



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

<b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b>	UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE COUNCIL
<b>ACCESSION NO</b>	1976.0095
<b>CATEGORY ACTIVITY</b>	University, official University administration University Council
<b>DATE RANGE</b>	1853-1868
<b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b>	24 cm. (2 archives boxes)

<p><b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b></p>	<p>In April 1853 Governor Hotham selected a University Council of twenty members, comprising government officials, clergy and professionals, about one third of whom were graduates of British universities. They were charged with the governance of the University under the leadership of a Chancellor, who was until 1934 also the chief executive officer of the University. The Council first met on 3 May 1853. At its second meeting, on 17 May 1853, the University Council resolved that an application be made to the Lieutenant Governor "to sanction the advance of L100, to be lodged to the credit of the Chancellor of the Melbourne University, in the Bank of Victoria, to meet the current expenses of the Council". The account was opened on 17 June. On 26 September 1853 the Council resolved that its Statute and Correspondence Committee be empowered to correspond with Sir John Herschel, Professor Malden, Professor Airy, Robert Lowe, M.P. and Chief Justice Sir W. A'Beckett on the choice of the first four Professors. On 10 April the following year the Correspondence Committee reported the text of letters sent, setting out requirements for the guidance of the English selection committee and on 27 December 1854 the Chancellor read Sir John Herschel's letter of 28 August announcing the appointment of H.E. Rowe (Classics), W.P. Wilson (Mathematics), F. McCoy (Natural Science) and W.E. Hearn (Modern History and Literature, Political Economy and Logic). All were in Melbourne by the commencement of lectures in April 1855 except Rowe, who died shortly after arrival, and was in due course replaced by M.H. Irving. New Professors were appointed as teaching diversified and former professors died or retired.</p> <p>Faculties were established, each with a Dean at its head, in 1873 (Law), 1876 (Medicine), 1889 (Engineering), 1903 (Arts and Science) and later Veterinary Science, Agriculture, Education, Music, and Applied Science. In October 1903 University Statute IV ("The Faculties") was amended to provide, inter alia, that the Dean's duties include the obligation to "report to the Council at its October meeting in each year as to the character of the work being done in his Faculty."</p> <p>Over time, the range of groups represented on Council has widened, and its numbers increased, but its role in overseeing all aspects of University life, developing policy, appointing staff, planning new academic developments (in consultation with the Professorial (later Academic) Board), pursuing a building program, managing the budget and promoting the interests of the University generally has remained essentially the same.</p>
<p><b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b></p>	<p>Access: Open</p>
<p><b>DESCRIPTION</b></p>	<p>'Minutes of the Council of the University of Melbourne', 3 May - 20 Dec 1861 (1 vol) 'Minutes of the Council of the University to the end of 1858. Examination Papers 1858', 3 May 1853 - 27 Dec 1858 (1 vol) 'Minutes of the Council of the University of Melbourne to the end of 1859', 20 Jan 1859 - 29 Dec 1862 (1 vol) 'University of Melbourne Proceedings of the Council 1860-64", 9 Jan 1860 - 26 Dec 1864 (1 vol) 'Minutes of the Proceedings of the Council of the University of Melbourne', 30 Jan 1865 - 18 April 1868 (tied into manilla folders)</p>

<b>LISTED BY</b>	C.Close
<b>DATE</b>	20 Oct 1976

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RECORDS RECEIVED INTO CUSTODY

NAME: UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE COUNCIL.

TRANSFERORS: The Baillieu Library (items 1 - 4) and  
Mr. Ray Marginson (item 5).

NATURE OF RECORD: Minutes of Proceedings.

FORM OF RECORD: Printed (by Government Printer).

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1853-1864

LIST OF RECORDS

1. "Minutes of the Council of the University of Melbourne".  
4 July missing.  
1 vol. Rebound 1976.  
3 May 1853 - 30 December 1861
2. "Minutes of the Council of the University to the end  
of 1858. Examination Papers 1858".  
4 July 1853 in MS.  
Index at back, in MS.  
3 May 1853 - 27 December 1858  
  
1 vol. In original binding, red with gold lettering.  
On front cover: "The Chancellor of the University of  
Melbourne", with ornament at centre, being a  
representation of the main University building as  
originally planned with quadrangle complete and tower.
3. "Minutes of the Council of the University of Melbourne  
to the end of 1859". Actually 20 January 1859 to  
29 December 1862.  
  
At front, "Regulations for Degrees in Medical and  
Surgery"; and back, Law Examinations February 1862  
and Law Examination, Mr. Billing's Medal.  
1 vol.  
Red binding with gold lettering, front cover  
lettered similarly to the above.

4. "University of Melbourne Proceedings of the Council 1860-64".  
Contains occasional annotations in an unknown hand.  
1 vol.  
Green binding with gold lettering on spine.  
9 January 1860 - 26 December 1864
  
5. Minutes of the Proceedings of the Council of the University of Melbourne.  
MS notes in unknown hand.  
These Minutes are tied into manilla folders.  
30 January 1865 - 18 April 1868

Cecily Close,  
Senior Archivist.

20th October 1976