRC, our working network has been growing overall. External partnerships have been significantly growing further in 2024, in particular.

Existing, developed further in 2024:

- Further engagement with Friends of St David's, a charitable trust dedicated to the preservation of St David's Memorial Church. I coordinated Unitec students and industry partner Woods to provide laser scanning resources and 2D and 3D drawings and models to the Trust.
- Further engagement with industry partner ArcLab, platform.

New relationships established in 2024:

- Ellen Andersen (Director Kaiwhakahaere Tautiaki Taonga me Kaupapa Māori, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga).
- Andrea Goethals (Manager of Digital Preservation and Data Capability, National Library of New Zealand): Invitation for DHRC wants to be involved in iPRES 2025, the leading international conference on digital preservation (in 2025 in New Zealand for the first time).
- Horizon Europe program. From 2024, we (DHRC) started conversations with potential partners, and became registered partners (Unitec) in the Horizon Europe system, who can benefit from opportunities for potential institutional cooperation and creating consortia for applying to EU tenders.
- Lake House Trust community group.

Renata Jadresin Milic continues to be a very active ICOMOS ANZ – Elected Board Member (2022-2025), and the following ICOMOS ANZ Specialist Committees member: Legislation and Policy Committee; Advocacy & Communications Committee; Education & Professional Development Committee. Active-Participant in the ICOMOS ANZ Charter Practice Notes scoping project 2021. The leading person for New Zealand for the ICOMOS Mentorship Pilot Programme. In the role in the Legislation and Policy Committee, RJM actively provided advice to policymakers and worked on the following written and oral submissions in 2024:

- [ICOMOS New Zealand Submission to Environment Committee Fast-track Approvals Bill, April 2024.](#)
- [ICOMOS ANZ Submission - Environment Committee Resource Management \(Consenting and Other System Changes\) Amendment Bill.](#)

- ICOMOS ANZ Submission – HNZPT Consultation Draft, Statements of General Policy, October 2024. Etc.

In 2024, ICOMOS ANZ Annual Conference and AGM in Ōtepoti Dunedin, 18–20 October. The conference weekend opened with a networking evening at the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga offices with members and colleagues working in the heritage sector.

We also welcomed the Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage, the Honourable Paul Goldsmith, at the conference opening on Saturday, 19 October. Minister Goldsmith participated in our Q/A session, discussing various topics, ongoing challenges, and potential solutions arising from the heritage sector. This active work and conversations continue in 2025.

All previously mentioned partnerships and collaborations are evidenced already through the early dissemination of our joint work:

Dissemination in academic environment – Papers/Book chapters:

- Vadász, V., Jadresin Milic, R., & Khan, I.R. (2024). Transdisciplinary Digital Heritage Research Centre Development: Applied Research Towards a More Resilient Environment. In Shamout, S., Bradbury, M., Altan, H., Patel, Y. & McPherson, P. (Eds.), *Integrating Resiliency into Future Sustainable Cities* Advances in Science, Technology & Innovation IEREK Interdisciplinary Series for Sustainable Development ed. (pp. 143-156). Switzerland.

- Khan, I.R., Jadresin Milic, R., Su, B., & Vadász, V. (2024). Learning from practice in the digital age: 'Digitalisation of heritage in New Zealand'. *Architectural Science Review*, Jul 2024, 1-15. 10.1080/00038628.2024.2371057

- Sadhu, R., & Jadresin Milic, R. (2024). Rejuvenating Culture: Enhancing Cultural Heritage At Rāmappa Temple. In Jitka Cirklová (Ed.), *Prague – Heritages Past and Present - Built and Social. AMPS Proceedings Series 35.2*, Vol. 2 (pp. 610-620).

Dissemination in academic and professional environment – Conference and Symposium Presentation, Academic Debates, Keynote Lecture, in 2024:

- Khan, I., Jadresin Milic, R., & Vadasz, V. (2024, December). *The Value of Digitalisation in Aotearoa New Zealand: Perspectives from Focus Group Discussions* [Paper presentation]. ITP Research Symposium 2024, Auckland, New Zealand.

- Jadresin Milic, R. (2024, November, 28). *Methods and Methodologies: Integrated Approach for a More Holistic History, Theory and Heritage Practice* [Paper presentation]. Three Auckland Providers History, Theory and Heritage Research Symposium, Auckland, New Zealand.

- Jadresin Milic, R. (2024, October). *Values of Heritage Digitalisation in Aotearoa New Zealand: Insights from Focus Groups* [Paper presentation]. Everyone's Heritage: Celebrating the values of heritage in Aotearoa New Zealand, ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand Conference 2024. Dunedin.

- Jadresin Milic, R. (2024, May). Istraživački centar za digitalno nasleđe i Stepeni složenosti u pristupima nasleđu u Aotearoa. [Paper presentation]. 'Conversations: traditional architecture, building, and urbanism' panel discussion series, Belgrade, Serbia.

Dissemination in industry/professional media, media and community in 2024:

- Philp, M. (2024, December) "Digital Promise". in *Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga*, Issue 175, 42-47. (DHRC work was featured and conversation with RJM cited).
- Jadresin Milic, R. (2024). *Heritage Conservation at Unitec School of Architecture Unitec Te Whare Wānanga o Wairaka – Te Pūkenga*. September, 2024. (pp. 8-9). Aotearoa New Zealand. <https://icomos.org.nz/category/newsletters/>.
- Jadresin Milic, R., Potangaroa, R., & Smith, S. (2024). *Scanning the Mt Eden Shot Tower*. March, 2024. (pp. 2-5). Aotearoa New Zealand. <https://icomos.org.nz/category/newsletters/>.
- Ruru, K., "The historic tower that was pulled down after fears of toppling during Cyclone Gabrielle", *Staff*, 20 January, 2024.

