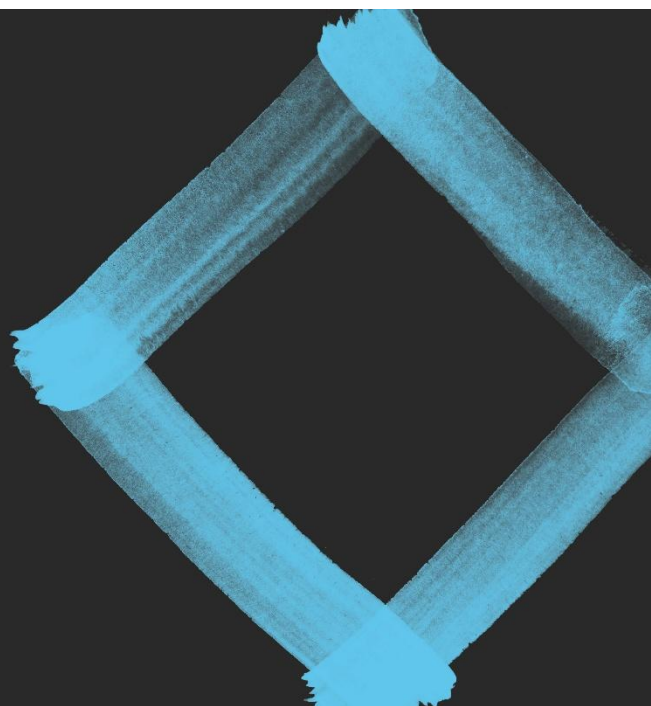


GOVERNING BODY REPORT OF OUTCOMES



VICTORIA UNIVERSITY



COU 5/2026 #308 – Tuesday, 18 August 2026

The Council meeting (**#308**) was held on **Tuesday, 18 August 2026** at **VU Footscray Park Campus**, 70–104 Ballarat Road, Footscray.

Victoria University (VU) is established under the VU Act 2010. VU's moral purpose is to transform the lives and communities it serves through the delivery of education and research with real-world impact, undertaken in partnership with industry and the community.

VU Council is the University's peak governing body, and is responsible for overseeing the University's operations, strategy, performance and risk, and for ensuring the proper management and control of the University in the public interest.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

Long-term strategic positioning and integrated tertiary education

Council considered the University's long-term strategic direction to 2031, including growth opportunities, participation in the Victorian TAFE Network, expansion of integrated tertiary pathways and scenario planning to support future government compact negotiations. Council emphasised the importance of preserving the University's equity mission, strengthening the strategic value of the Block Model and positioning the institution to respond to sector reform and changing regulatory expectations.

KEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Council reviewed the University's financial performance and forecasts. Discussions focused on long-term sustainability, future revenue assumptions, expenditure growth, investment performance and the need for scenario planning to inform strategic and financial decision-making. Council also approved capital investment in the VU Research Building at Footscray Park and endorsed the Places and Spaces Framework to guide future infrastructure and asset decisions.

EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

Council considered student performance, persistence and course quality outcomes, alongside emerging regulatory expectations relating to equity, student experience and institutional culture. It reviewed the Student Services Annual Report, emphasising the importance of measurable improvements in student success, accessibility, service quality and the effective use of technology to enhance the student journey.

RESEARCH STANDARDS

Council noted the continued growth of research activity associated with the Block Model and considered opportunities to strengthen the University's research impact and sector leadership. Council approved the VU Research Building at Footscray Park Campus fit-out to further support research capability, collaboration, future research performance and student-led clinics.

RISK & COMPLIANCE

Council maintained a strong focus on governance, risk and compliance. It reviewed enterprise risks, approved a Cyber Critical Incident Delegation to strengthen preparedness for significant cyber events, approved the Staff Integrity Framework and updated compliance reporting arrangements. Council also considered forthcoming Higher Education Standards Framework reforms and broader governance developments across the sector.

UNIVERSITY CULTURE

Council emphasised the importance of integrity, ethical conduct, accountability and organisational culture. Discussions highlighted the role of governance frameworks, staff capability, responsible decision-making and clear oversight arrangements in supporting a positive institutional culture and compliance environment.

STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Council considered the interests and expectations of students, staff, government, industry and international partners. Discussions covered the University's international partnerships, evolving government policy settings, sector reform, equity objectives and the importance of maintaining trusted relationships that support educational quality, reputation and institutional sustainability.

WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Council discussed workforce capability in the context of increasing regulatory, governance and compliance obligations. Consideration was given to workforce composition, capability requirements, organisational efficiency and the need to build future capacity in areas including risk management, integrity, technology and artificial intelligence.

REMUNERATION STRATEGY

No remuneration matters were considered or reported publicly at this meeting.

COUNCIL MATTERS & PERFORMANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council considered governance developments arising from external reviews and sector reform, including future approaches to staff and student representation and updates to committee membership arrangements to strengthen governance capability.

EXTERNAL REPORTING

Council reviewed developments in university governance, regulatory reform and government expectations, including amendments to the Higher Education Standards Framework, the Victorian Legislative Assembly Inquiry into University Governance and annual regulatory and compliance reporting matters.

REVIEW & EVALUATION

Council monitored implementation of recommendations arising from the 2025 External Review of Corporate Governance and considered initiatives designed to improve governance effectiveness, including paper author development, governance reporting quality and committee effectiveness.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT (STAFF, STUDENT & COMMUNITY)

Council continued to support transparent engagement with students, staff and the broader community through strengthened governance practices, oversight of student services, consideration of accessibility requirements and discussion of initiatives designed to improve outcomes for learners and stakeholders.

OTHER MATTERS

Council approved the Human AI Collaboration Framework and discussed the opportunities, risks and ethical considerations associated with artificial intelligence across teaching, learning, research and operations. Council also approved the establishment of a Disability Governance Committee, endorsed updates to governance instruments and noted reports from Council Committees regarding academic quality, risk, finance, infrastructure and governance oversight.

DISCLAIMER

The Governing Body Report of Outcomes is provided for transparency and information purposes only. It summarises governing body oversight activities and outcomes during the reporting period and does not constitute a complete record of Council deliberations. It does not cover all matters discussed or the full detail of decisions or discussions. The Expert Council's Principles recognise that, while the communication of the work and the decisions of the Governing Body is crucial, there are legal and commercial reasons for maintaining confidentiality.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

THE HONOURABLE DR. STEVE BRACKS AC, *Chancellor*

KATE ROFFEY AM, *Deputy Chancellor*

PROFESSOR ADAM SHOEMAKER, *Vice-Chancellor*

PROFESSOR ZORA VRCELJ, *Chair of Academic Board*

PRUE DIGBY, *Ministerial Appointment*

SUNNY GOMBOSO, *Student Elected*

PROFESSOR THE HONORABLE JILL HENNESSY, *Government Appointment*

EMERITUS PROFESSOR LIZ JOHNSON, *Council Appointment*

PROFESSOR ALEX PARKER, *Staff Elected*

ADRIAN POZZO, *Council Appointment*

FIONA SCHUTT, *Council Appointment*

JOSH SMITH, *Government Appointment*

JEN STOCKWELL, *Council Appointment*

FELICITY TOPP, *Council Appointment*

GREG TUCKER, *Government Appointment*

FURTHER INFORMATION

COUNCIL

[VU Act 2010](#)

[VU Governance](#)

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

[Council Regulations 2021](#)

[Council Terms of Reference](#)

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

[Audit and Risk Committee](#)

[Finance and Investment Committee](#)

[Infrastructure Planning Committee](#)

[Nominations Committee](#)

[Remuneration Committee](#)

ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE

[Academic Board](#)

[Academic Board Executive Committee](#)

[Courses Committee](#)

[Learning & Teaching Quality Committee](#)

[Research & Research Training Committee](#)

2026 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council Meetings	Meeting Times	Location
Tuesday, 13 October	8.30am – 1.00pm	Footscray Park Campus, 70–104 Ballarat Road, Footscray
Tuesday, 1 December	8.30am – 1.00pm	Footscray Park Campus, 70–104 Ballarat Road, Footscray

Table 1: 2026 Council Meeting Schedule