



# Vice Chancellor's Report to Council

August 2020

CNZ. The agreement marks an important milestone in the Business School's engagement with CNZ to support its regional economic development strategy. In return for CNZ funding (\$150,000 per annum for three years), the UC Centre for Entrepreneurship (UCE) will identify support and accelerate the growth of Christchurch's most ambitious start-ups and scale-ups, particularly those working in the sectors identified under CNZ's supernode strategy. The UCE ThincLab incubator programme will lead these initiatives, in collaboration with its partners in the regional ecosystem including Ara, Te haka, B.Linc, Callaghan Innovation, Institute of Directors, ThincLab Adelaide and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

As part of the new MBA course, Data-informed Strategy, a weekend intensive challenge c 0 TwTen n037hall(n)



The Māori Moot Competition took place on Thursday 6 August, again in the Sir William Young Moot Court. Berith Petaia, Anatea Prince, Islay Fowler and Terrence Wagstaff went head to head. UC graduates and current practitioners Dee Morgan, Aja Trinder and John Whitcombe were the judges. The best mooter overall was Islay Fowler. The best Māori mooter – and thus the student representing Te Pūāhikurangi and UC at the annual Te Hūnga Rāia Māori Law Conference next month – was Terrence Wagstaff. Thanks to Law lecturers Adrienne Paul and Simon Dorset, who supported Te Pūāhikurangi's Co-Tāwhiri, Kaelym McGrath, in organising this moot.

Campus Experience events are being planned for Te Mātāpuna Mātāhiki | Children's University in the September and October school holidays. These events will be held on campus at both the University of Canterbury0 (e)4 (rH-484 000300334 01CC 00552 (be)4 ( w)2134 -1.1 (r)3 (s)-1 (i)-2 (t)-12 (y)2 Um beC 0 Twdacc6 (g)1ETlaou-102ybeTTowgburTut(r)3 P (T) cgp.16 -1254rptA4 (r l.)eri4oowgburTucderi4.7

online. With the announcement coming in the fifth week of a six-week term, a number of tests were scheduled during this time; however, these are being conducted as planned with greater spacing across rooms and protocols for remote invigilation, meaning 'at risk' students are still able to complete their work. It is great testament to the preparedness of our staff and students that we could respond so quickly.

UC is in the midst of a major survey period, in which all students have been invited to share their feedback via surveys. As well as exploring the quality of teaching and supervision across all levels of the University, these surveys invite students to share their views on the services on offer across UC, their wellbeing and their campus experience. These are our primary sources of student feedback for the year and provide important information that enables multiple stakeholders across campus to provide better services for our students. All staff are able to access these data through a series of interactive dashboards, which will be updated with 2020 data by the end of next month.

Analytics for Course Engagement (ACE) restarted at the beginning of Week 2 of Semester 2. By taking a proactive approach early in Semester 2, we were able to communicate with students prior to the final date for adding or withdrawing from courses to ensure they were on track to succeed in their studies. To date, the ACE system has identified around 1,300 students who needed additional support in Semester 2, the large majority of whom have re-engaged with their online study materials after contact from

Dr Jonathan Dunn (Linguistics) has begun filming for the first massive open online course (MOOC) on offer which is related to text analytics. The Linguistics Department has been building on existing strengths in online delivery, now offering all of its papers with a distance course code, as well as the

first presentation, Dr Serena Kelly spoke on the topic of “Rhetoric and reality – the NZ-EU Free Trade Agreement in the times of COVID-19”.

