



# minutes

## Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee

Date:	2025-10-09
Scheduled Start:	1200h
Scheduled End:	1500h
Location:	Microsoft Teams

<b>MEETING OPENED:</b>	1200h
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### SECTION 1 – NGĀ KUPU ARATAKI | PRELIMINARIES

#### **Item 1.1 Karakia Tīmatanga | Opening Prayer**

#### **Item 1.2 Mihi Whakatau | Welcome from the Chair**

The chair warmly welcomed members of the Unitec and MIT Research Committees and MIT Research Leaders to the meeting.

### SECTION 2 – STANDING ITEMS

#### **Item 2.1 Ngā Whakapāha | Attendance, Apologies & Quorate Status**

##### **Members Present**

1. Rosanne Ellis (Chair)
2. Rokosiga Morrison (proxy for Daisy Bentley-Gray) (until 2pm)
3. Anna Wheeler (proxy for Sana Saleem) (until 2pm)
4. Arun Deo
5. Hinewai Reihana-White
6. Kristie Cameron (online)
7. Lian Wu (online)
8. Dion Enari (proxy for Helen Gremillion)
9. Hamid Sharifzadeh
10. Xinxin Wang (until 2pm)
11. Kathryn George
12. Linda Kestle (online) (from 1pm)

Total members represented: 12 members

##### **Apologies**

1. Leon Tan
2. Helen Gremillion
3. Sana Saleem
4. Daisy Bentley-Gray

Total apologies: 4 members

**MOTION**

**That the committee accepts the apologies for today’s meeting.**

**Moved: Arun Deo**

**Seconded: Hinewai Reihana-White**

**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
2. Hadley Brown, Tūāpapa Rangahau
3. Evangelia Papoutsaki, Tūāpapa Rangahau
4. Maia Topp, MIT (until 2pm)
5. Rob Shaw, MIT
6. Deb Heke, Ngā Wai a Te Tūi
7. Mel Wong, MIT
8. Aiono Manu Fa’aea, MIT (until 2.30pm)

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

**MOTION**

**That the committee approves the minutes of the 2025-09-11 meeting as a true and accurate record.**

**Moved: Hinewai Reihana-White**

**Seconded: Arun Deo**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Item 2.3 Mahia Atū | Matters Arising**

<b>Agenda Item(s)</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
2.3	Martin Carroll has asked that the committee reviews the criteria for setting up a research centre to ensure that resilience is built into their business cases.	Hadley Brown	In progress
	Schedule a further discussion of this matter	Brenda Massey	

	when Rosanne Ellis is in attendance.		
2.3	Work with the Head of Applied Business to recruit a new committee representative from the school.	Hadley Brown	In progress
2.3	Discuss with Rosanne Ellis the possibility of establishing a scheme for projects led by senior researchers that include researchers who need support to achieve research outputs for the RPTL.	Hadley Brown	In progress
2.3	Schedule a further discussion of the opportunities/concerns that the Unitec/MIT merger could represent, in the research space when Rosanne Ellis is in attendance.	Brenda Massey	Complete - on agenda

More than 30 entries have been received for the joint Unitec/MIT 3 Minute Thesis Competition, a fantastic response. The event will be held on 22 October at Te Noho Kotahitanga.

### SECTION 3 - WHAKAWHITI KÖRERO | ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

#### **Section 3.1 Changes across the tertiary and science+innovation system, e.g. Tertiary Education Strategy and PBRF/TREF changes**

A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- The Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) is being replaced by the Tertiary Research Excellence Fund (TREF).
- Research degree completions (RDCs), external research funding (ERI) and a quality evaluation (QE) will remain components of the TREF. However, previously based on individual researcher portfolios, the QE component of TREF will adopt a metrics-based assessment approach. This shift is intended to streamline evaluation processes, reduce administrative burden, and better align research assessment with national priorities around impact, scale, and return on investment.
- The government is looking to support research that delivers economic, social and industry-benefits; Unitec and MIT, with our strengths in applied research and our strong partnerships with industry, are well placed to respond to the system changes.
- The government has acknowledged that the research that is undertaken by universities is different to the research that is undertaken by ITPs and vocational education training (VET) providers. They have signalled a strong interest in developing differentiated KPIs and metrics that reflect the distinct missions and contributions of different types of tertiary institutions, including those focused on VET.

