

GAZETTE

Date: 8 October 2026
Issued by: Michelle Stanhope, University Secretary



This Gazette is a public document and is circulated to members of the Council, members of Academic Board, the University Executive, and University staff. It reports the outcomes of meetings of the University Council and Academic Board since the last Gazette was issued. View [past issues of the Gazette](#).

Summary of key activities

- A. Council has appointed The Hon. Revd Dr Lynn Arnold AO as the second Chancellor of the University of Divinity, for a term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2029, in accordance with section 14 of the University of Divinity Act 1910. For more details, see [Vox](#).
- B. Council has approved the Tuition Fees for 2027, which can be viewed [here](#).
- C. Upcoming Graduation Ceremonies:
 - Adelaide: Thursday 18 February, 2027
 - Melbourne: Friday 9 April, 2027
 - Brisbane: Saturday 22 May, 2027
- D. Council has awarded Dr Graeme Leslie Blackman AO, PhD, BSc (Hons), BD, MTheol, FTSE, FRACI, FAICD, FloD the Doctor of Divinity (*honoris causa*), with the award to be conferred at the 2027 Melbourne graduation ceremony.

1. Regulations and Schedules

Regulations are available on the University website at

<http://www.divinity.edu.au/university-of-divinity/governance/the-act-and-regulations/>

1.1 On 12 August the Council approved the following Regulations and Schedules to Regulations

N/A

1.2 On 9 September the Council approved the following Regulations and Schedules to Regulations

N/A

1.3 On 11 August 2026 the Academic Board approved the following Schedules to Regulations

N/A

1.4 On 29 September 2026 the Academic Board approved the following Schedules to Regulations

Regulation 4 Colleges: Pilgrim Theological College is accredited to offer the Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Care (Schedule 4.10.4).

Regulation 11 Awards, Courses and Units: Modification of Course Record for Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Care – Pilgrim Theological College program added.

Regulation 11 Awards, Courses and Units: Modification of Course Record for Graduate Certificate in Leadership – additional elective unit LE8003Z Community Transformation Project approved.

2. Policies and Procedures

Policies and Procedures are available on the University website at

<http://www.divinity.edu.au/university-of-divinity/governance/policies-and-procedures/>

2.1 On 12 August 2026 the Council approved the following Policies and Procedures

2.1.1 *Academic Dress Policy:* Cyclical review with minor amendments.

2.1.2 *Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response Policy:* New policy to replace the Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Policy, taking into account the requirements of the National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence.

2.2 On 9 September 2026 the Council approved the following Policies and Procedures

2.2.1 N/A

2.3 On 11 August 2026 the Academic Board approved the following Policies and Procedures

2.3.1 *Academic Staff Policy:* Formational Teaching Practice Framework approved and added as Schedule B.

2.4 On 29 September 2026 the Academic Board approved the following Policies and Procedures

2.4.1 *Higher Degree by Research Policy:* Removal of Section 10 (moved to HDR Examination Procedure). Audit fee waiver for HDR Candidates added (Section 9).

2.4.2 *Higher Degree by Research Examination Procedure:* Approval of a new Higher Degree by Research Examination Procedure to contain the information previously in Section 10 of the Higher Degree by Research Policy.

2.4.3 *Academic Dean Role Description:* Major revision to correct outdated material.

3. Academic Appointments and Accreditations

3.1 Chloe Anastasia has been accredited through Wollaston Theological College to deliver units in Church History and Religious Studies at Postgraduate Elective level.

3.2 Professor Bart Bruehler has been accredited through Uniting College for Leadership and Theology to deliver units in Old Testament at Postgraduate Elective level, and units in New Testament and Biblical Studies at Doctoral level.

3.3 Revd Professor Stephen Burns has been accredited through Pilgrim Theological College to deliver units in Spirituality at Doctoral level.

