

La Trobe University Council Report of Outcome – 29 June 2026

La Trobe's founding mission was, and remains, to serve the community of Victoria for the purposes of higher education, for the education, economic, social and cultural benefit of Victorians and for wider Australian and international communities.

La Trobe University Council is the formally constituted governing body of the University that oversees and is accountable for all of the University's operations, including that the institution meets, and continues to meet, the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework.

[La Trobe University Act 2009](#).

The Council met for its third meeting of 2026 on Monday 29 June 2026 at the City Campus, 360 Collins Street.

Teaching Performance Benchmarking

Council members discussed the growing sector-wide momentum toward the professionalisation of university teaching. Members considered a proposed framework for strengthening teaching quality, highlighting the roles of ATEC and TEQSA in supporting institutional quality assurance. Council also noted ongoing work to define clear standards for teaching excellence, recognising the need for robust measures beyond student feedback, including peer review, assessment of student learning outcomes, and potential AI-supported evaluation.

International Education Framework

Council discussed the international education framework previously considered at its March 2026 meeting noting that it aligned with both the mission and regulatory obligations of the University. The importance of ensuring diversity of cohorts and institutional resilience was noted, alongside an explicit commitment to quality.

Working Group – Council engagement with staff and students

Deputy Chancellor Jacqui Savage advised that the working group had meet and agreed that a consolidated student and staff voice report for Council would be prepared for the next meeting, to include a framework of regular engagement touchpoints across the year to which members will be invited with the goal to increase council members understanding of university life and stakeholder experience.

Revisions to Recognition of Student-led Organisations Policy

The Council received a paper informing them of proposed updates to the Recognition of Student Organisations Policy ahead of University consultation, noting that the proposed changes introduce a tiered framework that differentiates between student led organisations as defined by the Higher Education Support Act 2003 and Higher Education Support (Student Services, Amenities, Representation and Advocacy) Guidelines 2022, other student-led organisations and student clubs, and clarifies decision-making authority.

Presentation by the Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery

The Dean provided a presentation on the school's recent achievements and future priorities, noting its strong national reputation, leadership in health innovation, and its success in exceeding 2025 EFTSL and revenue targets while supporting high student retention, success and graduate employability.

University Finances

Council noted the significant financial headwinds impacting the higher education sector, and particularly the recent Government policy changes in relation to overseas students. Noting the challenging circumstances and the importance of ongoing financial sustainability Council agreed to have a further consideration of the financial issues at its August meeting.

Bendigo Student Accommodation Business Case

Following lengthy consideration by both the Finance and Resources Committee and the Estates Development and Infrastructure Committee, Council approved the Bendigo Student Accommodation Business Case and agreed to proceed with the project.

Membership of Council

The Council welcomed the newly elected postgraduate student and professional staff member to their first meeting following the recent election process. Professor Susan Elliott was also welcomed to the meeting as an observer, prior to the start of her term on the Council starting on the 1 July 2026.

The re-appointment of Ro Allen and Paul Hardy for a further three-year term, as Governor-in-Council appointed positions was noted along with the re-appointment of the Ministerial appointee, Margaret Burdeu, to Council for a final term ending on 30 April 2027.

Other Matters

Council also considered:

- Regular Occupational Health & Safety Report
- Regular update on the enforceable Undertaking
- Reports from all the Council committees.

Disclaimer

This Report is intended to communicate key outcomes from the Council meeting, not to be official record of the meeting. It does not cover all matters discussed or the full detail of decisions or discussions.

Further information

Further information regarding the La Trobe University Council can be found here:

<https://www.latrobe.edu.au/council>.