

Council Meeting
1 December 2025, Kensington Campus
Report of outcomes

Matters covered at the meeting

Strategic Focus

Members discussed developments in the higher education sector, including the government's release of international student allocation data, proposed reforms associated with the establishment of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission, and emerging regulatory requirements for offshore delivery of Australian degrees. Council also reviewed outcomes from the 2025 UNSW staff Insight Survey and resulting priorities.

Key Matters

Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence

A detailed update was provided on UNSW's preparations for implementation of the *National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence*. Discussion focused on governance arrangements, reporting obligations, staff training requirements, implementation planning and organisational readiness. The Whole of Organisation Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Plan 2026–2029 was approved for submission to the Department of Education

University Governance Principles

The recently released University Governance Principles were considered alongside UNSW's assessment of its current governance framework against those principles. Discussion focused on opportunities to strengthen transparency, stakeholder engagement and communication regarding decision-making, with particular emphasis on initiatives designed to build trust and confidence in university governance.

Academic Governance

Council received a report from the President of the Academic Board outlining recent Academic Board activities, including academic program approvals, outcomes from the Academic Board elections, higher degree research matters, implementation of recommendations arising from the External Review of Academic Governance and preparations for academic activities in UNSW India.

Technology and digital transformation

Council was updated on UNSW's Technology Strategy, which will guide future IT investment and uplifted digital capability to support emerging needs such as lifelong learning, research agility and personalised student services.

Governing Body Matters and Performance

Reports from the Audit Committee, Information Technology Committee and Safety and Risk Committee were considered. These reports provided assurance regarding financial controls, risk management, internal audit outcomes, technology transformation, business continuity, governance effectiveness and a new contractor engagement management framework. New Workplace Gender

Equality Agency targets relating to women's representation in senior academic positions, gender pay equity and parental leave participation were endorsed.

Other Matters

The meeting marked the final Council meeting for Chancellor David Gonski AC, Council member Maxine Brenner and Academic Board President Professor Scott Kable. Members acknowledged their significant contributions to the governance and leadership of the University. The meeting also welcomed undergraduate student member Jessica Gough and incoming Academic Board President Professor Alex Steel.

Disclaimer

This report summarises the key themes and decisions of the meeting. It is not a complete record of proceedings and does not include all matters discussed or the full detail of decisions. Some matters may be omitted for legal or commercial confidentiality.

Further Information

Further information on UNSW governance, including Council functions, membership and committees, is available through the University's governance resources.

Council [Membership](#)

Council Member [Biographies](#)

[Council Governance Documents](#)

- Charter
- Council and Council Committee Code of Conduct and Values
- Council Constitution Rules
- Council Appointment Policy

[Council Proceedings](#)

Council meetings are open to members of the University: staff, students and graduates and any other person invited to attend by the Chancellor or the University Secretary. Bookings are required with the University Secretary (via council@unsw.edu.au) a minimum of three business days before the day of the meeting. Observers will be asked to leave for confidential items.