- As part of this shift, the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and Ministry of Education (MoE) will begin a new round of consultation from late October into November. This process will help shape the future direction of how Unitec and MIT's research outputs and impact are defined, measured, and rewarded within TREF.
- Current PBRF funding allocations will stay the same for 2026 and 2027. So, we have a two-year window to lift our research productivity in preparation for TREF 2028.
- It is thought that unlike the PBRF, the TREF assessment timeline won't be every six or eight years, it will be on a more regular basis. So, as we increase our research activity, there's not going to be a lag, and we can start to budget and think more strategically about how we invest in research.
- As part of the new Tertiary Education Strategy (TES), all TEOs will have to have a Research Plan as part of their annual Investment Plans. Therefore, we will have to have our new Research Strategy in place ready to form part of the 2027 Investment Plan.
- We have our two Academic Committees coming together, maintaining their separate Terms of Reference (ToR) for now. It was proposed that the URC and MIT Research Committees should follow this lead.

### **Section 3.2 Approach to co-development of the Unitec/MIT Research Strategy**

A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- Everything about the current strategy is up for review, including current research support processes and procedures.
- It is important that we take a co-created approach to developing a new Rautaki Rangaha-Applied Research Strategy (2026-2028). A number of co-creation workshops will be held to ensure a wide range of views, including and especially Māori and Pacific views, are heard and captured, and that decisions are data informed, and data driven.
- It is key that Māori and Pacific culture, practice, voice is embedded throughout the strategy.
- The development of a new strategy provides an important opportunity to reframe and redefine our research. The strategy needs to define what our research is and what our unique value proposition is.
- The strategy will be developed from a bottom up, top-down perspective. This means engagement and consultation, reviewing institutional support structures and functions, and then achieving a grounded definition of research.
- The Research Strategy will guide the creation of a new combined research committee and its ToR.
- There was support to apply a Waka Hourua model to the development of the new strategy.
- Tūāpapa Rangahau has started to look at its research support structures, and the current return on investment. This includes identifying who our active researchers are, where the internal research investment is going, whether it is going to the right places, and whether its systems and processes are fit for purpose to achieve what our institutions want to achieve.
- It's crucial that the Rautaki Rangahau-Research Strategy that is developed works for the communities we work with.

Some of the topics and themes that were identified as needing to be considered as part of creating the new Research Strategy were:

- What do our researchers need

- Unitec's support systems, HR, Finance, IT etc, must enable research
- Measures and metrics; outcomes and impact measures
- Compliance, e.g., TEC and MoE
- Ethics
- Students, community, industry
- The teaching/research nexus
- Support and resources
- Values
- Capability building
- Transparency and equity
- Students as active research contributors
- Publishing
- Ecosystems and environment
- Multiple entry points/pathways for researchers
- Aspirations
- Support for priority group researchers
- Support for new and emerging and early career researchers
- What networks and alliances we will need; who we will need to partner with
- Valuing research groups and transdisciplinary research
- Not losing what we are already doing well
- Different levels of research maturity

It was noted that rautaki is a Māori kupu for strategy.

### **Section 3.3                      Research SWOT, e.g. opportunities, barriers, aspirations, collaboration opportunities**

Covered as part of Section 3.1 and 3.2.

### **Section 3.4                      Planning for the next committee meeting**

Rosanne Ellis and Rob Shaw will table bringing the two research committees together at the next MIT Research Committee. It is likely that the November meeting will be a combined meeting.

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## **SECTION 6 - KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING**

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

N/A

### **Section 6.2                      Komiti Self-Assessment**

Any feedback about this meeting, or about how the committee is operating in general, should be directed to Delphine Gesche [dgesche@unitec.ac.nz](mailto:dgesche@unitec.ac.nz).

General comments or queries are also welcome to be provided to either the Chair or the Secretary, either inside or outside of meetings.

### **Section 6.3                      Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Karakia**

**MEETING CLOSED:** 1430 h

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

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