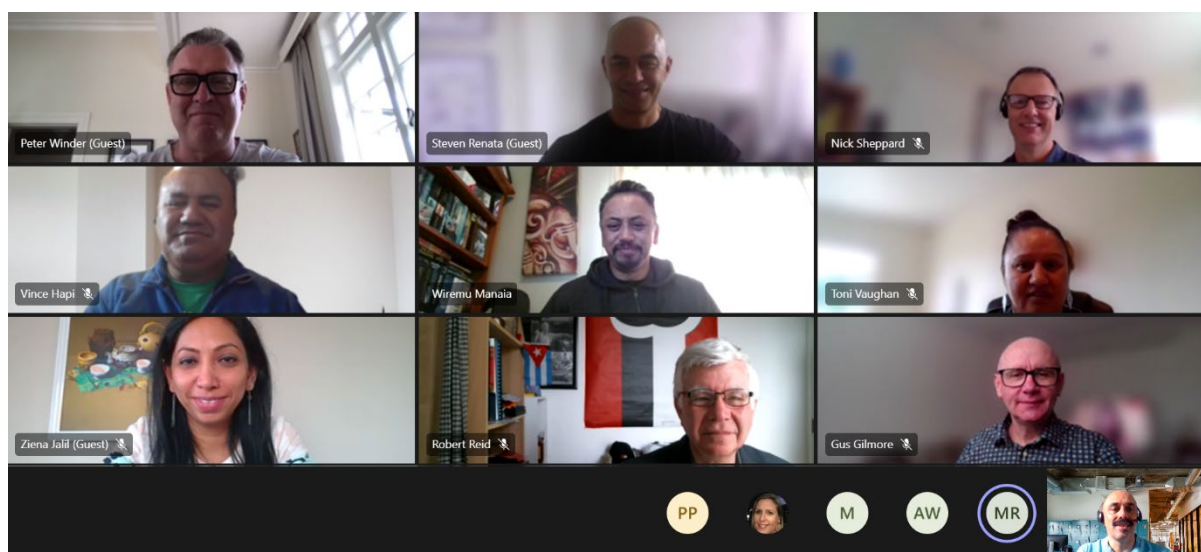


Unitec-MIT Board meeting key issues August 26, 2021



This bulletin contains a summary of the key issues before the Board at its monthly meeting allowing staff to gain insights into discussions raised and decisions being made.

COVID-19 Response

The Chair was provided with an update on the institutes' responses to continue delivering and supporting students while the city remains in lockdown at Alert Level 4.

Leadership advised learning and teaching continuity plans had been activated at the providers. While it was too early to say what the impact was likely to be on term dates and assessments.

Staff and students had moved to online working and learning. Engagement with both groups had a wellbeing focus and there had been high demand for hardship support and technology assistance for learners.

The Board acknowledged the work of all the staff in making the transition from face to face delivery to online as seamless as possible for our students. These are challenging times and the Board has asked for regular updates.

Priority Learner Performance

The Board heard while COVID-19 had an impact on course completions there has been positive progress for Māori and Pasifika learners. However, it remains unlikely parity targets for 2022-2023 will be achieved. It is likely these targets will need to be reviewed.

A review of Unitec's *I See Me*, MIT's *Hōkūle'a*, *Ōritetanga* projects and available research confirmed the directions taken by these interventions are correct including four main approaches for future development:

- Learner study – preparedness based on a holistic view of whole learner (whānau, culture, specific needs, etc)
- Teacher capability to support the whole learner
- Targeted initiatives = efficient, effective

- Institutional commitment to ensure a culturally-familiar and welcoming learning environment.

The Chair advised there needed to be a focus on identifying the organisation-wide barriers to 'shift the dial' and a conscious, targeted approach to achieve change.

Co-Leadership Model

The Chief Executive and senior representatives from Te Roopū Mataara co-presented a proposed Te Tiriti-based model of co-leadership to the Board.

A report on the proposal stated it was a step towards giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and recognising the providers' obligations as Te Pūkenga subsidiaries, as well as being consistent with Unitec's Te Noho Kotahitanga and MIT values.

The structure is also viewed as a way of realising the goal of educational parity between Māori and non-Māori students.

Under the proposal, a new Māori co-leader role is proposed to be established. The position will report directly to the Board, and is a fixed-term appointment until full transition to Te Pūkenga on January 1, 2023.

The Board thanked all those involved for the tremendous amount of work that had gone into preparing the proposal, and acknowledged the significance of the paper. The proposal for a co-leadership model was approved and it has now been referred to the Board's CE People and Culture committee for further consultation with relevant parties.

The next step, as outlined in the consultation pack, will be to move into part 3 of the process, which includes commencing appropriate formal consultation.