

Ms Alison Watkins AM
Chancellor
University of Tasmania

15 November 2022

Dear Ms Watkins

We respectfully suggest that the position of the University Council has become untenable and that all members should resign.

Under the Council's governance there has been a substantial breakdown in the relationship between staff, particularly academic staff, and university management. This has been demonstrated by internal UTAS surveys and submissions to the parliamentary inquiry established following widespread complaints about UTAS governance and management. The Council has endorsed the approach of UTAS management by giving the principal manager, the Vice Chancellor, an indefinite reappointment.

The University Council has wasted around \$3M on a rezoning application for the Sandy Bay campus which it has now withdrawn.

The Council has wasted hundreds of thousands of dollars on a PR campaign, fronted by the Chancellor as head of Council, in a failed effort to sway the vote in an elector poll.


The Council continues to ignore repeated calls from the Hobart City Council and more recently by the Premier to conduct a comprehensive and thorough public consultation process in relation to its Sandy Bay relocation proposal.

Having claimed that the relocation proposal was in the best interests of the community and that it had already been the subject of satisfactory public consultation the Council is now confronted by the Hobart elector poll result which provides emphatic proof that neither was true.

The long and challenging task of recovering the trust and confidence of both UTAS staff and the Tasmanian community is impossible under the present Council.

We respectfully suggest that the Council must now take full responsibility for the consequences of its decisions, put the best interests of the university and the Tasmanian community first, and resign to enable the appointment of a fresh Council to lead the university through a challenging rebuilding phase which will include the need to respond to the recommendations of the parliamentary inquiry as well as results of the comprehensive and thorough public consultation on relocation.

Yours sincerely



Professor Pam Sharpe
Chairperson Save UTAS Campus