- 3.4 Revd Junho Cho has been accredited through Whitley College to deliver units in Biblical Studies at Diploma level.
- 3.5 Matthew Crane has been accredited through Yarra Theological Union to deliver units in Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies at Postgraduate Elective level. He has also been classified at Level A (Associate Lecturer).
- 3.6 Fr Paul Dogba has been classified at Level B (Lecturer).
- 3.7 Jennifer Guild has been accredited through Whitley College to deliver the unit DS9202W Art of Contemplative Practice 2.
- 3.8 Dr Deborah Kent has been accredited through Yarra Theological Union to deliver units in Church History, Education Studies, Religious Studies and Spirituality at Postgraduate Elective level. She has also been classified at Level B (Lecturer).
- 3.9 Fr Gerard Louis has been accredited through Yarra Theological Union to deliver units in Systematic Theology at Postgraduate Elective level. He has also been classified at Level A (Associate Lecturer).
- 3.10 Associate Professor Kerrie Handasyde has been accredited through Pilgrim Theological College to deliver units in Indigenous Studies at Doctoral level.
- 3.11 Andrea Long has been accredited through Whitley College to deliver units in Spirituality at Postgraduate Elective level.
- 3.12 Revd Dr Andrew Mitchell has been accredited through Whitley College to deliver units in Indigenous Studies at Doctoral level.
- 3.13 Dr Steve Taylor has been accredited through Pilgrim Theological College to deliver units in Mission and Ministry at Doctoral level.
- 3.14 Revd Dr Eric Trozzo has been accredited through Australian Lutheran College to deliver units in Philosophy and Church History at Doctoral level.
- 3.15 Revd Associate Professor Robyn Whitaker has been accredited through Pilgrim Theological College to deliver units in Leadership at Postgraduate Elective level.
- 3.16 Naomi Wolfe has been accredited through Whitley College to deliver units in Church History at Postgraduate Foundational level. She has also been accredited through the Office of the Vice Chancellor to deliver units in Indigenous Studies at Postgraduate Elective level.

4. Governance and Other Appointments

- 4.1 The Hon. Revd Dr Lynn Arnold AM has been reappointed as a Council Member of the University of Divinity for a term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2029, in accordance with Section 7(1)(d) of the University of Divinity Act 1910.
- 4.2 Professor Bill Ashcroft has been reappointed to the Academic Promotions Committee for a further term of one year, commencing 1 January 2026 and concluding 31 December 2026, in accordance with Schedule 1.1.3 of Regulation 2 Academic Board.

- 4.2 Revd Professor Vicky Balabanski has been reappointed to the Academic Promotions Committee for a further term of one year, commencing 1 January 2026 and concluding 31 December 2026, in accordance with Schedule 1.1.2 of Regulation 2 Academic Board.
- 4.3 Revd Dr Avril Hannah-Jones has been reappointed as a member and as Chair of the People and Culture Committee for a term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2027, in accordance with Schedules 3.1.2 and 3.2 of Regulation 1 Council.
- 4.4 Professor Lynette McCredde has been reappointed to the Academic Promotions Committee for a further term of one year, commencing 1 January 2026 and concluding 31 December 2026, in accordance with Schedule 1.1.3 of Regulation 2 Academic Board.
- 4.5 Terry McCredde has been reappointed to the University Council by the Conference of the Churches of Christ in Victoria and Tasmania, for a term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2029, in accordance with Section 7(1)(c)iii of the University of Divinity Act 1910.
- 4.6 Professor John McDowell has been appointed as Deputy Chair of the Learning and Teaching Committee for a period commencing 11 August 2026 and concluding 31 December 2028, in accordance with Schedule 2.2.2 to Regulation 2 Academic Board.
- 4.7 Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen has been reappointed to the University Council by the Episcopal Conference of the Melbourne Province of the Roman Catholic Church in Victoria, for a term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2029, in accordance with Section 7(1)(c)iv of the University of Divinity Act 1910. Emeritus Professor McMullen has also been reappointed by Council as Deputy Chancellor for a term commencing 1 January 2027 and concluding 31 December 2029, in accordance with Section 14 of the University of Divinity Act.
- 4.8 Dr Daniel Sihombing has been appointed as a member of the People and Culture Committee, for a term commencing 12 August 2026 and concluding 31 December 2028, in accordance with Schedule 3.1.7 to Regulation 1.
- 4.9 Ms Michelle Stanhope has been appointed as University Secretary and Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor for a period commencing 15 September 2026 and concluding 18 December 2027.

5. Other Matters

- 5.1 Professor James McLaren will conclude in the role of Vice-Chancellor on 2 October, with Professor Megan Cassidy-Welch to serve as interim Vice-Chancellor until a new appointment is made.
- 5.2 Ms Hannah Hornsby will commence an extended period of parental leave on 12 October 2026, until late 2027. The University Secretary role will be covered per item 4.6 above.
- 5.3 Professor Liz Boase will be taking a combination of research leave, long service leave and annual leave from 12 October 2026 until 25 January 2027, with Dr Rebekah Pryor to serve as acting Dean of the School of Graduate Research
- 5.4 The next edition of the Gazette will be published within six weeks of the Academic Board meeting on 17 November 2026.