



UTS Council Meeting Report

Meeting 26-4 | 19 August 2026

This report covers some of the non-confidential matters considered by UTS Council at its 19 August 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 decisions approved at this meeting is shown below. Discussion notes follow in subsequent sections.

2SER Controlled Entity Proposal	Council approved 2SER becoming a controlled entity under Delegation 3.3.1, with the controlled entity status to take effect from 1 January 2027, subject to Macquarie University's formal departure.
Commercial Activities Policy Updates	Council approved the minor amendments to Appendix 2 of the Commercial Activities Policy.
UTS Annual Plan 2026 Mid-Year Report	Council approved the UTS Annual Plan 2026 Mid-Year Report, which provides progress against Annual Plan performance metrics as at 30 June 2026
Scholarships and Prizes Policy	Council approved the consequential amendments to the Delegations arising from the transfer of ownership and responsibilities for the Scholarships and Prizes Policy

STRATEGIC ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Review of University Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Council was briefed on the proposed measurement framework, which is intended to provide a clearer and more strategic view of progress towards the outcomes and ambitions of the UTS 2030 Strategy.

Council welcomed the revised framework and its stronger alignment with the University's strategic priorities. Council supported a more focused and streamlined set of measures and discussed the importance of balancing leading and lagging indicators.

Council discussed student measures, including Higher Degree by Research students, student retention and success, and the need to keep outcomes for First Nations students and students from low socioeconomic backgrounds visible through the KPI and Objectives and Key Results framework.

Council discussed accountability for the proposed metrics and opportunities to strengthen measures relating to student success, research impact, strategic partnerships, staff wellbeing, engagement and organisational culture.

Council endorsed the proposed new measurement framework and noted that the measures and targets would be further refined and brought back to Council for further consideration.

UTS Annual Plan 2026 Mid-Year Report

Council approved the UTS Annual Plan 2026 Mid-Year Report, which provides progress against Annual Plan performance metrics as at 30 June 2026. Council discussed whether future reports could be more concise and focused on key strategic outcomes, priorities and areas requiring attention. Council also discussed international student visa processing, alumni engagement and the status of initiatives identified as paused.

Council acknowledged that the report provides an important mid-year snapshot of progress against the University's strategic objectives and supported its publication to staff following final refinements.

Council approved additional investment and related contract variations for the Enterprise Resource Planning Program to address implementation requirements, support delivery of the preferred implementation approach, and progress Phase 1 and Phase 2 works with the System Integrator.

Operational Sustainability Initiative Update

Council discussed the progress of the Operational Sustainability Initiative (OSI), with particular focus on benefits realisation, implementation impacts and lessons learned from the change process.

Council noted that the full financial benefits of the program are still being determined and emphasised the importance of ongoing monitoring of benefits realisation as the program transitions to business-as-usual operations.

Council discussed the relationship between the Operational Sustainability Initiative and Enterprise Resource Planning programs, noting that successful delivery will require coordination, appropriate systems and effective management of shared resources.

Council discussed the continuing impact of the change program on professional and academic staff and students, including workload pressures, reduced professional support and psychosocial impacts.

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 Acting Vice-Chancellor briefed Council on recent sector developments, student recruitment, Tech Central and organisational change initiatives.

Council discussed alignment of university funding arrangements with national workforce priorities, including opportunities for additional Commonwealth-supported places in areas of workforce need and increased Indigenous student participation.

Council noted that UTS is entering the Open Day and UAC early-bird admissions period and discussed emerging student recruitment trends, including the increasing use of artificial intelligence by prospective students when making study decisions.

Council received an update on Tech Central and noted that, following changes to the implementation partner arrangements, a replacement partner had been identified, and the NSW Government had reaffirmed its financial support for the initiative.

Council discussed the Assurance Support Review Project and noted that it focuses on evolving governance, assurance and policy support functions in response to the University's changing operating environment, regulatory requirements and assurance needs, rather than achieving cost savings.

Council welcomed progress in securing the future of 2SER, supported the revised operating model and acknowledged the station's contribution to community engagement and student opportunities.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Standing Report

Council discussed the key trends in the standing report, including the reductions in notifiable incidents and workers' compensation claims, alongside increases in psychosocial injury and illness indicators. Council discussed the continued impact of psychosocial risks, particularly workload and interpersonal issues, and noted the reported increase in psychosocial metrics. Council also discussed ongoing initiatives to strengthen psychosocial health and safety management across the University.

