

Aide-Memoire: Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee – tertiary education institution council appointments

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	Mike Blanchard, Deputy Chief Executive Operations, Tertiary Education Commission
Date:	26 March 2018
Reference:	AM/18/00164

Purpose

1. To provide talking points for the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee on 28 March 2018 in relation to appointments to the governing councils of tertiary education institutions (TEIs).
2. We recommend that you release this aide-memoire but only after the appointment process has been completed and letters of appointment received by each appointee.

Talking Points

3. As Minister of Education, I make four appointments to each council of an institute of technology or polytechnic (ITP) and appoint the Chair and Deputy Chair from the eight members of the full council. I also make either three or four appointments to the council of a university or wānanga, depending on the total number of members.

Five of the seven appointments are new Ministerial appointments

4. I intend to make seven appointments to five TEI councils. Of these, five are new council members. Two of the appointments are leadership positions – appointment of a new Deputy Chair for Wintec and reappointment of Unitec's Chair.
5. In terms of diversity, five of the appointees are women; of the men, one is Maori and one is of Indian heritage.

Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

6. I intend to appoint Janine SMITH as an AUT council member for a four-year term from 9 April 2018.
7. **Janine SMITH MNZM** is a founding Principal of the Boardroom Practice. Janine's MNZM was awarded in 2015 for services to corporate governance. She has been a company director for over 20 years and her experience as director and as Chair includes public listed companies, state-owned enterprises, private companies and organisations in the arts and education sectors.

University of Waikato

8. I intend to appoint Dr Joan FORRET as a council member of the University of Waikato for a term of four years from 9 April 2018.
9. **Dr Joan FORRET** is a Partner of Hamilton law firm Harkness Henry. She regularly appears before the Environment Court, the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority, and at Local Authority and District Licensing Committee hearings. Joan chairs the Waikato branch of the Resource Management Law Association. She is an alumnus of the University of Waikato, which awarded her doctorate in law, and where she lectured in Environmental and Public Law for five years.

Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec) – two appointments

10. I intend to appoint Mr Niwa NURI, who is a Ministerial appointee to the Wintec council, as Wintec's Deputy Chair to the end of his term as a council member, 30 April 2020. As Deputy Chair, Niwa succeeds Steve Howse.
11. **Niwa NURI** is of Te Arawa and Whakatōhea descent and is a chartered accountant and business consultant, mainly in the Hamilton area. He has an extensive background with private companies and not-for-profit organisations, particularly in the social services sector. Other governance roles include Chair of Trust Waikato and he is a trustee of Te Hunga Manaaki Services in Tauranga.
12. I also intend to appoint Ms Kiri GOULTER as a Wintec council member for a four-year term from 1 May 2018.
13. **Kiri GOULTER** owns Kiri Goulter & Associates Ltd, tourism and economic development specialists based in Cambridge. Kiri is an experienced senior executive and her governance experience includes the Waikato Chamber of Commerce.

Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT)

14. I intend to appoint Ms Theresa STRATTON as an MIT council member and as Deputy Chair for a four-year term from 1 May 2018. Theresa succeeds Brian Monk as Deputy Chair.
15. **Theresa STRATTON** owns Waiau Consulting and is a qualified financial professional. Theresa is a former Chief Executive of Papakura District Council and subsequently worked in the office of Mayor Len Brown for six years on financial planning and Auckland City's long term financial strategy. Theresa has operated at senior levels in both local government and the commercial world.

Unitec Institute of Technology – two appointments

16. I intend to reappoint Dr Lee MATHIAS as a council member and as Chair for a four-year term from 1 May 2018.
17. **Dr Lee MATHIAS ONZM** has been Chair of Unitec since 2014. An experienced director of public, private and social enterprises, Lee is making a substantial contribution to the role and is currently leading the council in recruiting a new chief executive. Lee has specialised in governance after a career in the health services sector as a clinician, business owner, consultant, and educator. Her ONZM was

awarded for services to health and business and she is an Accredited Fellow of the NZ Institute of Directors.

18. I also intend to appoint Mr Pramjit Rai (Jeet) SUCHDEV QSM JP as a Unitec council member for four-year term from 1 May 2018.
19. **Jeet SUCHDEV QSM JP** chairs Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, which he established to assist the wider South Asian community in Auckland. Jeet's QSM was awarded in recognition of his service to the community, which he also serves as a Justice of the Peace. Jeet's governance experience includes community organisations, COGS Auckland distribution committee member, and he is a former member of the Lottery Grants Board, Auckland Regional Migrant Centre and the Ethnic People's Advisory Panel.

In making these appointments, I am fulfilling my statutory responsibilities as Minister

20. I confirm that as the responsible Minister for these appointments, I have taken into account the relevant sections of the Education Act 1989. In particular, I have considered the need for council membership to reflect the ethnic and socio-economic profile of the community the institution serves and the gender balance of the population; the requirement for Māori membership; and the knowledge, skills and experience members require to fulfil their individual duties and the functions and responsibilities of the council.
21. I am confident that the governance skills and experience of these council members will make an important contribution to the council's discussion and decision-making, and to the leadership of their institutions.



p.p. **Mike Blanchard**

Deputy Chief Executive, Operations
Tertiary Education Commission

26 March 2018

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister of Education

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