



MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL REPORT OF OUTCOMES - MEETING 26 FEBRUARY 2026

Statement of the University's Public Purpose

Macquarie University is established in the public interest by the [Macquarie University Act 1989](#). The object of the University is the promotion, within the limits of the University's resources, of scholarship, research, free inquiry, the interaction of research and teaching, and academic excellence.

Statement of the Council's Role

As stipulated under part 4 of the [Act](#), the Council acts for and on behalf of the University in exercising the University's functions. It has responsibility for the control and management of the University's affairs and may act in any matter relating to the University in the manner it considers best suited to promoting the University's objects and interests.

Place, Date and Background to the Meeting

The Macquarie University Council met on 26 February 2026 in the Council Room at the Wallumattagal Campus and addressed matters in accordance with its governance responsibilities and the [annual agenda plan](#).

Strategic Focus

The February Council meeting is followed by a separate annual strategy session, during which several hours are dedicated to engaging with the University's strategic priorities. As a result, unlike the remaining meetings throughout the year, the February meeting does not include a specific strategic focus.

Keys Matters

Financial Sustainability

Council received a report from the Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee (FFC) on the Committee's meeting held on 10 February 2026. Council also accepted the FFC 2025 Annual Report, which summarises how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities under its terms of reference.

Education Standards

Council discussed a paper from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) on AI and Assessment. Discussion centred on the following:

- Generative AI is reshaping assessment practices across the sector;

- most universities are adopting a two-lane assessment model, with one lane involving invigilated or observed assessment and the other allowing open assessment;
- while grade inflation linked to AI has been observed sector-wide, this trend is not evident at Macquarie;
- Macquarie’s approach remains closely aligned with sector-wide developments; and
- ongoing training and capability building for staff is essential and further reporting would be provided to Council.

Remuneration Strategy

Council received a report from the Chair of the Remuneration and Nominations Committee (NRC) on the Committee’s meeting held on 10 February 2026 and was briefed on the annual executive group performance and remuneration decisions. They also accepted the NRC’s Annual Report, which summarises how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities under its terms of reference.

Research Standards

Council approved the Overview of Countering Foreign Interference Activities for inclusion in the 2025 Macquarie University Annual Report.

University Culture

Council approved the draft Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom Attestation for inclusion in the 2025 Annual Report.

Governing Body Matters and Performance

Role and Responsibilities of Council

Council discussed the roles and responsibilities of Council members, reiterating the principle of Trusteeship, and emphasising that Council members collectively hold a legal and moral duty to advance the University’s long-term aims and to act in good faith in the best interests of the institution, rather than any appointing or electing body.

Council Engagement with Community

Council discussed the importance of ensuring engagement and accessibility with the broader University community, and the importance of ensuring Council communications better reflect the substance of Council’s deliberations.

Appointment of Council Member

At the meeting, Council resolved to appoint Mr Jongho (Pedro) Roh as the student member of Council for a term commencing 26 February 2026 and concluding 27 May 2027, in accordance with Section 11 (2) of the *Macquarie University By-Law 2005*. This appointment fills the casual vacancy created through the resignation of the previous elected student member.

Other Matters

Naming of Building

Council RESOLVED to name the new building at 9 Wally’s Walk, Wallumattagal Campus: “Engineering Innovation Building”.

Emeritus Professors

Council approved the awarding of Professor Emeritus to two Professors.

Disclaimer

This report provides an overview for the University community of the Council’s decisions and actions at the relevant meeting. It is not intended to cover every decision made at the meeting or the full details of decisions and discussions. Inquiries and requests for further information can be directed to the University Council Secretary at councilsecretary@mq.edu.au.

Further Information

For further information about Council, please see:

[Charter of Council](#)

[Current Macquarie University Council Members](#)

[Committees of Council](#)

[2026 Calendar of Governance](#)