

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 first meeting of 2026 on Monday 2 March 2026 in the Chancellery Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, David Myers Building, Bundoora Campus.

Council welcomed the University Elders to the meeting for the discussion relating to the implementation of the Indigenous Strategy.

Draft International Education Framework

Following discussion at the December Council meeting, members received the draft International Education Framework. Council agreed the document should clearly outline La Trobe's approach to international education, affirm its positive contribution to the University's mission, clarify growth targets (including offshore TNE and market share), and analyse both financial and broader institutional benefits. A final version will be presented for approval at the May Council meeting.

Indigenous Strategy Implementation Update with the University Elders

Council discussed progress on implementing the Indigenous Strategy 2022–2030, noting significant achievements over the past year that strengthen institutional commitment and embed Indigenous perspectives in strategic planning, academic quality, and staff development. Members emphasised the importance of deepening understanding across the University and acknowledged the associated challenges.

University performance update

Council considered the 2025 University Performance Update, noting the progress against short- and medium-term targets and KPIs, with the majority being rated as achieved/on track. It was agreed that a 6 monthly update on progress against agreed KPIs for this year would be provided to the Remuneration and Nominations Committee.

Student Assessment in the Age of AI

Council received a presentation on assuring learning in the Age of AI, highlighting challenges related to assessment validity, data reliability, and benchmarking integrity. Members noted the need to equip students with both knowledge and the capacity to learn. Council agreed the University must prepare students as workers and citizens and implement measures to protect award integrity through both immediate actions and longer-term reforms.

Employee experience survey results

Council discussed the outcomes of, and the university wide actions resulting from the 2025 Employee Experience Survey.

Response and implementation plan arising from the external review of Academic Board

Council received a report from the 11 February 2026 meeting of the Academic Board and approved the response and implementation plan for the external review of the Academic Board and Academic Governance carried out late in 2025.

Financial sustainability

Council received a report from the recent meeting of the Finance & Resources Committee where discussions were held with the auditors relating to the 2025 financial statements. It was noted that the auditors found no major issues over the course of the audit. It was noted that an update had been received on enrolments for 2026, with domestic CSP numbers on track to achieve or overachieve target and international enrolments slightly below target. Noting that this is common across the sector and can be attributed to changes in the market, risk rating changes and government visa processing. Management's continued focus on achieving savings to achieve a budget neutral result was confirmed.

Alignment with the Expert Council on University Governance Principles

At its December meeting Council agreed that it supports the Final Report of the Expert Council on University Governance and its Principles and is committed to the ongoing improvement and strengthening of its governance processes.

Members agreed the key issue for approval at this meeting was the proposal to increase elected staff and student representation on Council. Under current arrangements, Council includes two elected staff members (the Chair of Academic Board and one elected staff member) and one elected student member. Council agreed to add one additional elected staff member and one additional elected student member to its composition. As such elections will be held for a professional staff member and a postgraduate student member in the near future.

Membership of Council

The Chancellor welcomed Karen Millward to her first meeting of Council, Karen joined the Council in January 2026. <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/council/membership/karen-milward-am>

Members were advised that an active search is underway to fill the position to be vacated by Edwina Cornish when she finalizes her term at the end of June 2026.

Other Matters

Council also considered:

- Regular Occupational Health & Safety Report
- Regular update on the enforceable Undertaking
- La Trobe India Campus – Interim Update on Education Landscape and on the ground insights
- Health Innovation 2025 End of Year Report

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>.