

University Ecumenical Chaplaincy Chairperson's Report for AGM 9 April 2024

1. University 'State of Play'

For 2023 the University of Waikato experienced a modest level of recovery in terms of both domestic enrolments and international students. While not yet at pre-covid levels these at least were trending in the direction of improvement. As a result, the University of Waikato avoided the substantial staffing cuts experienced by other universities - notably Victoria and Otago. However the \$16.8m deficit still outstanding at the end of the 2023 year represents a significant challenge to the university budget for 2024.

For 2024 the enrollment results are encouraging. A press release from the Vice-Chancellor on March 13 stated:

Figures for A trimester show overall student numbers are up by more than 6%, with Ministry Funded Equivalent Full-Time Students (EFTS) growing over 3% in Hamilton and more than 6% in Tauranga. International EFTS are 25% higher than the same time last year, albeit remaining below pre-pandemic levels. Two areas with decreased enrolments are education and social science.

2. Financial Position of the Chaplaincy

2023 was a mixed year. In terms of donations from the Kaimai Presbytery, these were substantially lower than 2022, reflecting the tougher economic environment. Expenditure as recorded in the accounts is also lower than usual because of the continuing difficulties in eliciting an accurate invoice from the university for the church contribution of 50% of the Ecumenical Chaplain's salary.

Other expenditure was within budget expectations. The decision was made during 2023 to dispose of the chapel organ, and this will help reduce expenditure in 2024.

3. Assistant chaplains (Voluntary)

2023 saw the first year of operation for the two assistant chaplains(voluntary) (Nick Goodwin and Nadia Werner) who were appointed in December 2022. They continued in their ongoing ministries during 2023 and appreciated the benefits that an official position in the university system provided, such as easier room bookings, a university email address, and recognition of their work in the university.

Unfortunately, because of changes in her life circumstances, Nadia offered her resignation at the end of 2023. We are grateful for her ministry and wish her well for 2024.

Having established the protocols and processes, my suggestion is that we ask Andrew to gather information on how other universities identify and recruit potential voluntary chaplains - expanding this element of the chaplaincy ministry will be an

area for development in 2024.

4. Ecumenical Chaplain's 2023 Performance Review

I was invited to participate in Andrew's performance review, but the review was postponed and will be rescheduled in 2024.

5. Chaplaincy Committee Operation

Chaplaincy committee attendance was mixed during 2023. While appreciating that all the members have busy lives and multiple commitments, it is a concern that dropping attendance means less effective liaison with the cooperating churches who contribute to the chaplaincy work and also fewer voices at the table for any decisions which have to be made.

Any suggestions for encouraging and improving attendance would be welcome.

My thanks to all the committee members who attended and gave their time for the oversight of this ministry. Your effort is appreciated.

A big thank you to Jill Schumaker for her work as secretary and processing accounts during 2023 and best wishes to Jill for 2024 as she has left her position in the Anglican Diocesan Office at the end of 2023. She will be continuing as secretary to the chaplaincy committee in a voluntary capacity.

Stephen Bright
Chairperson
19 March 2024