

Council meeting
10 August 2026, Kensington campus
Report of Outcomes

Matters covered at the meeting

Strategic Focus

Council discussed a range of strategic and external developments affecting the higher education sector and UNSW. This included an update on UNSW's recent meeting with the Chief Commissioner of the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), which focused on UNSW's mission-based compact, challenges facing the sector, student allocation settings, and opportunities in transnational education and lifelong learning. Members also considered the impact of government policy settings on domestic student places and funding, as well as new requirements to address racism arising from the Higher Education Standards Framework Amendment (Threshold Standards) Instrument 2026.

The official opening of the UNSW Bengaluru campus was noted. Council also discussed the recent Parliament House and NSW Parliament showcase events and the opportunity to highlight UNSW's research and innovation in areas of national significance.

Key Matters

Student enrolments

Council was updated on enrolments, admissions trends and Term 2 recruitment activities. Members discussed enrolment targets and the student experience at UNSW Bengaluru. Early learnings from the first recruitment cycle and the adaptation of academic offerings for the local market were noted.

Preparations for the academic calendar transition in 2028 and engagement with current and prospective students on these changes were also discussed by members.

Academic Governance

The Academic Board President highlighted the work of the Castlereagh Statement initiative, a cross-sector collaboration considering the impact of artificial intelligence on education and learning. Members were updated on the UNSW Rules Review and discussed current initiatives to foster engagement with the broader University community on the activities of Academic Board. Council also noted ongoing work to streamline academic governance processes and strengthen reporting of academic risks and opportunities.

Annual reports

The consolidated 2025 Conduct and Complaints Annual Report and the 2026 Mid-Year Conduct and Complaints Report were tabled. Members discussed trends in academic integrity, including inappropriate use of artificial intelligence, student complaints relating to academic matters, and reporting of non-academic misconduct. Ongoing work by the Conduct and Integrity team to strengthen complaints management through better controls, trauma-informed practice and improved oversight were discussed.

The report responds to [TEQSA requirements](#) relating to student grievance and complaint mechanisms. Work continues to ensure compliance with the additional requirements arising from the Threshold Standards, which come into effect from 1 January 2027. The 2025 Annual Report is publicly available through the [Student Conduct and Integrity](#) webpage.

The Research Ethics and Compliance Annual Report 2025 was also received.

Briefing

Council was briefed on work, health and safety (WHS) responsibilities following recent legislative change, due diligence obligations, duty of care and emerging WHS issues.

Governing Body Matters and Performance

Reports were received from the Audit, Information Technology, Safety and Risk, Remuneration and People, and Finance and Strategy committees, with updates on the findings of the Auditor-General Report 2025, climate-related financial disclosures and internal audit activities.

Members discussed the University's AI governance, digital transformation program, cyber security controls and third-party vendor risk management.

Updates were also provided on enterprise risk management, gender-based violence prevention and response initiatives, financial performance and campus development projects to enhance learning and student spaces.

The newly elected Council members were welcomed to their first meeting.

Other matters

Council noted the report on approved policies and approved the Delegations – Schedule 1 amendments.

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.