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VICE -CHANCELLOR'S REPORT T O  
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY COUNCIL MARCH 2019

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1. INTRODUCTION/ UPDATE FROM THE VICE -

An important strategic initiative has been initiated to encourage all staff to help shape the future direction of UC. Entitled 'What Next?' it aims to engage colleagues across the University to address questions such as: • What kind of University do we want to be when UC turns 150 years in 2023? • How can we get better at learning, teaching and research, and service functions that enable our academic activities? • What is our academic vision? • What plan or road map do we need to achieve that vision? • What strategies do we need to employ to implement that plan? • How does a new vision and plan inform other existing plans? Staff and students will have a variety of engagement opportunities including forums, online engagement and a survey. This exercise will help develop an academic strategy that will shape our future and advance the achievements of the past.

In the international arena, a recently released 2019 Times Higher Education Asia – Pacific rankings show that UC is one of only two NZ universities to improve their rankings to 51st, with only Auckland and Otago ranked higher at 3rd and 4th, respectively.

Nationally, UC has completed its major phase of 2019 MBIE and Marsden research proposal bidding with 28 Smart Ideas, 8 Research Programmes, and 113 Marsden proposals, compared with 12, 11, and 80, respectively for 2018. The number of Marsden proposals is the highest ever submitted by UC since the fund began in 1994. Additionally, UC is a partner on another 24 Research Programme bids led by other research organisations. Invitations to submit full bids for Research Programmes and Marsden proposal will be higher in the year.

A Robotics Process Automation (RPA) programme has been approved to proceed in 2019. Although common offshore, this will be one of the first in the South Island. The aim of the programme is to develop approximately 12 small automated processes following the pilot project launched in January. Initial scoping has been completed and the expected benefits are compelling. As UC is growing, it is expected that the majority of the financial benefits will not be in direct headcount reduction, but in the form of operational savings and savings from not employing additional staff.

## 2. STRATEGIC MATTERS

### UC Futures Programme UC Kia Mua

The UC Futures Programme continues to move to closure in 2020. The final external Independent Quality Assurance review for the Canterbury Engineering the Future (CETF) project is under way along with the Post Implementation Review. Key affected staff are being interviewed and surveyed for their views on the effectiveness of the project. This report will be provided to Government as part of the University's obligations under the Crown Funding Agreement. This Agreement provided UC with a contribution of \$260 million to support the remediation and rebuild of the University's campus and to recover enrolments and its financial position.

Part of the UC Futures programme is to increase UC's full international enrolments to reach the national average. UC has been very successful in exceeding the agreed Government targets each year since 2016. It continues to chase ambitious growth in this area in 2019. UC is forecasting to hit 1,910 full-fee EFTS by the end of the year which is 12% up on 2018. However, after Friday's tragic accident, this growth may be at risk.





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Leaders servicing these first year experiential programmes and 33 student leaders have now been  
trained.

#### Accommodation

All first-year halls are at 100% occupancy with 229 first years living



Those students who failed to return to second year study will also be surveyed to improve our understanding on what is contributing to student attrition.

The beginning of the year is also the opportunity to upskill professional teaching staff who tutor in labs and tutorials. Tutor training for Semester 1 is now complete. This is a collaborative effort between Academic Development, Academic Skills Centre, and Learning Support. More than 250 attended the workshops- a record high. Several departments, particularly the College of Engineering, have either made tutor training compulsory or are strongly encouraging their tutors to attend.

Finally, with 2019 teaching under way the Timetabling team is shifting focus to prep work for the 2020 timetable. With the teaching space forecast complete, the team is looking at process improvements for location categorisation and task management that will add efficiencies for the 2020 build.

## Children's University

There are four schools signed up and two pending. For those schools signed on, validation training has taken place or is underway, and children will start receiving passports soon. In addition to the traditional schools, Taumutu registered interest in being a school participant

There are six active learning destinations and five pending school active learning destination with our campus tours being a recognised activity campus experience (e)4 p(h our)3 ( c)4 (a)4 2 ( (e (n)2Tj 2

## Value of Research Contracts Executed By Month

Postgraduate Research

PhD and Master

. D L —rahi are working with colleges and service units on consultation for new courses and programmes of study in the lead-





The next UC Connect public lecture is also sold out UC's largest lecture theatre weeks before the event. On 14 March, UC Psychology Professor Julia Rucklidge presented on the topic, Feeding the brain: exploring nutrition's role in mental health.

