

Council meeting
15 June 2026, Kensington campus
Report of outcomes

Matters covered at the meeting

Strategic Focus

Council was updated on a range of strategic and external developments affecting the University, including the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion, the notification of the successful re-registration outcome from the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) just received, and the formal commencement of UNSW Bengaluru, with the first intake of students scheduled to commence in August 2026. Council acknowledged TEQSA's recognition of UNSW's work to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and was advised a report would be submitted to its next meeting.

Council noted the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings, which placed UNSW 19th globally and number one in Australia, marking the fourth consecutive year the University has ranked amongst the world's top 20 universities. Members recognised this achievement as testament to the dedication of UNSW's entire community and an important opportunity for further impact.

Council received and discussed the Environmental Sustainability Report 2025, considering the University's progress towards emissions reduction targets, measuring environmental performance, and the emerging impacts of artificial intelligence and data centre growth on energy and resource consumption.

Council received a presentation from the Faculty of Science covering its strategic direction, performance and future priorities. Members discussed the faculty's contribution to research excellence, innovation and societal impact, as well as curriculum transformation, research funding, workforce capacity, infrastructure requirements and the changing higher education operating environment. The presentation also highlighted initiatives in lifelong learning, industry engagement and equity-focused student pathways.

Key Matters

Student enrolments and experiences

Council considered the latest admissions and enrolment data, including updates on domestic and international student recruitment activities. Discussion focused on enrolments, student demand trends and the broader policy and market conditions.

Following consideration by the Finance & Strategy Committee and the IT Committee, Council approved the business case for a new Learning Management System (LMS), representing a significant investment in future student and staff experience. Members considered the benefits of enhanced teaching and learning functionality, improved user experience, stronger cyber security and privacy protections, and greater long-term operational efficiency.

Academic Governance

Council received the Academic Board report and considered key academic governance developments, including Academic Board resolutions relating to academic program approvals, implementation of the Assessment and Progression Policy and admission requirements. Members also discussed broader

sector conversations regarding the role of Academic Boards, particularly in the context of the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into the university sector.

Council considered the Academic Board Annual Report 2025, which highlighted Academic Board's contribution to the delivery of the *Progress for All* strategy and its oversight of academic quality and standards.

Capital works and campus development

Council supported a number of significant capital works and infrastructure investments designed to improve the student experience, modernise campus facilities and support future growth. The projects will increase teaching and specialist learning spaces, enhance student amenities and campus experience areas.

Governing Body Matters and Performance

Council received reports from the Finance and Strategy Committee and the Information Technology Committee, providing oversight of the University's financial performance, strategic investment priorities and technology transformation initiatives.

Council reviewed year-to-date financial performance and the University's forward financial forecasts. Members discussed the University's financial position in the context of maintaining long-term sustainability while supporting major strategic and infrastructure priorities.

Council approved the University's 2025 Modern Slavery Statement, reflecting ongoing efforts to strengthen due diligence and responsible procurement practices across the institution.

Council endorsed minor amendments to the Whole of Organisation Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Plan in response to regulator feedback. Members discussed the University's readiness to meet implementation requirements, communication of the revised plan and the application of student safety and wellbeing principles across UNSW.

Council noted the outcome of the 2026 Council elections, with new Council members starting from 1 July 2026. The Chancellor acknowledged the contribution of outgoing Council members and thanked them for their service to the University – Ms Jessica Gough, Professor Justine Nolan, Mr James Raggatt and Ms Catherine Rowe.

Other matters

The meeting recognised national honours awarded to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and acknowledged Professor Colin Grant's contribution to UNSW ahead of his appointment as Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of Aston University.

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.