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## 1. STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

The 2019 academic year is drawing to a close with year-end examinations having concluded on 9 November and many academic staff busy with marking and assessments. Students will receive their final grades at the end of November and for many, that will mark the completion of their qualifications which will be conferred in December. 1980 students have applied to graduate, including all students graduating at a ceremony either in Christchurch or Rotorua, and all students graduating in absentia. For other students, the summer session is an opportunity to continue their studies. Summer school sessions commence in November and January for students wishing to take some additional coursework outside the typical degree window. Of course for many postgraduate students, work on research projects continues across the summer months; and undergraduates also get the opportunity to experience research with summer research scholarships.

The year-end also marks the wind down of the UC Futures programme as this will be the last routine report. Overall the programme has gone well. All buildings are complete, open and in use. International enrolments exceed pre-earthquake levels and we are on track to meet pre-earthquake domestic enrolment levels next year. The Staff Forum on 3 December will be an event at which we mark the end of the earthquake recovery phase as well as the closing of the year.

The New Year will be the first year of implementation of the new strategy, Tangata Tū, Tangata Ora, which has been launched publicly at two events: the UC Gala Dinner at the Arts Centre and a parliamentary event, co-hosted with alumna the Hon Dr Megan Woods, Minister of Energy and Resources, Greater Christchurch Regeneration, Housing, and Research, Science and Innovation. Both events went very well and in themselves represented the deeper and more regular level of engagement that is central to the strategy itself. It was pleasing to have our two student leaders taking active roles. Sam Brosnahan (President) and Tori McNoe (President elect and current Vice President) each showed their leadership talent at these events. UC's highly active and effective student body is a key element to UC's distinctive character and will play a key role in the strategy implementation.





Student Care recorded a total of 528 student engagements

EDS is

## 5. LEARNING AND TEACHING

While exams are finished and graduation looming for some, other students are continuing their study through the summer. Enrolments for summer school for 2019/2020 are on par with the previous year demonstrating that the growth in interest in summer school last year is being maintained. The ongoing interest in summer school is testament to student interest in more flexible learning options. To that the Micro-credentials Policy was approved by Academic Board on 8 November 2019. Micro-credentials represent an opportunity for UC to offer new flexible delivery options, opportunities for employers to upskill their staff and for students to quickly fill-in educational gaps from traditional or generalised degree programmes. Colleges have indicated interest in developing a range of micro-credentials, and industry and the community have expressed interest in partnering with UC on this. The Academic Quality Team is now focusing attention on developing policy and process around the recognition of prior learning and developing guidelines to assist UC academics create micro-credentials.

With the end of the main teaching year, it was satisfying to see that the Erskine Programme has had another successful year. Over the course of 2019, 80 Visiting Fellows visited UC including our first Distinguished Erskine Fellow, Professor Sir Colin Humphreys and 24 UC academics went overseas to enhance their teaching and learning. The Team is now busy progressing applications for 2020 visits which will include, early in the year, welcoming our 2000th Erskine Fellow.

Looking to 2020, academic support for staff and students is in preparation. For students, an early alert system will be in place so students and staff can identify disengagement sooner rather than later, and receive support for improving academic performance. For staff, a suite of 12 Academic Induction workshops for new academics are now developed and our Academic Development and E-learning teams will begin running these early 2020.

## 6. RESEARCH

The highly competitive and prestigious Marsden Fund awards have been announced recently for another year of blue-skies, investigator-initiated research. A measure of UC's success is that it has been awarded 12 grants – the highest number since 2010. Particularly gratifying this year is that three awarded grants went to the College of Arts (including to Professors 000866 Hay 594 06 research King de Bow 5 (d) Aug 6 19 FBTJFQ 1a (-) 1Qex0 594 associate investigator double on two grants) and a Fast Start to Dr Tyrone Love from the College of Business and Law. Six of the 12 awards are

WNT Venture prize: Dr Stefanie Gutschmidt, Engineering and Professor Greg O'Beirne, Science, Enhanced hearing technology inspired by human cochlea amplifier

Astrolab prize: Dr Yilei Zhang, Engineering, High-speed additive manufacturing technology

Jumpstart prize: Associate Professor Mark Staiger, Engineering, Monolithic biodegradable plate system for bone fracture fixation

Jumpstart prize: Dr Toby Macrae, Science, Developing a speech analysis app

Social/environmental prize: Dr Aisling O'Sullivan, Professor Tom Cochrane, Dr Frances Charters, Engineering, Nitrate treatment and waste shell valorisation from an innovative filter system.

