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Tēnā koe Dr McLean,

DCC SUBMISSION ON THE UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO'S VISION 2040 DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

Introduction

1. The Dunedin City Council (DCC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the University of Otago's (University) 'Vision 2040' discussion document. The DCC values the close working relationship between the DCC and the University, and looks forward to continuing to work together on shared strategic priorities.
2. The University makes the city a first-class study destination and a global source of knowledge and research. The University community of students and academic and professional staff contribute in several ways to the city vision for Dunedin to be one of the world's great small cities.

Submission

Vision and mission statement

3. The DCC supports the University's vision and mission statements as they both capture integral elements of the vision for the city: 'Dunedin is one of the world's great small cities'.

Guiding principles

4. The DCC supports the four proposed guiding principles. The DCC's strategic framework is underpinned by a commitment to the principles of sustainability and the Treaty of Waitangi (the Treaty). In 2021, the DCC will undertake work to refresh the strategic framework and strengthen commitment to the principles. The DCC would welcome the involvement of the University in this work as a key stakeholder.

Core values

5. The DCC supports the University's proposed core values. In particular, the DCC strongly values the partnership between the DCC and Dunedin's tertiary education providers. For example, the Tertiary Strategic Steering Group provides a useful forum to discuss and

respond to shared challenges, opportunities and priorities. The DCC is committed to continuing to work in partnership with the University.

Strategic imperatives to 2040

6. The imperatives of ‘excellence in research’ and ‘excellence in teaching’ align with the city vision for Dunedin. In particular, the DCC is encouraged by the University’s commitment that research will enhance social wellbeing and respond to environmental and sustainability challenges.
7. The DCC encourages the University’s ambition to attract a larger and more diverse student cohort. In addition, the ambition to respond to the challenges and opportunities in respect of the Treaty, sustainability and social responsibility is welcomed. Acknowledging that technology presents an opportunity to evolve how courses are taught, the DCC welcomes the intention of the University to continue to operate as predominantly campus-based with face-to-face teaching.
8. The DCC is supportive of inclusion of ‘outstanding student experience’ as one of the strategic imperatives. However, the DCC would like to see more emphasis given to the role of strategic partners in contributing to this. The DCC agrees that studying at the University and in the city of Dunedin offers a unique student experience and contributes to ensuring Dunedin’s place as the Education Capital of New Zealand.
9. The DCC notes that the strategic imperative aligns with the Memorandum of Understanding between the DCC and the Otago University Student Association, which aims to:

“work together to contribute towards the wellbeing of tertiary students in Dunedin, ensuring that students are welcomed into the city as citizens, and that they continue to add positively to the character and vibrancy of Dunedin, and ensuring Dunedin’s place as New Zealand’s leading city of tertiary education and one of the world’s great small cities.”

The University’s work with the DCC and other partner organisations on the Tertiary Precinct Development Plan demonstrates our commitment to ‘adding value to the student experience in Dunedin and enhancing Dunedin as an education destination’. We would like to see this partnership work strengthened in the vision document.

The DCC also requests a commitment to becoming a bike-friendly campus as part of this strategic imperative. The DCC would like the University of Otago to become a bike-friendly campus in order to contribute to an outstanding campus environment, promote student wellbeing and encourage mode choice.

10. The DCC also believes that the role of strategic partners could be strengthened in relation to the ‘outstanding campus environments’ strategic imperative. This imperative is also a priority for the city. The Tertiary Precinct Development Plan is an example of how the University, the DCC and a number of other partners are working in partnership to improve the safety, accessibility and atmosphere of the area. The DCC is committed to the objective of the tertiary precinct being integrated within the wider city. Related to improving the campus environment, the DCC welcomes sustainability being an embedded design principle for any campus development. Sustainability will be a consideration for any proposals for the tertiary precinct.

11. The DCC agrees that the 'commitment and citizenship' should remain strategic imperatives over the next 20 years. The University makes a positive difference to the local community and the DCC welcomes the University's commitment to maintaining a vibrant 'town and gown' relationship in Dunedin.
12. The DCC is supportive of the imperative of 'sustaining capability'. The DCC values the contribution that the University makes to the sustainability of the Dunedin economy and community. We welcome the University taking a long-term view, as the DCC does with its own planning for Dunedin. The DCC will work with the University to meet the challenges of a changing world.

Conclusion

13. The DCC thanks the University for the opportunity to provide feedback on the strategic document and wishes you every success in achieving the vision. The DCC is committed to continuing to work in partnership with the University and other organisations on shared strategic priorities.

Kā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Hawkins', with a stylized, flowing script.

Aaron Hawkins
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN