



UTS Council Meeting Report

Meeting 26-3 | 17 June 2026

This report covers some of the non-confidential matters considered by UTS Council at its 17 June 2026 meeting. The report leads with decisions and approvals made by Council, followed by a summary of key discussions. This report is not to be considered minutes of the meeting.

**The Report structure replicates the flow of the agenda.*

SUMMARY OF APPROVALS

A consolidated view of key decision approved at this meeting is shown below. Discussion notes follow in subsequent sections.

International Strategy Framework	Council endorsed the investment boundaries that will frame the development of the UTS International Strategy and the development of future business cases to support expansion and diversification.
2025 Modern Slavery Statement	Council approved the 2025 UTS Modern Slavery Statement and the responses to the NSW Government Reporting System (GRS) online form.
2027 Council and Academic Board Meeting dates	Council approved the 2027 UTS Council, Chancellor's Committee Briefing, and Academic Board meeting dates.
New Student Conduct Rules	Council approved the new Student Conduct Rules and delegated authority to the Vice-Chancellor to determine the final effective date of the general conduct components under Phase 1, and to make any necessary amendments to support Phase 1 implementation. Council also approved that the Director, Governance Support Unit be authorised to amend the current Student Rules and other governance instruments to support Phase 1 implementation.
External Reviewer	Council noted that following a competitive procurement process, MinterEllison Consulting was selected to undertake the 2026 External Review of Council.

STRATEGIC ITEMS OF BUSINESS

International Strategy Framework

Council was briefed on the proposed approach to the UTS International Strategy, including key boundary conditions, associated risks, and external environmental factors.

Council discussed the need to move to a more systematic, top-down approach to the International Strategy, underpinned by financial analysis and aligned across transnational education, research partnerships and onshore education program delivery.

Council noted a softening international demand across the sector and agreed that UTS must adopt a more disciplined approach to planning its international portfolio, including consideration of appropriate scale and potential caps. Council also noted that demand for UTS remains relatively strong, with low visa rejection rates for international applicants.

Council considered global partnerships and transnational activity, emphasising the importance of selecting partners and priority regions aligned to UTS's strengths, risk appetite and prior experience.

Council endorsed the proposed boundary conditions and investment parameters to guide development of the UTS International Strategy and future business cases.

Enterprise Agreement Update

Council noted the conclusion of bargaining on the Enterprise Agreement and acknowledged the significant work undertaken to reach this point in the process. Council noted that moving forward, Management has adopted a revised approach to union engagement, with a focus on fostering more productive working relationships.

Operational Sustainability Initiative Update

Council noted that the Change Implementation Plan (CIP) for the second phase of the Operating Model is scheduled for release on 25 June.

The scale and complexity of the changes, including the centralisation of functions, embedding of new structures and resources, and alignment of workforce roles to support a more financially sustainable operating model and deliver broader operational benefits was noted by Council.

Council acknowledged the significant impact of the changes on both academic and professional staff, including impacts on teaching and research activities and the challenges associated with workforce transition, and noted the efforts undertaken to align roles and support staff through implementation.

UTS 2027 Mission based compact

Council received an update on the 2027 Mission-based Compact with the Australian Tertiary Education Commission (ATEC), noting that it represents a new framework aligning the University's strategy with government priorities.

The Vice-Chancellor advised that the 2027 compact will operate as a one-year arrangement, transitioning to a four-year compact from 2028, supported by annual performance monitoring and review.

Council noted that the compact requires alignment between Commonwealth and state priorities and the University's strategic objectives, including the need to strengthen participation from under-represented cohorts, particularly First Nations students and those from low socio-economic backgrounds.

Council further noted that current negotiations are focused on student participation and funding alignment, including a request to convert existing domestic enrolments into fully funded Commonwealth Supported Places, rather than seeking further growth in domestic student numbers.

Council noted the importance of aligning research and innovation activity with government priorities, acknowledging that research settings are expected to be incorporated into future compact arrangements.

Council noted that the approach to the 2027 Mission-based Compact will continue to be refined through negotiations with ATEC, with final outcomes expected later in the year.

OPERATIONS AND PERFORMANCE

Report from Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor provides a report to each Council meeting containing updates on key developments and events that have occurred since Council's last meeting. Updates include; the implementation progress of the UTS 2030 Strategy, State and Federal Government issues, updates regarding the university sector and internal matters, particularly achievements and awards.

The Vice-Chancellor noted the significant number of UTS community members recognised in the King's Birthday Honours, including Emeritus Professor Attila Brungs AO, Emeritus Professor Simon Darcy AM, and Emeritus Professor Jenny Edwards AM.

Council was advised that UTS is hosting the HEDx Conference, with strong participation and engagement. The opening session highlighted the quality of student engagement and reinforced UTS's leadership in higher education innovation.

Council noted that UTS remains within the top 100 globally (ranked 87th), supporting its international partnerships and positioning activities. The Vice-Chancellor acknowledged the outstanding, world-class work of the university community.

Council noted that the all-staff Pulse Survey will be conducted in October. Council discussed the role of the People and Culture Committee, including reviewing the survey design, considering the balance of additional inclusions, and receiving the results to inform recommendations back to Council.

The recent Canvas outage was discussed, including disruption to teaching and assessment, reliance on a single system, and the consequential workload impact for academic staff and support teams. While communications to students improved over time, inconsistencies in communication, particularly at faculty level, were noted. It was agreed that greater clarity and consistency will be important in future incidents.

Council further noted that 2028 will be a significant milestone for UTS as the University approaches its 40th anniversary, representing an important opportunity to strengthen reputation and support long-term strategic objectives.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Standing Report

Council noted that the program remains stable and is progressing across all areas, with continued monitoring of psychosocial risks.

UTS Sustainability Report 2025

Council noted the significant work being undertaken across the University in relation to sustainability and reaffirmed the University's strong commitment in this area. Council recognised the achievement of major institutional, national and international sustainability awards, as well as the milestone of 100% renewable electricity in 2025.

Council further noted the increasing regulatory and reporting requirements relating to climate-related disclosures, and that a briefing will be provided to Finance and the Audit and Risk Committee Members to support understanding and implementation of these requirements.

Social Justice Report 2025

Council noted that the 2025 Social Justice Highlights reflect a transitional approach to reporting under the new Social Impact Framework, with a more comprehensive report to be provided once the framework is finalised and embedded.

Council acknowledged the University's strong commitment to social justice and noted progress in widening participation, including implementation of the Pathways Plan, expanded outreach, and increased volunteering.

Council emphasised the importance of embedding the new Social Impact Framework across the University, noting that it requires shared ownership and visible leadership to ensure it is fully integrated into UTS strategy and operations.

Council also noted related initiatives, including development of the Cultural Diversity and Anti-Racism Action Plan and work to strengthen complaints processes and support mechanisms, while acknowledging further refinement is required.

Council highlighted the importance of effectively communicating the University's social justice impact, including more proactive use of case studies and narratives to strengthen internal and external understanding of UTS's contribution.

Gender-Based Violence Reporting

Council received an update overview of UTS's gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities, noting an increased number of disclosures. Council noted that increased reporting and disclosures may not be indicative of increased prevalence, but rather reflected improved awareness of reporting pathways and growing trust in UTS support mechanisms.

To support the increased reports and disclosures, the University is increasing the number of caseworkers to support both complainants and respondents.

Council noted that the GBV regulator has requested UTS redevelop and resubmit its Action Plan and Outcomes Framework to ensure it is tailored to the UTS community and demonstrates a whole-of-university strategic approach.

Reports from Committees

Council has a number of sub committees, whose membership have particular expertise, to provide assistance and advice to Council on matters for Council consideration. These committees report back to Council. Not all of the Committee Reports are represented in this brief overview.

Audit and Risk Committee

The primary responsibility of the Audit and Risk Committee is to assist Council in overseeing the activities undertaken by the UTS body corporate and, from time to time, other related entities as requested by Council.

Council noted the findings of three internal audit reports, reflecting a deliberate focus on the University's key risk areas.

Council noted strong cooperation and support from management, demonstrating a clear commitment to addressing the issues identified.

Council discussed the increasing complexity of Declarations of Interest, including the need for a whole-of-university approach, enhanced staff education, and clearer processes to support the consistent identification and management of risks.

Infrastructure Committee

The Infrastructure Committee provides advice to Council on physical infrastructure, information technology infrastructure and precinct matters in the context of the UTS 2030 strategy, the budget and the Finance Plan.

Council noted the strong interdependencies between the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) program and the Academic and Operating Model Program, with ERP identified as the central enabling platform and critical to delivery sequencing and outcomes.

Council noted that October–November will likely be a peak risk period due to the convergence of interdependent activities and delivery of the ERP Program, placing increased pressure on key areas, and that successful delivery will depend on both technical readiness and organisational preparedness. Council noted ongoing work to reduce technical debt, strengthen system security and support modernisation through enterprise platforms.

Council noted that material budget risks remain as the ERP program approaches Phase 2, and that budget position will continue to be actively monitored and reported to Council.

Governance Committee

The primary responsibility of the Governance Committee is to assist Council in regard to policy, general governance specified risk matters.

Council approved the 2025 UTS Modern Slavery Statement and the responses to the NSW Government Reporting System online form and acknowledged the work undertaken in its preparation. Council noted UTS's response to modern slavery obligations, including the associated governance and reporting requirements.

Council further noted the compliance management framework update, emerging regulatory obligations, and that ongoing compliance reporting will transition to the Audit and Risk Committee.

Council noted that the Vice Chancellor, under authority delegated by Council pursuant to resolution COU/25 6/125, approved the proposed amendments to the Gender based Violence Prevention and Response Policy and Procedure.

Academic Board

The primary responsibility of Academic Board is to advise Council on academic matters, including teaching, learning, and research.

Council noted the significant workload placed on the Course Accreditation Committee (CAC), including course discontinuations, and the need to convene an additional Academic Board meeting to meet required deadlines. Council acknowledged the challenging nature of this period and the commitment of academic and professional staff in supporting the delivery of this work. Council also noted the ongoing impact of course discontinuations and phase-outs, including the importance of ensuring appropriate transition arrangements to support currently enrolled students.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

New Student Conduct Rules

Council was advised that the proposed changes to the new Student Conduct Rules introduce a clearer separation between academic and non-academic (general) misconduct, aiming to improve clarity and consistency while maintaining alignment with the broader Student Rules.

Council noted that the revised approach places additional responsibility with faculties, positions the rules closer to where conduct occurs, and introduces clearer categories of misconduct. The approach supports early intervention and emphasises an educative and flexible response aligned with the Student Code.

Council noted that extensive consultation has been undertaken, with further engagement to occur and outcomes to be reported to Academic Board.

Council noted that implementation will occur in phases, with general conduct provisions commencing in July and broader academic misconduct reforms to follow in early 2027. Communications and change management plans will support implementation.

Council resolved to approve all recommendations in the report allowing the Vice-Chancellor to determine the final effective date of the general conduct components under Phase 1, and to make any necessary amendments to support Phase 1 implementation. Council also approved that the Director, Governance Support Unit be authorised to amend the current Student Rules and other governance instruments to support Phase 1 implementation.

2027 Council and Academic Board Meeting Dates

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Report from the Chancellor

Use of Power of Attorney, University Seal and Executive Action

ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Presentation: UTS Library

Mr Michael Gonzalez (University Librarian) provided Council with a presentation on the UTS Library.

Council received a presentation highlighting the Library's central role as a creative, innovative and engaged environment aligned with the Library Plan, and evolution beyond a traditional library into a trusted place of knowledge.

Council noted that the Library supports the UTS experience through student engagement, creative practice and industry-connected learning, including showcasing student work and delivering strong digital capability, with a focus on AI-enabled skills. The Library was also recognised as an inclusive and welcoming hub with broad community engagement and plans for continued growth.

Council also attended a tour of the UTS Library following the conclusion of the meeting.

OTHER REPORTS

Student Load Report 2026

UTS Financial Performance Report (for the period ended 30 April 2026)