UC’s Distinguished Professor Jack Copeland (Philosophy) has been appointed to the Governing Board of Mangalam University in Delhi, and also to an honorary Distinguished Professorship at Mangalam. The Governing Board meets by Zoom.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Ian Wright, with three counterparts from Australian universities, participated as an invited panellist in a *Times Higher Education* webinar about the risk and opportunities to research in Australasian universities in a post-COVID world. Some of the questions the panel discussed included: In light of the outbreak of COVID-19, how have public perceptions of university research changed? Will universities and researchers see a shift to more blue skies research and how will this impact future collaborations with governments and industry? How have associations of universities (for example, Universities New Zealand, Group of Eight) supported researchers in response to the pandemic? What impact will restricted mobility have on the flow of academic talent including PhD students between institutions? Could this threaten the Antipodean research reputation? What role have the social sciences played during this turbulent period? Over 900 participants registered for the webinar.

As part of UC’s response to COVID-19, two new programmes were announced to ensure UC’s PhD programme continues to evolve while New Zealand’s borders remain closed to new international students. First, UC has launched a new process to allow PhD candidates with an accepted offer from UC to start their studies from overseas. The process is supervisor-driven, with applications considered on a case-by-case basis. Considerations will include: the point at which students must be located in New Zealand to progress their research; a plan B if border restrictions do not ease within 12 months; whether the PhD could be completed, in its entirety, at a distance within four years of full-time study; and whether appropriate levels of support and resourcing will be available to the student. As kaitiaki of this cohort of offshore students, UC is developing a dedicated programme of support.

Second, as New Zealand competition for PhD students increases, a new doctoral scholarship

(<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/onenews/newzealand/combiningindigenouswestern-scientific-knowledgepathway-greater-understanding-study>) and M ōri TV.

Dr Daniela Liggett from Gateway Antarctica gave an international keynote talk entitled “Small glimmers of hope amidst the turmoil of a pandemic? The implications of COVID-19 for Antarctic research and governance” at the Science Council of the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research meeting on Wednesday 5 August. For more information, go to

<https://www.scar2020.org/plenary-events>

The College of Engineering recently hosted key staff from all of New Zealand’s defence forces. They are interested in training and research with us, and met with staff in the Wireless Research Centre and the HITLab. Of particular interest was the link between their research into how learning works in simulated environments and UC’s current investigations of remote laboratory teaching options.

Professor Stephen Todd



students, and then in year two of ENG ME!, when previous mentors were in their third year, they supported new mentors in year two, who mentored the new first years. Eventually the system becomes self-supporting although academic staff provide oversight. Some time ago the School of Law adopted this approach, and recently the Department of Sport Coaching and the College of Arts have been talking to Dr Daniel de Walt, the staff member responsible for overseeing ENG ME!, about implementing the scheme in their colleges too.

A key challenge to student wellbeing during 2020 has come from the financial impacts of COVID-19. During lockdown, UC began looking at various strategies to ensure students receive the level of financial support they need to continue their studies in what we expected to be an increasingly challenging environment. A range of initiatives is in pla ( s)-1 (tc 0 Tw 8.6)-2 (na)4 (n l)-26 (y)164 (n l)o. s (d)-



On 6 August,



location. The film depicted the life of Madame Curie with flash-forwards to the impact her discoveries with husband Pierre had on the world.

In addition to calling almost 1,000 to students during lockdown, the fundraising team have had 248 significant engagements (phone call/meeting) with 186 prospects (including nine members of the SLT) around engagement and philanthropy on behalf of the University. Of those contacts 30 of them have made a significant gift of over \$10,000, contributing to the \$4.1m raised so far this year. Our largest gifts have been the legacy of Peter Holland which was confirmed with the Solicitor in January and received in March of just over \$1m to support Pasifika and Mori students pursuing Environmental Research and a \$340 endowment from Lady Tait for the Sir Admiral Tait Scholarship for students from Timaru Boys to attend UC. The latter has been a long established and prestigious award that has been funded annually, Lady Tait has shown her trust and belief in the UC Foundation to ensure this scholarship is maintained in perpetuity for the benefit of the University.

