

## Minutes of the Governing Council meeting

KAUPAPA   SUBJECT:	Governing Council	
RĀ   DATE:	Wednesday 25 March 2026	
WĀ   TIME:	8.30am–3:00pm	
WĀHI   VENUE:	Teaching Council offices, Wellington	
GOVERNING COUNCIL ATTENDEES:	- David Ferguson (Chair)	- Heath Chittenden
	- Patrick Walsh (Deputy Chair)	- Patrick Drumm
	- Andrée Atkinson	- Debbie Francis
	- Dr Sarah Brown	- Pat Newman
	- Susan Hassall	- Cathy Wilson
STAFF ATTENDEES:	- Tom Gott (Interim Chief Executive)	
	- Clive Jones (Deputy Chief Executive   Pou Kaiāwhā)	
	- Ian McEwan (Chief Financial Officer) – Item 5	
	- [REDACTED] (Governance Advisor)	

### 1. In-committee

The Governing Council had In-Committee time. The Council Chair noted the following updates:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- External advice around Conflicts of Interest processes is ongoing, led by [REDACTED].

### 2. Opening items

#### 2.1 Apologies

No apologies noted.

#### 2.2 Interest Register

The Council noted the Interest Register and the Chair reminded members to send any changes to the Governance Advisor to update the register.

#### 2.3 Minutes from previous hui

The minutes from the Governing Council meeting on 26 February 2026 were approved as a true and accurate record.

**DECISION GC20260325/2a:** The Council approved the minutes from the meeting on 26 February 2026 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### 2.4 Action List

The Council noted the Action List and the updated status of action items.

### 3. Organisational Performance

#### 3.1 Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive's (CE's) report was taken as read.

Governing Council members discussed:

- current strategic initiatives and forward planning priorities.
- implementation and resourcing considerations relating to the proposed transfer of functions to the Ministry under the (proposed) amendment Bill.
- professional responsibility processes and timeframes and the intention to communicate trends out to the profession as recommended by the Stakeholder Engagement Committee (SSEC).
- feedback from SSEC on reporting to the sector on disciplinary jurisprudence and best practice.
- the process for seeking voluntary agreements ('undertaking not to teach') with teachers until a conduct /competence matter is resolved and the safeguards around annotations in the register.
- the priority for reiterating guidance to all ITE providers around applicant vetting prior to admission and prior to undertaking practicum placements.
- the breakdown of ethnicities for registration applications and the continued high number of overseas applications - Council members suggested working with NZQA to ascertain data on numbers teaching in New Zealand (see action 3b below).

Actions agreed by the Governing Council:

**ACTION GC20260325/3a: Management to provide a breakdown of ethnicities for registration applicants categorised as 'Other' in the CE's Report.**

**ACTION GC20260325/3b: Management to work with NZQA to synthesise the data on how many applicants registering from overseas are currently teaching in New Zealand.**

**ACTION GC20260325/3c: Management to provide an update on timeframes for when resources will be provided to the profession to assist with implementation of the new Standards.**

**ACTION GC20260325/3d: Governance Advisor to put the slide presentation on the 2026 Standards (developed and presented by [REDACTED] in August 2025) into the Board's resource centre in Diligent.**

#### 3.2 Priority Planning

Interim CEO, Tom Gott, presented a draft programme of initiatives and Council members discussed:

- looking at the system in totality including the sector's view on the priorities
- timing of priority pieces of work - what should be done now versus what should be done later
- common themes and driving principles across the Public Service Commission (PSC) report, Francis review and Martin Jenkins recommendations and the need for a costed action plan

#### 3.3 Risk

Interim CEO, Tom Gott, introduced a draft regulatory risk appetite statement for consideration.

Council members discussed the relevance of having a risk appetite statement and the benefits of having a reference point to guide consistency in judgements in the decision-making process.

### 3.4 Issues Register

The Council received the Issues Register and discussed the current matters and proposed actions.

## 4. Items for Discussion

### 4.1 Martin Jenkins

DCE Clive Jones updated the Council on current focus areas arising out of the Martin Jenkins review and recommendations.

The Governing Council agreed for this to form part of ongoing reporting each month, highlighting any red flags that require Governing Council attention.

## 5. Finance, Audit and Risk

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) provided high level financial updates on the month end reporting against the November 2025 approved forecast and on the strategic priorities and project spend.

Overall, it was noted financial performance is tracking well to budget. For the eight months to the end of February 2026, the organisation's financial performance is showing an operating surplus higher than forecast – delays to project expenditure have been partly offset by the costs associated with the Council's reviews and investigations.

Updates were provided on cost recoveries from CAC and DT cases and on the Council's provision for doubtful debts – noting the timing and value of the costs awarded from the CAC/DT cases at the end of hearing decisions is unknown which results in timing differences month to month.

The CFO noted that in April the RAF Committee will review the forecast for the financial year ending 30 June 2026 prior to presenting the final forecast briefing to the Governing Council at the next meeting.

## 7. Any Other Business

The Governing Council Chair acknowledged the recent Gold Worthies award received by the Teaching Council.

Susan Hassall, Chair of the People and Culture Committee, confirmed that Kerridge and Partners have been formally contracted to run the CEO recruitment process.

Council members agreed for the Governance Advisor to arrange for the Chair of the Disciplinary Tribunal (DT) to attend the Governing Council in May as part of ongoing regular engagement with the disciplinary Chairs.

Signed:



David Ferguson, Chair

Approved by the Governing Council on 22 April 2026