Please list all submitted and successful external funding applications (a spreadsheet or similar can be appended if easier):

Funding source	Amount applied for	Project	Result
2025 Royal Society Te Apārangi Catalyst Seed Funding	TBC (max grant is \$80,000)	Heritage Atlas: A Digital Framework for Community-Driven Heritage Conservation	In preparation. It is hoped a successful application would seed international collaborations that could lead to an application for Horizon Europe funding
2025 Royal Society Te Apārangi Marsden Fund Standard (expression of interest)	\$870,000	Digital tools and methodologies to enhance the preservation and accessibility of Māori heritage	TBC (outcome expected May 2025)
British School at Rome Rome Scholarship in Architecture for 2025-2026	The award includes board and accommodation in a study bedroom at the British School at Rome for three months, from 5 January to 31 March 2026, and a research grant of £800 per month.	Traditional Design Principles, Methods and Architectural Language Adaptation: Case Study Armando Brasini	Successful
2025 MBIE Endeavour Fund Research	\$8,000,000	Digitising Māori and Settler Heritage for	N/A

Programme (registration only)		Ecological and Cultural Resilience	
2024 Royal Society Te Apārangi New Zealand Mana Tūānuku Research Leader Fellowship (full application)	\$1,160,000	Community-Driven Heritage Conservation: Collaborative Research, Engagement, Learning and Reflection for a more Resilient Society	Not successful
2024 Te Tahua Taiao Ngā Taonga Lottery Environment and Heritage (full application)	\$198,681	Digital Preservation and GIS Innovation: Safeguarding the Lake House Arts Centre and New Zealand's Cultural Heritage	Not successful
2024 MBIE Endeavour Fund Research (registration only)	\$9,000,000	Tradition to Innovation: a Cultural Resilience Framework for Heritage Conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand	N/A
2023 Royal Society Te Apārangi Marsden Fund Standard (expression of interest)	\$870,000	New Zealand's Cultural Heritage at Risk: A Trans-disciplinary Approach for enhancing Multi-Hazard Resiliency	Not successful
2023 MBIE Endeavour Fund Research Programme (full proposal)	\$10,695,545	Transforming Heritage Conservation in NZ: A Transdisciplinary Approach for/towards a More Resilient Environment	Not successful
Te Tahua Taiao Ngā Taonga Lottery Environment and Heritage (in partnership with St. David's Memorial Trust)	\$20,000	Conservation of St. David's Memorial Church (Digital preservation of the Tower)	Not successful

Please report on the Centre's annual budgeted versus actual income from the year of commencement of the Centre to the year ended 31 December 2024 (expand the table accordingly, or alternatively this information can be appended if you have it in a different format):

Income Source	Year Ending	Budgeted Income \$	Actual Income \$

Briefly account for any difference between budgeted and actual income:

In 2024, we actively worked on external funding applications, primarily from grants from central and local government agencies and from industry partners. The centre has been working closely with colleagues from Tūāpapa Rangahau to identify all funding opportunities, which may also include paid consultancies, student scholarships and hosting conferences and symposia.

In 2024, we actively pursued externally funded research opportunities and worked on developing grant applications for: Catalyst Seeding General; New Zealand Mana Tūākana Research Leader Fellowships; Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund; Regional Historic Heritage Grants, Marsden Fund, Endeavour Fund. And we have been working on registering for Horizon Europe 2024/2025.

Our main focus in 2024 was the Royal Society Te Apārangi New Zealand Mana Tūānuku Research Leader Fellowship and Te Tahua Taiao Ngā Taonga Lottery Environment and Heritage. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful with these three applications.

A lot of our effort in 2024 went into preparing and submitting other large, multi-stakeholder applications. We will continue to do this according to the timing requirements of individual grant schemes.

On an international scale, we want to continue our initial work to become Horizon Europe registered partners (Unitec). Existing connections with several colleagues from universities in Europe will lead to grant applications together and the development of scientific projects through the Horizon Europe program. Opportunities for potential institutional cooperation and creating consortia for applying to EU tenders.

Successful international grant application in 2024 was: Rome Scholarship in Architecture for 2025-2026, from the British School at Rome

Additional information about projects can be supplied on request and as they are prepared. Please note that we can have in-kind funding of ~\$100k from industry partners for professional services, specialist expertise and access to specialised equipment, software, etc.

If there is anything else you wish to report, please do so here:

N/A

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date of Meeting: 12 June 2025

Title	Transitional Arrangements for Director Research & Enterprise Position
Provided by:	Brenda Massey, Acting Secretary
For:	INFORMATION

Recommendation

That the committee be advised that Hadley Brown will be serving as Director Research & Enterprise in an interim capacity following the departure of A/P Marcus Williams on 30 May.

Information

Hadley Brown will be serving in an interim capacity as Director Research & Enterprise. This arrangement should be between 2 – 6 weeks in duration from 2 June, depending on when the successful candidate can start.

Any approval requests or business as usual queries you would have directed to Marcus, you can direct to Hadley from 2 June. Bear in mind however, that new initiatives or anything that can reasonably wait, should be held over. This is respectful to the new director but also caring for Hadley.

In addition to his interim role, Hadley will continue to chair this committee, serve as Research Contracts Specialist, work 0.5FTE in Ngā Wai a Te Tūi and actively assist with Research Partnering.

Marcus and the wider Tūāpapa Rangahau team are immensely grateful to Hadley for agreeing to take on this significant extra responsibility. We know our business is in good hands with Hadley and that the Tūāpapa Rangahau team will pull together to make this the best leadership transition it can possibly be.

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?