In addition to the work of the fundraising team, our academics and business managers in the colleges have secured a total of \$1.4m in external income from 54 organisations, \$991k of which has been stewarded through the UC Foundation, the remainder directly to UC. The University has also secured \$665k in expense recovery from 54 organisations. A further \$108k has been pledged by the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation in support of the Child Wellbeing Institute at UC

## Finances

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
				14,733		(39)
			13,270			16,984
			25,699			38,251

July 2020 of (\$11.534 million), but

favourable variance mainly relates to travel and conference expenses, contract research, contract teaching, the majority of which are related to variable variances will be sustained and

ic student fees, including Student of this relating to the 2019 SAC

le variances coming from (\$4.717 depreciation and (\$1.565 million) less

We are forecasting for a surplus in line with budget for the full year of \$3.8 million. Expected reductions in revenue from international tuition fees, domestic tuition fees and SAC, the Performance Based Research Fund and research income along with forecast increases in expenses related to depreciation expenditure are largely offset by improved interest revenue and forecast reductions in personnel and operating expenses.

Capital expenditure is \$13.270 million below budget. Most projects are under budget but expenditure related to the UC futures projects is (\$8.548 million) over the year-to-date budget of \$0.804 million, largely as a result of the \$9.184 million Rehua final payment in March that was not considered in the budget. The remaining capital spend (excluding UC Futures) is favourable by \$21.818 million, against a year-to-date budget of \$66.475 million. Unsurprisingly, the COVID-19 lockdown significantly curtailed capital expenditure, but it is now returning to normal levels.

The July 2020 cash position of \$249.275 million is higher than budget by \$25.699 million. The higher-than-expected opening cash balance and lower capital spend have been partially offset by less cash from operating activities (largely due to less income).

For further details, please refer to the latest monthly financial report.

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Notes:

Budget and Forecast are not calculated down to year at UC.

Enrolment data are based on the same date across years. e.g. 6 Jan 2019 vs 6 Jan 2020.

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## Environmentally Sustainable

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The Sustainability Programme Board, chaired by Professor Jan Evans-Freeman, had its first meeting on 7 August. Membership spans Facilities Management, the Sustainability Office, People and Culture, all the colleges and Research & Innovation (R&I). Topics included looking at sustainability priorities in the Major Investment Plan and developing a visible and virtual platform at UC for disseminating sustainability-related activities in teaching, research and campus management and development. This Board will also receive updates on the submission to the Times Higher Education Impact rankings, which is being run out of R&I.

We ran our Transport Survey for the first time since 2016 during July. More than 2,000 staff and students responded and the postdoc (f)3 (-10 l aules1 (pd. ( on le)4 (st)2, n)Tj(ho)4(f)-10 (p P)-4 d, reason

Past Events	
30 July 2020	Attended Powhiri in Auckland for VC of University of Auckland, Dawn Freshwater
31 July 2020	Met with CE of Waimakariri District Council, Jim Palmer, and Mayor Dan Gordon
3 August 2020	Met with James Stringer, Box 112
4 August 2020	Met with Nuha Fathina, UCSA - Commerce
5 August 2020	Hosted a Christchurch Knowledge Commons meeting
6 August 2020	Attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Universities NZ Attended a meeting with ANZ's Chief Economist, Sharon Zollner
7 August 2020	Attended an induction day for NZQA Board
11 August 2020	Attended part of REANNZ Board Meeting hosted at UC Attended a formal dinner at UC's College House
12 August 2020	Attended a Learner Success meeting with TEC
18 August 2020	Met with Haydn Rawstron
19 August 2020	Met with British High Commission, HE Laura Clarke
21 August 2020	Attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Universities NZ

Upcoming Events	
25 August 2020	Speaking at Health Research Society of Canterbury Poster Expo 2020
26 August 2020	Speaking at Rongo o te Wā at UC
27 August 2020	Attending a Zoom meeting for NZQA Board Meeting
31 August 2020	Attending a meeting with ChristchurchNZ Speaking at UC Toastmasters Club event
1 September 2020	Attending UC Graduation Celebration Ceremonies
2 September 2020	Speaking at Māori Research Collective
7 September	