

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Civic Affairs Committee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 11 March 2025
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Council Chambers, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon,
Dunedin

Sandy Graham
Chief Executive Officer

Civic Affairs Committee
SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Chairperson	Cr Bill Acklin	
Deputy Chairperson	Cr Marie Laufiso	
Members	Cr Sophie Barker	Cr David Benson-Pope
	Cr Christine Garey	Cr Kevin Gilbert
	Cr Carmen Houlahan	Cr Cherry Lucas
	Cr Mandy Mayhem	Cr Jim O'Malley
	Mayor Jules Radich	Cr Lee Vandervis
	Cr Steve Walker	Cr Brent Weatherall
	Cr Andrew Whiley	

Senior Officer Robert West, General Manager Corporate Services

Governance Support Officer Jennifer Lapham

Jennifer Lapham
Governance Support Officer

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Note: *Reports and recommendations contained in this agenda are not to be considered as Council policy until adopted.*

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PART A REPORTS

MAYORAL SCHOLARSHIP

Department: Executive Leadership Team

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1 On 5 September 2023 the Civic Committee (the Committee) considered the Recognition of Former Mayors report and asked for staff to investigate options and costs for a possible Mayoral Scholarship and to provide a report to a future committee.
- 2 Staff have met with University of Otago Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka (the University) several times during 2024 to discuss options for a scholarship and for Council staff to understand the University's criteria and scholarship processes.
- 3 The purpose of this report is to discuss the options and costs of a scholarship for the Committee to decide on whether they wish to establish a Mayoral scholarship with the University.
- 4 The response from the University to the idea of a scholarship has been very positive, and the University recognise the opportunity that a Mayoral scholarship would provide in recognising the service of former Mayors, but also cementing the important relationship between the Dunedin City Council (DCC) and the University as two integral partners in supporting Dunedin's educational, social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.
- 5 The University is clear that their scholarship programme is a fundamental priority for them, and that a Mayoral scholarship would add to a programme that recognises academic excellence, leadership qualities, ethnicity, financial hardship, disability, and excellence in sporting or cultural pursuits.
- 6 Council and University staff have discussed several factors that would need to be considered in the establishment of a scholarship including – value, frequency, timing cycle to align with DCC and University, level of tertiary study, whether the scholarship would be an 'official' scholarship, and selection processes.
- 7 Several of the factors/variables for consideration are interlinked e.g the level of tertiary study the scholarship (undergraduate, postgraduate, research etc) that Committee wishes to support will determine the timing of applications and selection in the year, or the value and frequency of the scholarship will determine whether it becomes an 'official' University scholarship.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- a) **Approves** the establishment of a Mayoral Scholarship with the University of Otago - Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka to be awarded by Council each Triennium (commencing in 2025) for undergraduate study at a cost of \$5,000 per annum for 3 years.
- b) **Authorises** the CEO to sign the final agreement with the University of Otago - Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka.

BACKGROUND

- 8 On 5 September 2023 the Civic Committee considered the Recognition of Former Mayors report and asked for staff to investigate options and costs for a possible Mayoral Scholarship and to provide a report to a future committee.

Moved (Cr Bill Acklin/Cr Marie Laufiso):

That the Committee:

- a) **Asks** staff to investigate options and costs for a possible Mayoral Scholarship and provide a report to a future committee.

Division

The Committee voted by division

For: Crs Sophie Barker, Christine Garey, Marie Laufiso, Mandy Mayhem, Jim O'Malley, Steve Walker, Brent Weatherall, Andrew Whiley and Bill Acklin (9).

Against: Crs Kevin Gilbert, Carmen Houlahan, Cherry Lucas and Lee Vandervis (4).

Abstained: Nil

The division was declared **CARRIED** by 9 votes to 4

Motion carried (CAC/2023/001)

- 9 Council staff met with a representative from the University through 2024 to discuss options for a Mayoral Scholarship for consideration by Committee.

DISCUSSION

Official University scholarships

- 10 To meet the University's criteria of an official scholarship, it would be required to be awarded every three years for a period of three years, at a value of \$3k or more per annum and awarded in perpetuity (defined as five years or more).
- 11 Should the Committee decide that the scholarship only be awarded at the conclusion of a Mayoral term (to recognise the service of a former Mayor), the University would not consider the scholarship to be official (due to the potential infrequency of awarding the scholarship).

- 12 Official scholarships are managed and held at University level, rather than at departmental level, and would allow Mayor and/or Council the flexibility to determine the focus on the scholarship each time it is awarded e.g. environmental, legal, economics, medical.
- 13 An advantage of an official scholarship is that it will likely determine the calibre of students that might be considered, the prestige/manā associated with the scholarship and for the DCC, and allow for the scholarship to appear on the student's academic transcript.

Value of the scholarship

- 14 The University have suggested that the Committee may want to consider a value of between \$3k and \$10k per annum. This is based on the range of many of the current University scholarships.
- 15 The option put forward by staff for the Committee to consider in this report is \$5k per annum for 3 years.
- 16 There is currently no provision in the draft 9-year plan for a scholarship.

Frequency of the scholarship

- 17 As discussed above, the frequency of the awarding of the scholarship has an impact on whether it would be considered as an official University scholarship.
- 18 The University can accommodate a scholarship that is awarded only at the conclusion of a Mayor's term in office, but the scholarship would not be considered as an official University scholarship.
- 19 The option put forward by staff for the Committee to consider in this report is for a Mayor's scholarship to be awarded each triennium on the basis that the prestige/manā of the DCC having an official University scholarship is important to the relationship between Council and the University.

