

## **Report from Monash University Council meeting 1/2026 held on 18 February 2026**

The Monash University Council met on 18 February 2026. Key matters discussed included the 2026 Implementation Plan, financial performance and sustainability, the University's international strategy, governance reforms, and student engagement.

### **Strategy and Planning**

Council approved the 2026 Implementation Plan, which sets out priorities for the year aligned with the Impact 2030 strategy. In considering the Plan, Council emphasised the importance of clear accountability, measurable outcomes and alignment with priority areas including artificial intelligence capability, sustainability, research and student wellbeing. Council noted that planning for the University's next strategic plan will commence later in the year.

### **Financial Performance and Sustainability**

Council noted the University's preliminary financial result for 2025.

### **International Strategy**

Council received an update on the International Portfolio, including growth in transnational education pathways, increased foreign-government sponsored students and expanded student mobility. Council discussed developments in key markets, including India and Indonesia. Council noted that the international campus network remains central to the University's long-term approach.

### **Preventing and Responding to Antisemitism**

Council considered recent work to review and strengthen the University's approach to preventing and responding to antisemitism. This included policy and regulatory review, benchmarking against national and international recommendations, and the establishment of a University-wide working group to oversee ongoing initiatives, and discussion of education and training initiatives across the University. Council noted the University's commitment to providing a safe and respectful environment for all members of the community.

### **Governance**

Council approved a revised Council Appointments Policy, including updates to the Council skills matrix. Council noted progress on governance reforms and engagement with government on national governance expectations including in alignment with the recommendations of the Expert Council on University Governance. Council also approved the University's 2025 Annual Racism Report, which will be publicly released.

## **Student Engagement**

Council noted the Vice-Chancellor's Student Presidents Advisory Forum Annual Report and discussed matters raised by student representatives, including cost-of-living pressures, food insecurity, campus safety, parking and transport, and teaching and learning arrangements. Council noted initiatives including extended library opening hours, additional investment in campus lighting, and ongoing work to strengthen communication and responsiveness to student feedback.

## **Academic Governance and Other Matters**

Council received an update from the Academic Board and noted continued focus on academic quality, regulatory compliance and assessment reform. Council also noted several senior leadership appointments and discussed the importance of diversity and succession planning.

Council conferred two posthumous awards for students of the Faculty of Information Technology.

The next meeting of the Monash University Council will be held on 23 March 2026.