

## **Report from Monash University Council meeting 3/2026 held on 13 May 2026**

Monash University Council met on 13 May 2026 at the CDC Brooklyn Campus. Council participated in a tour of the MAVERIC (Monash AdVanced Environment for Research and Intelligent Computing) facility prior to the meeting of Council. Key matters discussed included student demand and enrolment trends, major projects, research commercialisation, and long-term financial planning.

The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering presented an update on the Faculty.

### **Student Demand and Academic Experience**

Council considered an update from the Vice-Chancellor on student demand and enrolment trends. Domestic demand remains strong, with increased first-preference applications. While international student numbers in 2025 were strong, international post graduate demand has softened in line with sector-wide trends. Careful financial management over the next 6 to 12 months across the University will be required.

Council also discussed issues raised by students in the Faculty of Law regarding changes to teaching delivery. The Vice-Chancellor updated Council on constructive discussions that had occurred with student representatives, with further work underway regarding pedagogy, assessment and the student experience.

### **Student Support and Awards**

Council considered a proposal to change the process for conferral of academic awards so that students do not need to wait for a graduation ceremony for the formal conferral of their degree or other award. Council supported the intent to allow earlier confirmation of awards to assist students seeking employment, noting that this would align with practice across most of the sector.

### **Major Projects**

Council received an update on the University's major projects function and on major University projects, including the Student Management System Transformation. That project is progressing as planned, with implementation scheduled for March 2027. The new system is expected to improve the student enrolment experience and simplify administrative processes.

### **Research and Commercialisation**

Council considered updates on research commercialisation and academic talent programs.

The University is progressing changes to its commercialisation approach following a recent review. Initial focus areas include therapeutics and artificial intelligence, alongside improvements to systems, processes and support models.

Council also noted progress in attracting research talent through the EMERGE and MAGNET programs, aimed at further strengthening research capability and leadership across the University.

### **Financial Outlook and Planning**

Council noted updates on the University's financial position and long-term planning and the implications for infrastructure, campus planning and transport.

### **Academic Governance and Committees**

Council noted the Academic Board report, including progress on TEQSA re-registration activities and the development of the Academic Board workplan.

Council considered reports from the Finance, Risk and Audit, and Estates and ESG Committees.

Finance Committee discussions focused on the University's long-term financial outlook, including updated 10-year student load projections, workforce growth, infrastructure planning and financial resilience. Council discussed the importance of integrated long-term planning for campuses, infrastructure and transport to support future growth.

The Risk and Audit Committee reported on emerging risks, including geopolitical impacts on student load, research project financial management, major projects oversight and whistleblower governance arrangements. Council approved updates to whistleblower governance arrangements and noted developments relating to Monash College governance oversight.

The Estates and ESG Committee considered campus planning and estate matters. Council noted ongoing work relating to long-term campus planning and strategic use of the University's estate.

Council also received an update on recent senior staff appointments and recruitment processes.

### **Other Matters**

Council noted the publication of the 2025 Gender-based Violence and Sexual Harm Prevention and Response Annual Report.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 11 June 2026.