Minutes Academic Committee | 17 August 2026

at 2pm Council Room and online via Microsoft Teams

Attendees (5)
Ondene van Dulm (Chair), Sean Coyle, Helen Ryan-Stewart, Deb Stewart, JaX van Niekerk

In attendance:
Jeanette Fifield (Minute Secretary), Jade Peterson (Younited), Chrissie Garland (Item 2)

Apologies:
Noor Alani, Markus Dipper, Robin Fabish, Victoria Fuata'i, Philippa Jones, Lucy Laitinen, Jodee Reid, Tracey Tangihaere, John West

The meeting was opened with karakia led by the Chair.

1. Administration

1.1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

An apology was received for N Alani, M Dipper, R Fabish, V Fuata'i, Philippa Jones, L Laitinen, J Reid, T Tangihaere, J West

1.2 Register of interests

No interests were declared.

1.3 Quorum

Quorum of members not achieved.

1.4 2026 academic committee meeting dates

The 2026 meeting dates were provided for information.

1.5 Action list

The Committee reviewed the action report and provided an update on the actions.

1.6 Minutes of the meeting 20 July 2026

Resolved (S Coyle /H Ryan-Stewart)
That the ratification of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2026 be deferred to the next meeting.
CARRIED

The Chair welcomed C Garland to the meeting.

2. Equivalence of Indian bachelor's degree academic qualifications to New Zealand qualifications for admission into postgraduate programmes delivered by EIT

The members received a verbal summary of the change request, being the adoption of the proposed system to determine the equivalence of an Indian Bachelor's degree qualification to a NZ Bachelor's degree qualification for admission into postgraduate programmes delivered by EIT. Discussion took place and C Garland responded to questions raised.

Action: O van Dulm agreed to follow-up the following questions and concerns with Philippa Jones.

1. Academic Committee perceive some risk if the pool of applicants to be awarded a particular NZ equivalent narrows to include applicants with a smaller range of Indian grades than before (e.g. an NZ B grade would previously be awarded to an applicant from a C institute who achieved 70-79 as well as one from an A institute who achieved 50-59 – in the new system, only the first applicant would be awarded an NZ B grade and be admitted.
   Questions: Does this raise inequity (amongst Indian applicants and/or across other countries for which we use equivalence tables), with possible reputational risk? Does this reduce our ability to discern the type/extent of support an admitted student needs to succeed? Does it increase the onus on student support (from lecturers and academic advisors) to support student achievement?

2. How well has the EIT grade equivalence system worked thus far in terms of the above questions, and is EIT's grade equivalence approach common across the sector? If other providers are simply doing what the Memo proposes (i.e. what EIT used to do prior to 2019), and have been doing so all along, then do we need an equivalence system at all?

3. What is the type and extent of intelligence/information we need to develop a new system based on the new Indian university classification system? We understood from C Garland that the new system is in place, but that your team needs more time to research it so as to develop a new grade equivalence mechanism. Academic Committee are interested in what this would entail, in terms of time, testing for reliability, etc.

4. When did the Indian university classification system change, and how long have we been working on the 'expired' system already? Is there any risk in simply continuing as we are until the new system is in place?

Actions:
1. C Garland will send the International Grade Equivalency Table to the members, for information.
2. Further discussion and follow-up between O van Dulm and Philippa Jones is required. This item will be resubmitted and tabled at the next meeting for further consideration and approval.

The Chair thanked C Garland for her attendance and participation. C Garland left the meeting.

3. Subcommittees of Academic Committee

3.1 Strategic Research Committee

3.1.1 Interim research and innovation strategy

The members received an overview of the strategy and general discussion took place. The members endorsed to extend EIT's current interim strategy to the end of 2027 noting it remains fit for purpose and continues to provide a clear strategic framework across the institute.

Actions:

1. The extension of the current interim strategy to the end of 2027 will be ratified at the next meeting.
2. H Ryan-Stewart will provide updates to Academic Committee, as information becomes available on the TREF (Tertiary Research Excellence Fund) which replaces the former PBRF framework.

3.1.2 New membership appointments

The following membership appointments were approved via delegated approval by the Academic Committee Chair for a duration of two years, effective 17 September 2026

1. Jeffrey Adams (Chair, Research Ethics Approvals Committee) – non-voting member
2. Tania du Plessis (PCC, School of Education & Social Sciences)
3. Sean Coyle (PCC, IDEAschool)

4. Any other business

4.1 EPIs and associated activities

Deferred.

4.2 Type 1 programmes/course changes (January-July 2026)

Academic Approvals Committee type 1 programmes/course changes (January-July 2026) approved via delegated approval. Received for information.

The Chair expressed appreciation to the Academic Approvals Committee members for their work throughout the delegated approvals process.

5. Any other business

5.1 Proposed EIT 2028 Institute academic year dates

The members reviewed the proposed dates and general discussion took place. It was noted that, where practicable, alignment of EIT semester weeks with school holiday periods, particularly the Term 3 break, should be considered.

Action: This item will be further discussed and presented for approval at the next meeting

The Chair thanked the members for their attendance and participation.

The meeting closed 3.20pm with karakia led by O van Dulm.

Next scheduled meeting – Monday, 21 September 2026, 2-4pm, B111 (Council Room Te Pae Hono) and online via Microsoft Teams.