In addition to the events reported elsewhere in this report, the following major events were delivered in February/March:

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The Philanthropic Bonds mature latest year and we are looking to persuade holders to donate from the interest and/or capital on maturity. The NZX statement has been released, and is being prepared for distribution along with an abridged annual report and a cover letter from the Chancellor. Individual bondholders are being handpicked and approached in order to secure philanthropic donations.

A highly successful event in Auckland with 75 alumni attending the first event in our Alumni Speaker Series. Guest speaker Sir John Key encouraged alumni to show their support for UC, which in turn led to a few donations towards the annual appeal. The Wellington Chapter event with Minister Megan Woods was well attended with over 60 alumni turning up to the Wellington Club to hear her story.

The February newsletter had a 34% open rate and also attracted 9 donations totalling \$5,000.

Priorities for the month included preparations for Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia alumni and fundraising visits, Mt John trip in early May, rugby event in April and preparations for United Kingdom and United States (East Coast) events.

## 15. COLLEGE SUMMARIES (PROVIDED BY PVCs)

College of Arts (7 H 5 — Q J D L 7 R L 7 D Q J D W D)

We are delighted to welcome new continuing academic staff to the College: Alison Swale (Japanese), and Nik Tayler (Social Work and Human Services). The College has seen a healthy 6%+ increase in enrolments on the same time last year. This appears to be focused largely on returning students. The Master in Strategic Communication, introduced last year, has two thirds full-fee EFTS (10/15), and the new Bachelor of Communication has met its business case targets with around 50 EFTS. We are in discussions with Science about linkages between the BA and BSc either through a new BA degree or conjoint, and have proposals under way for revising the BA and introducing a 180 point version of the MA. Remediation of the James Logie building has been slowed by an asbestos issue, but we still expect to reoccupy the building this year, and Elsie Locke in 2020. For our many cultural and scholarly events see our regular newsletter, Arts Update <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/arts/news/archive/artsupdate/>

College of Business and Law (7 H 5 — Q J D L 8 P D Q D P H Te)

Recent academic appointments include: MBA Director Dr Chris Vass, Tourism Management Lecturer Dr Sam Specter and Criminal Law Lecturer Dr Sam Specter. (60 0 12 566(e)]8. ( -0.e 8. ( 196 (2)186.4imim (th 1



## Appendix 2: VC Activities

Past	
28 February 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Visited the Auckland Office</li> <li>x Met with Sir Peter Gluckman</li> <li>x Attended the HRINZ Awards where UC was nominated for an award</li> </ul>
2 March 2019	x Attended a Powhiri and Poroporaki at Tuahiwi Marae hosted by 1 J — L 7 X — K X U L U L
4 March 2019	x Attended Dinner with Rochester and Rutherford Hall
5 March 2019	x Attended Dinner with College House
6 March 2019	x Attended a morning tea for Erskine visiting fellows
7 March 2019	x Attended a CECC hosted lunch where the Prime Minister spoke
8 March 2019	x Co-hosted a dinner with the Chancellor for Mayor Lianne Dalziel and Minister Megan Woods
12 March 2019	x Attended Dinner with Ilam Apartments
13 March 2019	x Attended Dinner with Bishop Julius Hall
15 March 2019	x The Chancellor and I met with Mr Speaker, Rt Hon Trevor Mallard and a delegation of MPs and parliamentary officials and attended a function held for him to meet with students
18 March 2019	x Attended and spoke at the Band Together event hosted for the UC Community following Friday's mosque attack.
19 March 2019	x Attended Dinner with Sonoda Hall
20 March 2019	x Attended Dinner with University Hall
Future	
23 March	x Attending and speaking at the College House Reunion Dinner
26 March 2019	x Attending Dinner with Kirkwood Hall
29 March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Hosting Local Labour MP's on campus</li> <li>x Hosting Local Green Party MP's on campus</li> </ul>
5 April 2019	x Attending a breakfast meeting for Careers Advisors
11 April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>x Attending Universities New Zealand Meeting in Wellington</li> <li>x Meeting with external stakeholders in Wellington including Tim Fowler, Andrew Cleland and Dr Arapata Hakiwai</li> </ul>
16 April 2019	x

### Appendix 3: Events Calendar

Event calendar: [www.canterbury.ac.nz/events](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/events)

Date	Time	Venue	Event name	Key goal
Friday 5 April	8am			