Level of tertiary study and annual timing of scholarship applications and awarding

- 20 Staff have discussed with the University the timing and annual cycles of their scholarship application and awarding processes and considered these in relation to the timing of local government elections in October every three years.
- 21 Scholarship timeframes and schedules are spread through the year depending on the level of study e.g. undergraduate, postgraduate, research etc. The University have advised staff that they feel the timing of the undergraduate scholarship process best aligns with DCC's local election schedule.
- 22 Undergraduate scholarship applications come into the University by mid-August, panels meet in early/mid-September, and scholarships awarded late September/early October.
- 23 Based on the University's advice, the option put forward by staff for the Committee to consider in this report is for a Mayoral scholarship to be awarded to an undergraduate embarking on their tertiary studies.

Selection Process for the awarding of the scholarship

- 24 The University has well established processes regarding the advertising, administration, and awarding of its scholarship programme. University staff have advised that should the Committee decide to establish a Mayoral scholarship, they would work with the DCC to develop the scholarship in time for the 2025 undergraduate scholarship round.
- 25 The University would also provide all the administrative requirements of managing the scholarship and undertake all of the advertising.
- 26 University staff have advised that the Mayoral scholarship selection panel would consist of the Mayor, one other DCC representative, and members of the University.

OPTIONS

Option One – Establish a Mayoral Scholarship with the University of Otago - Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka to be awarded each Council triennium (commencing in 2025) for undergraduate study at an annual cost of \$5,000 for 3 years - Recommended Option

- 27 This option would allow for the Mayoral scholarship to become part of the University’s official scholarship programme.
- 28 Staff would begin more detailed discussions with University staff to ensure all of the agreements are in place for the University to advertise the Mayoral scholarship in line with the University’s undergraduate scholarship timelines for 2025.
- 29 The funding for this option is not currently included in draft 9 Year Plan (9YP) budgets.

Advantages

- Provides a new opportunity to support the relationship between Council and the University of Otago
- Supports a student entering undergraduate study at the University of Otago
- Would meet the criteria to become an official University scholarship as can be awarded in perpetuity.
- Partially aligns with the desire to develop a scholarship to recognise the service of former Mayors.

Disadvantages

- Would add \$5k per annum to Council’s operational expenditure.
- May not align with the desire to use the scholarship to recognise the service of former Mayors.

Option Two – Establish a Mayoral Scholarship with the University of Otago - Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka to be awarded at the end of a Mayor’s term in office, for undergraduate study at an annual cost of \$5,000 for 3 years.

Impact assessment

30 The funding for this option is not currently included in draft 9 Year Plan (9YP) budgets. Note that it is not clear when the first scholarship would be awarded, nor the frequency of the awarding of the scholarship in the future.

Advantages

- Provides a new opportunity to support the relationship between Council and the University of Otago
- Supports a student entering undergraduate study at the University of Otago
- Aligns with the desire to develop a scholarship to recognise the service of former Mayors.

Disadvantages

- Would add \$5k per annum to Council expenditure at the end of a Mayor's term in office.
- The scholarship would not be an official University of Otago scholarship.
- Would potentially not financially support a student entering undergraduate study at the University each triennium.

Option Three – Do not establish a Mayoral scholarship - Status Quo

Impact assessment

31 There is no financial impact for Council with this option

Advantages

- There is no increase to Council expenditure with this option

Disadvantages

- Does not support a new opportunity to support the relationship between Council and the University of Otago
- Does not support a student entering undergraduate study at the University of Otago
- Does not provide an opportunity to recognise the service of former Mayors.

NEXT STEPS

32 Should the Committee decide to establish a Mayoral scholarship with the University, staff will work with the University to ensure that the scholarship established in time for the end of the current Council triennium in October 2025.

- 33 Should the Committee decide to establish a Mayoral scholarship, funding will be added to the draft 9YP budgets.

Signatories

Author:	Robert West - General Manager Corporate Services
Authoriser:	Scott MacLean - General Manager, Climate and City Growth

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Fit with purpose of Local Government

This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities.

Fit with strategic framework

	Contributes	Detracts	Not applicable
Social Wellbeing Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Economic Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Environment Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Arts and Culture Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
3 Waters Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Future Development Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Integrated Transport Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Parks and Recreation Strategy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓
Other strategic projects/policies/plans	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The establishment of a Mayoral scholarship with the University of Otago would support and cement the relationship between the DCC and University.

Māori Impact Statement

There is no know impact for

Sustainability

There are no known implications for sustainability

Zero carbon

There is no impact on DCC or city-wide emssions

LTP/Annual Plan / Financial Strategy /Infrastructure Strategy

The budget for a Mayoral scholarship will be added to the draft 9YP budget if Committee decide to establish the scholarship.

Financial considerations

The financial impact of establishing a Mayoral scholarship are shown above in the Options section of this report

Significance

The decision is considered low in terms of the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy

Engagement – external

Staff have met with University of Otago staff in the development of this report

Engagement - internal

There has been no internal engagement

Risks: Legal / Health and Safety etc.

There are no identified risks

SUMMARY OF CONSIDERATIONS

Conflict of Interest

There are no known conflicts of interest

Community Boards

There are no implications for Community Board