

**THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL MINUTES**

The 503rd meeting of the Council was held at **11.30am (AEDT) on Thursday 26 March 2026** via video-conferencing.

Members present

1. Chancellor, the Hon Julie Bishop
2. Interim Vice-Chancellor, Professor Rebekah Brown
3. Ms Alison Kitchen AM
4. Ms Padma Raman PSM
5. The Hon Wayne Martin AC KC
6. Professor Juliana Ng
7. Mr Bruce Pan
8. Mr Charley Ellwood
9. Professor Alexander Mikheyev
10. Mr Andrew Metcalfe AO
11. Pro-Chancellor, Dr Larry Marshall
12. Professor Tony Connolly

Apologies

13. Ms Tanya Hosch AM
14. Mr Rob Whitfield AM
15. Professor Lyndall Strazdins
16. Ms Megan Easton

In attendance

1. Mr Michael Schwager, COO
2. Ms Richelle Hilton, Chief Planning & Data Officer
3. Ms Lisa Macrides, Senior Advisor to the Chancellor
4. Ms Bhavani Balakishnan, Chief of Staff, Office of the Interim Vice-Chancellor

Secretariat

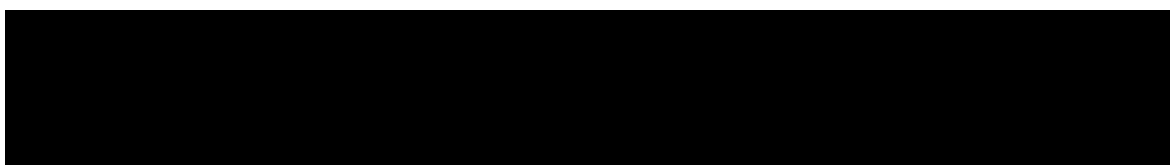
1. Acting University Secretary, Ms Leslie McDonald

1 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Announcements and Apologies


- The Chancellor thanked members for their availability for this meeting at short notice. She noted:
 - Welcome to Mr Michael Schwager, who joined the University this week as our Chief Operating Officer. Michael comes to the University with 20 years of senior leadership experience in the APS.
 - That, due to the short notice for the meeting, the following people were not available: Tanya Hosch, Rob Whitfield, Lyndall Strazdins and Megan Easton. Charley Ellwood has advised he will arrive late.
- The Chancellor further noted:
 - The approval of the 2025 Financial Statements has been delayed pending ANAO clearance to finalise.
 - As a result, an additional meeting of Council has been called for next Tuesday morning, 31 March to discuss and consider:
 - approval of the Financial Statements; and
 - the University's response to the ANAO Report on ANU Financial Management.
 - Today's meeting will focus on the 2025 Annual Report.

Disclosure of Material Personal Interest



- No members disclosed any other interests in relation to items on the agenda.

Arrangement of Agenda

- The Chancellor noted that, due to the short agenda, no matters were proposed to be unstarred or re-arranged.
- One item was raised for Other Business – 

PART 2 – KEY BUSINESS ITEMS

2 2025 ANU ANNUAL REPORT

- The Chancellor noted:
 - As discussed at the Council meeting last week, a draft of the Annual Report was circulated via a Convene Review Room to members last Friday, seeking feedback over the weekend.
 - That feedback from AFRC and other sources has now been incorporated into the current document. She thanked members who took time to consider the details and provide thoughtful responses.
 - Any substantive changes since that review version are listed and explained in the paper for this item.
- Ms Hilton spoke to the paper and noted:
 - The version provided to Council in the agenda pack now includes the Interim Vice-Chancellor Forward.
 - As a result of feedback received, additional text has been included on Council priorities, the TEQSA inquiry, Foundation Board, and a statement of preparation for the National Institutes Grant Report.

- The Chair of AFRC noted:
 - Aspects of the Annual Report and Financial Statements have been discussed at two recent AFRC meetings.
 - A positive discussion was held at the special out-of-session AFRC meeting held yesterday.
- The Interim Vice-Chancellor noted:
 - That the IVC Forward section acknowledges the challenges of the past year whilst focussing on the achievements.
- In discussion, Council noted several additional changes including:
 - Addition, in Council Priorities, to the establishment of the Special Governance Committee.
 - Addition of the Special Governance Committee and the Council Standing Committee and their roles and responsibilities in the list of Council Committees.
 - Acknowledgement of Renew ANU in the IVC Forward.

Resolved:

Council **approved** the Annual Report including:

1. the Annual Report 2025
2. the 2025 Performance Statements
3. the National Institutes Grant Report 2025

subject to the changes noted in discussion and separate approval by Council of the 2025 Financial Statements and related material.

Council **noted** that:

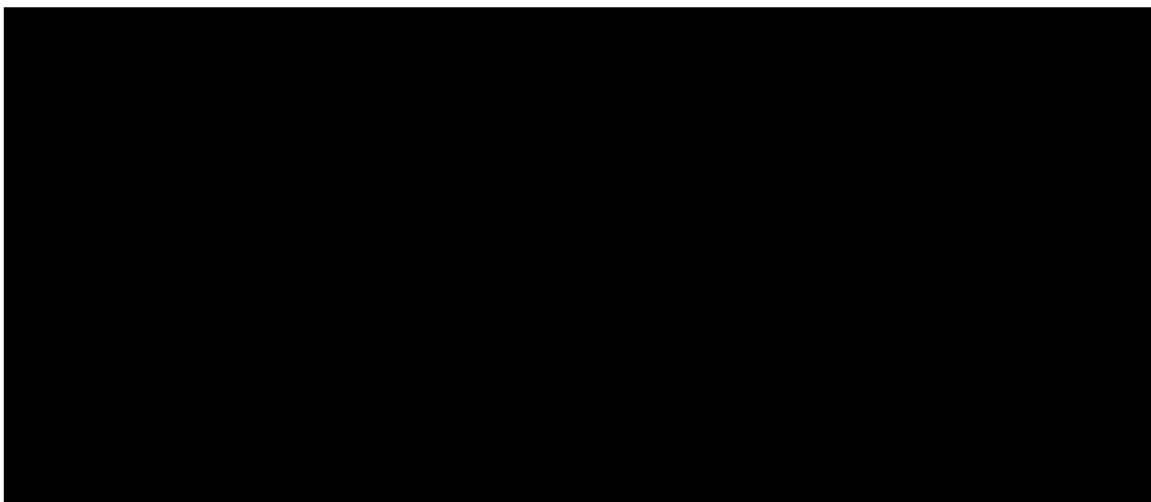
4. the letter of transmittal will be co-signed by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor ahead of submission of the report to the Minister; and
5. a final copy of the Annual Report, inclusive of the letter of transmittal, will be provided to members at the time of submission to the Minister.

PART 3 – OTHER BUSINESS

Ms Hilton left the meeting

3 OTHER BUSINESS

Correspondence from Dr Thom



Mr Metcalfe left the meeting at 12.03pm

Other Matters

- The Interim Vice-Chancellor noted that the Media Team anticipate the Four Corners episode to run on Monday evening and that there will be a period of heightened media interest and reporting.
- The COO reminded members of support available should they need it and encouraged them to contact him.
- The Chancellor indicated that she has spoken with Stephen Howell about feedback mechanisms for meetings and he will include recommendations in his report.

Resolved:

Council **considered** any other business raised.

4 NEXT MEETING

Council **noted** that the next scheduled meeting will be held on 31 March 2026.

The meeting closed at 12.26pm (AEDT)

The Hon Julie Bishop
Chancellor
The Australian National University

Date