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The University of Auckland Council  
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30/09/2025

**Dear Vice-Chancellor and Council,**

I am writing to you regarding upcoming decisions around the Waipapa Taumata Rau course.

As you will be aware, I have expressed concern publicly about the compulsory nature of this course since September 2024 – before it was introduced – and have urged the Council to reconsider its inclusion as a requirement for all first-year students. A petition against the compulsory course, hosted on the ACT website, has gained more than 3,000 signatures.

While I am pleased by the University Senate's recommendation to make the paper optional for future students, I have heard concerns from current first-year students (and their parents) that this outcome would not deliver relief for the 8,000 students who have already been required to take the paper, at a significant cost of time and money.

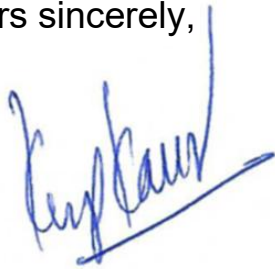
I urge the Council to accept the Senate's recommendation to remove the course from the compulsory curriculum, and also to consider forms of fair compensation for the 2025 cohort of first-year students.

This paper consumed valuable space in students' schedules that could have otherwise been used for papers that progressed students toward their preferred qualification, or an elective paper more relevant to students' interests.

A possible way to move forward would be for the University to provide these students with a financial credit covering equivalent fees for another paper of the students' choosing. While the students' investment of time can never be recovered, such compensation would at least enable students to regain progress toward their academic ambitions without incurring additional financial costs.

I trust that the Council will carefully consider this when making its decision.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Parmjeet Parmar", with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom.

**Dr Parmjeet Parmar MP**

ACT New Zealand

Parliament Buildings

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