



# minutes

## Combined Meeting of Te Komiti Rangahau o Unitec | Unitec Research Committee & Te Komiti Rangahau o MIT | MIT Research Committee (Informal Meeting)

Date:	2025-11-13
Scheduled Start:	1230h
Scheduled End:	1630h
Location:	180-2043 (Te Puna, Mt Albert) and MS Teams

<b>MEETING OPENED:</b>	1230h
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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 to the meeting.

#### **Members Present**

1. Rosanne Ellis (Chair)
2. Maia Topp
3. Kristie Cameron
4. Helen Gremillion
5. Arun Deo
6. Hamid Sharifzadeh
7. Kathryn George
8. Tom Qi
9. Rob Shaw
10. Hadley Brown
11. Linda Kestle
12. Sana Saleem
13. Daisy Bentley-Gray
14. Aiono Manu Fa'aea
15. Hinewai Reihana-White
16. Mel Wong
17. Leon Tan

18. Lian Wu (online)

Total members represented: 18 members

#### **Other Staff in Attendance**

1. Galia BarHava, Facilitator
2. Brenda Massey, Tūāpapa Rangahau
3. Hadley Brown, Tūāpapa Rangahau
4. Martin Carroll, DCE Academic
5. Deb Heke, Ngā Wai a Te Tūi

Total other staff in attendance: 5 in attendance

#### **Apologies**

1. Kylie Smith

Total apologies: 1 member

## **SECTION 2**

## **RAUTAKI RANGAHAU – CO-CREATION WORKSHOP:**

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### **Section 4.1 Rautaki Rangahau | Research Strategy Co-Creation Workshop**

The focus of today's meeting was for committee members to contribute to co-creating the new Rautaki Rangahau | Applied Research Strategy 2026-2028. The meeting was facilitated by Dr Galia BarHava, an expert in organisational culture and growth.

The workshop opened with introductions, an address by Prof Martin Carroll, DCE Academic, and framing of the session by Rosanne Ellis and Galia BarHava. It consisted of a number of small-group exercises with an appreciative inquiry focus (appreciative enquiry is a collaborative and strengths-based approach to organisational development).

Martin's address is minuted below. Notes from the workshop have not been minuted but will be utilised to inform future co-creation workshops and in the development of the Rautaki Rangahau itself.

#### **Summary of Martin's Address**

The vocational education and training (VET) sector faces a once-in-a-generation opportunity to redefine its place in Aotearoa New Zealand's research landscape. Following large-scale national reforms to the science, research funding, and tertiary education sectors, applied research within VET has been overlooked. This gap presents an opportunity to reposition the sector as a leading applied research partner.

Martin made six key points as follows:

#### **1. Establish VET as the National Leader in Applied Research**

The sector must decisively claim the applied research space—an area long discussed but never truly owned by any institution. Instead of imitating universities or pursuing a university identity, VET providers should emphasise their distinctive contribution: solving real-world problems using existing theory and knowledge. This recognition will position the sector as essential to New Zealand's innovation ecosystem.

## **2. Build a Research Model Based on Strong Partnerships**

Applied research requires end users. We need to shift away from reliance on contestable funding towards partnerships with industry, community organisations, iwi/hapū, and government entities. Collaboration with universities remains important but in a complementary role: VET as the applied research partner to basic research providers. This approach highlights relevance, responsiveness, and shared problem-solving.

## **3. Prioritise Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Problem-Solving**

Real-world issues rarely fall neatly within a single discipline. To lead effectively in applied research, we (Unitec/MIT) need to organise ourselves for cross-disciplinary collaboration. This will allow us to match the complexity of the challenges our partners face and will strengthen our competitive advantage in delivering practical, integrated research outcomes.

## **4. Integrate Research with Teaching**

Research should not be an optional extra. We need to embed applied research into the core of vocational programmes—from certificate to postgraduate levels. Involving students directly in industry-focused problem-solving strengthens both their critical-thinking abilities and the sector's reputation. Expanding professional practice-focused master's and doctoral pathways is a key opportunity. This integration will challenge persistent misconceptions that vocational education lacks intellectual rigour.

## **5. Grow Research Capability and Capacity Across the Sector**

There is significant untapped research talent within Unitec and MIT. To maximise impact, we must strengthen infrastructure, support, and collaborative mechanisms to enable staff to develop as researchers. Building capability is essential for scaling the applied research agenda and positioning our sector as a credible national leader.

## **6. Celebrate People and Share Research Stories Publicly**

A cultural shift is needed to make research more visible, valued, and understood. Unitec and MIT should proactively share success stories—from staff contributions to student-involved industry projects—to build recognition of the value of applied research. Going forward there is an opportunity for every teaching staff member to have a public-facing profile that reflects their contribution to applied research, curiosity, and community engagement. Storytelling is essential for attracting partners and strengthening identity.

### **Closing remarks from the workshop facilitators and next steps:**

- The outcomes of today's workshop will inform future co-creation workshops.
- The next co-creation workshop will be held online on Thursday, 11 December.
- Tūāpapa Rangahau will share what is being developed at each stage.

By the end of the workshop the meeting was no longer quorate. The items of usual and other business were attended to via an e-meeting of both committees the following week.

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## **SECTION 6**

## **KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING**

### **Section 6.3**

### **Karakia Whakamutunga | Closing Karakia**

**MEETING CLOSED:**

1630 h

The outcomes of the items attended to via an e-meeting of both committees held the week after the physical meeting are as follows:

**E-MEETING OPENED:** 0900 h, Monday 17 November 2025

**Committee Members Were Directed To:**

- Read the Motions (in the grey boxes) then type their name as being either FOR or AGAINST the Motions.
- Assume that members who did not respond before the deadline (noon, Wednesday, 19 November) were FOR the Motions.

**SECTION 2 – STANDING ITEMS**

**Apologies**

2. Kylie Smith

Total apologies: 1 member

**MOTION**

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

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

**MOTION**

**That the committee approves the minutes of the URC meeting of 2025-10-09 and the MIT Research Committee meeting of 2025-10-16 as a true and accurate record.**

**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.  Schedule a further discussion of this matter when Rosanne Ellis is in attendance.	Hadley Brown  Brenda Massey	In progress

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

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### SECTION 3 - MEI HEI WHAKAAE | ITEMS TO APPROVE

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#### **Section 3.1                      2025/2026 Unitec School Research Plans**

**MOTION**

**That the committee approves that the process of updating 2025/2026 Unitec School Research Plans be deferred to enable alignment with the upcoming Unitec/MIT merger and to ensure that future School Research Plans align with the new Rautaki Rangahau | Applied Research Strategy 2026-2028 currently under development.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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### SECTION 5                      NGĀ TUKUNGA | ITEMS TO RECEIVE

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#### **Section 5.1                      2025 Early Career Researcher Progress Report – Dr Sameh Shamout**

**MOTION**

**That the committee receives the 2025 Unitec Early Career Researcher Funding progress report from Dr Sameh Shamout.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

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### SECTION 6                      KUPU WHAKAMUTUNGA | CLOSING

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#### **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.

**E-MEETING CLOSED:**

1200 h, Wednesday 19 November 2025

### SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Agenda Item(s)	Action	Responsible	Outcome
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.  Schedule a further discussion of this matter when Rosanne Ellis is in attendance.	Hadley Brown  Brenda Massey	
2.3	Work with the Head of Applied Business to recruit a new committee representative from the school.	Hadley Brown	
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	