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.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee advises Council on matters relating to the distribution and supervision of university finances and acts on behalf of Council in areas of delegated authority.

Council discussed the future governance and funding model for 2SER and unanimously approved its proposed transition to a UTS controlled entity. Council considered proposed amendments to the Commercial Activities Policy to replace mandatory quarterly reporting for controlled entities with a risk-

based reporting approach. Council agreed that the amendment reflected sound governance practice by aligning reporting requirements with the materiality and risk profile of individual entities.

Council discussed the University's YTD 2026 financial performance. Council also supported the Finance Committee's recommendation that funds with a short investment horizon be reallocated to short-duration, low-risk, capital-stable investments.

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 discussed the proposed variation to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Program, including the deferral of the Enterprise Go-Live date from November 2026 to March 2027, the increase in the overall Program budget, and the related variation to the Deloitte System Integrator contract.

Council noted that the revised Go-Live date would reduce implementation risk and provide additional time for user acceptance testing and organisational readiness. Council emphasised clear oversight of Phase 2 scope, costs and benefits and requested a post-implementation review for the Infrastructure Committee and 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 revised Equity, Inclusion and Respect Policy and noted its implementation plan. Council requested a sufficiently broad overarching definition of racism and supporting explanatory materials, with substantive refinements to be reported to the Governance Committee.

Council received the UTS Governance Project report and preliminary findings from the 2026 Council Evaluation Survey and Council Member Self-Evaluation Survey, noting that these materials had been provided to MinterEllison to inform the External Review of governance at UTS.

Council also noted emerging requirements relating to the establishment of a Disability Governance Committee and governance and compliance training for Council members.

Annual Academic Board Report 2025

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

Council noted Academic Board's work during 2025, including governance instruments supporting the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence, higher degree research governance reforms, the Indigenous Education and Research Strategy 2025 – 2030. Council noted Academic Board's ongoing oversight of academic integrity, curriculum transformation and the Connected Curriculum Program, including consideration of governance, resourcing and reporting arrangements to support academic quality and risk oversight.

Council also noted progress on a review of academic governance arrangements, including the respective roles of Academic Board and Faculty Board committees, faculty governance structures, and course approval pathways. Council observed that this work aligns with broader governance and assurance activities and will strengthen the transparency, effectiveness and accountability of the University's academic governance framework.

People and Culture Committee

The primary responsibility of People and Culture is to advise Council on the university's workforce strategies and matters relating to human resources, organisational culture and values, and the health, safety and wellbeing of students, staff and the broader UTS community.

Council received the inaugural report from the People and Culture Committee and noted that the first meeting focused on establishing the Committee's operating framework, strategic priorities and meeting cadence. Council considered the development of the People and Culture Performance Dashboard, which will provide strategic oversight of workforce, culture, diversity, health, safety, wellbeing and compliance matters, and noted that future meetings will focus on key priority themes.

The Committee also reviewed the People and Culture Strategies and Programs Report, noting progress across major people and culture initiatives and the importance of ongoing oversight of implementation, organisational change impacts and strategic risks.

Council further noted the emphasis placed on the Committee's broad remit across both staff and students, particularly in relation to health and safety, psychosocial wellbeing and gender-based violence matters.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

Report from the Chancellor

Use of Power of Attorney, University Seal and Executive Action

ITEMS OF GENERAL BUSINESS

Presentation: UTS Science

Professor James Wallman (Dean of Science) provided Council with a presentation on the Faculty of Science.

Council received a presentation highlighting the Faculty's research performance, stable student load, strategic priorities for 2026-27 and refresh of research focus areas aligned with the UTS 2030 Strategy. Council noted opportunities for growth in research revenue, philanthropy and strategic partnerships; investment in research infrastructure, including the UTS Cleanroom and Battery Manufacturing Lab; and the Faculty's focus on operational sustainability, health, safety and wellbeing, Indigenous advancement and organisational change.

Council acknowledged the work of the Faculty of Science and its staff. Following the presentation, some members participated in a tour of the Science facilities led by Professor James Wallman.

OTHER REPORTS

Report from Student/Council Liaison Group

Report from Remuneration Committee

Report from Academic Board