Each of the winners will receive funding of \$20,000 to help with experimentation, proof-of-concept, technology or service development for their idea.

In recent weeks, UC has contributed to and/or submitted on three current Government submissions processes: the review of the



Kaiurungi (M ori Student Advisors) have been busy engaging with konga M ori (M ori students) for pastoral care and academic support related activities, including delivering supplementary study w nanga for konga studying Science, Engineering and Law. They have also led various outreach and recruitment events and are now planning Eke Tangaroa Celebration for M ori Graduates, scheduled for 19 December.

Kaiurungi have also started phone calling new to UC pre-enrolled konga M ori, extending whakawhanaungatanga, support and encouragement early in their UC journey. This activity is critically important in setting up first year konga for success.

## 9. FINANCES

We had been budgeting for an operating surplus as at the end of October 2019 of \$0.356 million, but have returned an operating surplus of \$7.360 million.

This is a favourable variance to the budget of \$7.004 million. This favourable variance mainly relates to \$7.779 million less operating expenses (largest savings are in consultancy expenses, contract teaching, contract





tickets' (encouraging appropriate shared use of spaces) on Instagram, and implementing a number of wellbeing 'take a break' initiatives.

GradFest was once again a successful partnership with over 200 students and staff in attendance. Consequently, postgraduate students provided positive feedback about the support that UC demonstrates to its postgraduate research students.

## 12. IT SERVICES | TE RATONGA TAUTOKO HANGARAU

Recently IT Services began moving from the Ilam campus back to its permanent location at the Dovedale campus. Moving servers and networks was the priority in the first week of the move, while most staff will be moving by the end of the month. Only projects on critical deadlines, such as Identity Access Management, will remain at Ilam until mid-December. To minimise the impact on the business, most meetings are expected to remain at the Ilam campus.

A recent cyber threat, known as Collection #1, has been well managed by IT Services with no evidence to date that any UC systems have been breached. Collection #1 is a credential release containing a list of email addresses and passwords that have been published on the dark web without permission. These are then sold and used to send spam and phishing emails and/or to try to access other accounts. The Collection #1 list contained 773 million credentials, including 44 UC emails, of which only 7 were newly compromised credentials and all have now been addressed. This incident is now considered closed.

As part of the Cloud/Digital Strategy, the Chief Information Officer and Learning Resources Executive Director will meet with each Senior Management Team member and their executive team this month, to gain their feedback and understand any potential implications. IT Services expects that it will then report back to the Senior Management Team in early December.

## 13. COMMUNICATIONS

In October there were 1,027 mentions of UC across online, print and broadcast media. Some particular highlights were Radio New Zealand's interview with Dr Volker Nock following his Rutherford Discovery Fellowship award to accelerate research into saving native trees; Seven Sharp talking to Dr Grant Pearce about plant proteins as a meat replacement; and national outlets – including TVNZ 1News, Magic and Three – reporting on UC student inventors' new app, Vxt, which turns voicemails into texts. In addition to the positive coverage generated, over 90 media queries were handled.

**The following UC media releases/news stories appeared in broadcast, internet and print media in October:**

- UC students' tech startup turns voicemails to text
- Award winning "sensei" connects Japanese students globally
- UC Connect public lecture: NASA Astronaut Dr Anna Fisher – Women in STEM
- UC finance students top New Zealand on their way to Korea
- Professor Emerita Paula Jameson awarded 2019 Marsden Medal
- UC researcher awarded \$800,000 fellowship to save kauri from attack
- UC Connect public talk: Why on earth would you drill into a magma chamber?



to participate in the study course funded by Universities New Zealand, “Doing Business in Brazil”, in December at the Universidade de São Paulo. This is an amazing opportunity for Tessa and aligns well with the

College of Science staff achieved a number of successes in November.

Heather Purdie was awarded a National Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award for Sustained Excellence in Tertiary Teaching. She





4 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speaking at 2019 History Awards</li></ul>
5 December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•</li></ul>
6 December 2019	