

La Trobe University Council Report of Meeting – 28 September 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 this meeting on Monday 28 September 2026 in Meeting Room 3.04 at the City Campus, Level 3, 360 Collins Street.

AI Portfolio Innovation Strategy

Council discussed the importance of artificial intelligence for the University's future and considered how AI is expected to reshape the curriculum, particularly postgraduate offerings and lifelong learning opportunities. Members noted the recent growing public concern relating to AI including sustainability, impact on jobs, cyber security issues and its effect on learning. Members agreed that it is critical that the University engages with these issues and leads discussions about them, whilst recognising that employers are looking for graduates with AI skills and experience. Council noted the opportunity for La Trobe to build on its strengths in multidisciplinary, applied AI and agreed that a full business case would be brought to the December meeting.

Building a More Sustainable La Trobe

Council received an update on the University's work to strengthen its financial sustainability through cost reduction, revenue growth and new ways of working. Members noted the continuing work on international revenue, the 2027 budget outlook and longer-term growth assumptions, and discussed the importance of realistic data, clear return profiles and stronger links between future investment and sustainable revenue. Council acknowledged the substantial work undertaken, the extremely challenging external environment and the continued uncertainty in the longer-term outlook.

Student Organisations Policy

Council approved the revised Student Organisations Policy and two supporting procedures. The revised policy clarifies recognition requirements, roles and responsibilities, governance expectations and how student organisations engage with the University. It also introduces categories and a tiered approval model reflecting the different types of student-led organisations and clubs.

National Code on preventing and responding to gender-based violence

Council considered the University's response to the Gender-based Violence Regulator's compliance assessment with the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence. Members noted the revised whole-of-University governance approach, including the establishment of a National Code Steering Committee, and the planned six-monthly reporting pathway through the relevant University committees and Council.

Disability Governance Committee

Council approved the establishment of a Disability Governance Committee as a subcommittee of the People and Culture Committee of Council. The Committee will be co-chaired by a senior executive member and a nominated Council member and will support the University's approach to the new Disability Support Fund requirements.

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Distinguished Alumni Awards 2027

Council approved the recipients of the 2027 La Trobe Distinguished Alumni Awards, including the Chancellor's Award, Distinguished Alumni Awards and Young Achiever Award, recognising the high calibre of this year's nominations.

Cyber security and risk governance

Council approved Cyber Security Resilience Strategy 2.0 and noted the outcomes of recent cyber crisis exercises involving the senior executive team and the Council Cyber Crisis Committee. Council agreed that the outcomes of the exercise would be considered further at the October meeting.

Other Matters

Council also considered:

- the Health and Safety Report and an update on the Enforceable Undertaking
- the Finance and Resources Committee reports, including research partnership arrangements and student services and amenities fees
- the Risk, Safety and Governance Committee, Remuneration and Nominations Committee, Estates Development and Infrastructure Committee and Foundation Committee reports
- the recruitment process for the University Ombudsman
- the renaming of the Shepparton Campus Indigenous Unit space to Djibanga Mangandjina
- the results of the 2027 student member elections for Council

Disclaimer

This Report is intended to communicate key outcomes from the Council meeting, not to be an 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>