

## **Report from Monash University Council meeting 2/2026 held on 23 March 2026**

Key matters discussed included the University's 2025 Annual Report and financial statements, governance and regulatory submissions, student experience priorities, Monash College strategy and governance, and updates on institutional performance and risk.

### **Governance and External Engagement**

Council noted updates on governance matters, including Council succession planning. It considered and noted the University's submission to the Victorian Government inquiry into enhancing university governance, including discussion on the importance of meaningful engagement with students and staff.

Council members also reported on their involvement in recent University-related activities, including participation in academic, industry and community events, and noted continued recognition of Monash research and engagement with students and staff.

### **Vice-Chancellor's Report and University Performance**

Council noted the Vice-Chancellor's report, which included updates on the release of the 2026 Implementation Plan, the introduction of institutionally supported artificial intelligence tools, and the successful start to the academic year.

Council also noted updates on student load settings, international recruitment pathways, and initiatives to support students and staff in response to the economic consequences of conflict in the Middle East. Actions taken following a campus incident of Islamophobic graffiti were noted, including enhancements to safety measures and improving engagement with affected communities..

The Monash Indigenous Congress 2025 Report was presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous) and noted. Council acknowledged progress in Indigenous student participation and ongoing work to strengthen representation and engagement.

Council also noted the University's submission to the national university 'report card' process initiated by Australia's Special Envoy to Combat Antisemitism, including measures to support campus safety.

### **Finance, Risk and Regulatory Matters**

Council approved the Monash University 2025 Annual Report to Parliament, including the 2025 Financial Statements, the inaugural Governance Statement, and associated declarations and disclosures. It also noted the monthly financial report to February 2026, with performance broadly in line with expectations.

The Workplace Gender Equality Agency reports for 2024/2025 were noted, including ongoing efforts to improve gender equity outcomes.

Council approved action plans arising from independent corporate and academic governance reviews conducted as part of the TEQSA re-registration process and approved the University's submission and attestation under TEQSA's Statement of Regulatory Expectations on Workplace Obligations.

Reports from the Finance Committee and Risk and Audit Committee were noted. Council approved updates to financial parameters, delegations, the Group Risk Appetite Statement and the Group Risk Profile, and noted ongoing monitoring of financial performance, investment activity and risk.

### **Strategy and Student Experience**

Council received an update on Monash College, including its strategic direction for 2026–2030, commercial performance and role as a pathway provider. Council approved a hybrid governance model for Monash College, including the establishment of a Board with internal and independent members.

A deep dive on student experience was presented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Experience), outlining priorities across student support, career development, innovation and student voice. Council noted initiatives to improve access to services, strengthen industry engagement and enhance student participation.

### **Academic Governance and Committees**

Council noted the Academic Board report, including progress on the PAAIR (Programmatic Assessment and Artificial Intelligence Review) project in reforming student assessments and progress on TEQSA re-registration.

Reports from the Finance, Risk and Audit, Estates and ESG, People, Selection and Remuneration, and Governance and Nominations Committees were considered. Council discussed the Vice-Chancellor's performance in 2025 and noted her workplan for 2026. Council approved updates to the University Charter and Council Skills Matrix, and made certain appointments. Council also noted ESG reporting developments and campus planning updates.

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The next meeting of the Monash University Council is scheduled for 13 May 2026.