

Statement of policy: Alex Parker

2026 VU Council Elections

Dear colleagues, I am standing for re-selection as your representative on VU Council.

I have been representing you as the elected staff member on Council since 2025. I am proud to work for an organisation that values inclusivity, serving the West of Melbourne, respecting identity and culture, and building a better future.

In my position as the Executive Director of VU's Institute for Health and Sport (IHES) and member of the research executive, I have demonstrated strengths strategic planning and leadership, partnership development, capability development, resource planning and management, ethical and principled leadership to foster research culture, and OHS and wellbeing management. This knowledge and experience have equipped me to make clear contributions to strategic directions and decision-making on Council.

The mental wellbeing and safety of our staff and students is a priority for me, not only within IHES, but more broadly across VU. My contribution has been sought across additional staff and student wellbeing agendas, including advising VU's Workplace Wellbeing Steering Committee, contributing to VU's Student Mental Health Plan, completing various projects that strengthen VU's response to staff and student mental health concerns, as well as through membership of the Gender Based Violence Response Advisory Committee.

Ways in which we enhance diversity, inclusion and belonging for staff and students is critical to me. Since 2023, I've served as the Executive Sponsor for LGBTIQ+ Inclusion at VU and I engage with Moondani Balluk staff and students in solidarity.

Demonstrating strong contribution to delivering VU's strategic objectives, I have been involved in various consortium developments, partnerships, and facilities planning. My knowledge of Council and my executive experience ensures effective risk management and capability in financial reporting. I provide strong entrepreneurial leadership and strategic direction and develop and deepen strong and effective partnerships with external stakeholders. I have brought these skills to the VU Council and will continue to do so if I have the privilege of representing you for another term.

I am committed to VU's growth and success. As the staff member of Council, I will ensure that the views of all staff are heard. I listen and respond with respect and compassion. This is how I have and will continue to represent your voice on Council.