



Memorandum of Understanding

between

Auckland University of Technology Student Association (AUTSA)

and

Tītahi ki Tua (TKT)

Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding

- (1) Auckland University of Technology Student Association Incorporated (“AUTSA”) and
- (2) Tītahi ki Tua - AUT Māori Student Association (“TKT”)

1. Background

Auckland University of Technology Student Association (AUTSA) serves as a platform for student voice at Auckland University of Technology (AUT). The Association exists as a support network for its members, to be their voice at all levels and provide services of representation, advocacy, events, engagement and hardship support to improve the quality of student life. AUTSA partners with AUT alongside other service providers to help students overcome personal barriers to success and achieve meaningful experiences.

Tītahi ki Tua (TKT) is dedicated to advancing the interests of tangata whenua by serving as student voice for Māori students at AUT. TKT aims to foster whakawhanaungatanga among its members, promote successful participation of Māori in higher education, and cultivate a supportive social and educational environment for Māori at AUT. TKT provides a gathering place for Māori students at AUT to share ideas, celebrate their identity, offer mutual support, socialise, connect with other Māori students, and engage in learning and practising tikanga Māori, all within a te ao Māori environment.

2. Purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding

2.1. The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to create an agreement about shared goals and expectations between AUTSA and TKT. AUTSA and TKT share the goal of creating strong, effective, and visible representation for students at AUT. AUTSA and TKT also share the goals of creating an environment at AUT that supports students’ sense of belonging, academic achievement, and overall wellbeing.

2.2 A partnership between AUTSA and TKT will be built on principles of mutual respect, shared responsibility, and collaborative efforts. The relationship recognises that Māori students have unique cultural needs and aspirations that should be supported, but it is equally important that the responsibility for advancing these needs does not fall solely on TKT.

2.3. AUTSA, as a student association representing a diverse community, will actively engage in Māori-focused initiatives, ensuring that promoting Māori culture and addressing challenges faced by Māori students is a shared endeavour. This MOU commits to fostering an environment where both AUTSA and the Māori student body contribute to creating culturally inclusive spaces and opportunities for Māori students to thrive.

2.4. While TKT brings invaluable knowledge and leadership in shaping culturally relevant initiatives, AUTSA commits to leverage its broader resources, networks, and influence to ensure these programs are adequately supported and sustained. AUTSA will proactively take on roles such as advocating for institutional changes that promote Māori success, co-hosting events, and working with TKT to ensure Māori culture and identity are celebrated across the university community.

3. The aims of this MoU

The aims of this MOU are to:

3.1. Affirm a partnership between AUTSA and TKT to support AUT students.

3.2. Demonstrate a commitment to AUT's Te Tiriti Framework 'Te Aronui', embodying AUT's collective responsibility to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Our commitments to the various tiers outlined in the Te Aronui Framework are represented in the below statements:

Tier One	We commit to recognising the partnership between tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti, and endeavour to foster a transformative culture within Auckland University of Technology (AUT) for the betterment of our students, staff, and broader local and international communities.
Tier Two	We commit to acting in alignment with the values of Tika, Pono, and Aroha.
Tier Three	We commit to upholding Te Tiriti for the benefit of all our communities.
Tier Four	We commit to being guided by the principles of Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga and Kaitiakitanga as outlined in the Te Aronui Framework.
Tier Five	We commit to the four strategic goals outlined in the Te Aronui Framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whakaawe - Enabling Māori Influence.• Whakaea - Realising Māori Aspirations.• Whakamana - Equitable Outcomes for All.• Whakanui - Eliminating Racism and Discrimination.

4. Fostering Partnership through strong relationships

Both parties will work with the best intent and endeavours to bring the aims of this memorandum of understanding to effect.

Both parties agree to the following to enable a strong relationship:

- 4.1. Work with each other in an open, transparent and authentic way and use each other's strengths and skills to achieve the aims of this MOU;
- 4.2. Recognise each other's autonomy as student representative bodies and promote their partnership in all appropriate ways;
- 4.3. Give consideration and contribution to reasonable opportunities for collaboration, through mutual agreement and amount of support deemed reasonable and feasible by the parties.

AUTSA will:

- 4.4. Recognise TKT as the representative body for tangata whenua students at AUT, engaging with TKT where necessary when views, advisory, and submissions are required on behalf of Māori students.
- 4.5. Ensure that where a seat is provided to AUTSA (on TKT committee), the seats are filled with the appropriate AUTSA representative in line with TKT's constitution.
- 4.6. Establish a TKT seat on the Student Representative Council (SRC), in addition to the elected Māori affairs role, and Student Advisory Committee (SAC), and advocate for a seat on AUT Council;
- 4.7. Promote TKT engagement opportunities and services;
- 4.8. Provide financial support in the form of an annual grant, equalling 1% of the AUTSA annual SLA to enable them to carry out their strategic visions, and reporting obligations to AUTSA ([refer to appendix 1](#));
- 4.9. Payment of the grant will be made within a similar timeframe to AUTSA's SLA payment.
- 4.10. Supporting TKT with governance and training needs.

TKT will:

- 4.12. Recognise AUTSA as the Tangata Tiriti representative body for all students in general at AUT;
- 4.13. Ensure that where a seat is provided to TKT (on SRC and/or SAC), those seats are filled with the appropriate TKT representative.
- 4.14. Promote AUTSA engagement and opportunities;
- 4.15. Provide culturally specific knowledge, insights, and support with the application of Māori cultural practices as the representative body for tangata whenua, given both parties have mutually agreed as necessary;
- 4.16. Commit to engaging as a partner when views and submissions to the university are requested;

4.17. Prior to the commencement of semester one each year, TKT will provide AUTSA an annual strategy and budget identifying the utilisation of funds allocated by AUTSA;

4.18. Provide quarterly reports to track the progress towards the strategic goals, and a financial report including spending to date, and all receipts associated with AUTSA funding. TKT do not need to share spending for other areas of funding or revenue;

5. Transparency & Accountability

5.1. Where a grant is received by TKT from AUTSA funds, it is agreed that funds will only be spent on activities and assets that further advance the aims for this MOU. Where AUTSA has any audit or review obligations including funds provided to TKT, TKT will provide sufficient records to enable the auditing of these funds.

5.2. TKT acknowledges that any unspent funds provided to it either through a grant or other mechanism, maybe recalled at the end of a financial year.

5.3. TKT Tumuaki Takirua and AUTSA presidents are accountable for up keeping financial reports and monitoring the use of AUTSA funds;

5.4. TKT Tumuaki Takirua, Office Bearers and Executive have full authority to allocate their grant to events, and initiatives that they decide will provide the most value for students at AUT.

6. Term of MOU

6.1. The initial term of this MOU will be for two (2) years from the date it is fully executed. Any renewal beyond the initial term will be through discussions between both parties and will commence no later than 6 months prior to its original end date.

6.2. Where there is a significant change to AUTSA's SLA funding in relation to TKT we would require a conversation on what that means for the MOU and any amendments that need to be made.

6.3. Any variation to this MOU will be mutually agreed and must be in writing and duly executed on behalf of each of the Parties;

6.4. AUTSA Presidents and TKT Tumuaki Takiura shall meet throughout the academic year, as deemed appropriate by both executives. Meetings should take place minimum of a quarterly basis.



The parties agree to the terms and conditions of the MOU set forth above, by their signatures below:

AUTSA President: _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

TKT Tumuaki Takirua : _____

Witness: _____

Date: _____

Glossary

Term	Definition
<i>Tangata whenua</i>	Host people – commonly used to describe the Māori people of a particular locality, or as a whole as the original inhabitants of New Zealand.
<i>Tangata Tiriti</i>	New Zealand Citizens.
<i>Tikanga Māori</i>	Correct procedure, custom, habit, lore, method, manner, rule, way, code, meaning, plan, practice, convention, protocol - the customary system of values and practices that have developed over time and are deeply embedded in the social context.
<i>Te Ao Māori</i>	The Māori worldview which encapsulates the rich cultural tapestry and spiritual essence of the indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand.
<i>Whakawhanaungatanga</i>	Relationality. Derived from the noun 'whānau' (family, kinship, relation) whanaungatanga describes the relational space between people maintained by mutually beneficial exchanges.
<i>Manaakitanga</i>	Mana enhancing. Derived from the noun 'mana' (prestige, pride, standing), manaakitanga describes the process of uplifting the mana of everyone by showing care and respect.
<i>Kaitiakitanga</i>	Guardianship. Derived from the verb 'tiaki' (protect, care, look after), kaitiakitanga describes the enactment of protecting all taonga.
<i>Tika</i>	Act accordingly, appropriate action, ethical expression.
<i>Pono</i>	Fact, truth, reality, integrity.
<i>Aroha</i>	Empathy, care, compassion, passion.

Appendix 1

Strategic visions are the priorities established by TKT Tumuaki Takirua, Office Bearers, and the executive committee. AUTSA does not have any control or influence over how TKT allocates its funds. This funding may include an honorarium of up to \$250 per Tumuaki Takirua, Office Bearer, Executive committee member, and Campus Representative each semester.

Obligations pertain to the reporting requirements necessary to comply with the AUTSA audit process and any additional responsibilities outlined in the AUTSA Service Level Agreement (SLA) or Constitution.

Appendix 2

Reporting requirements to be provided by AUTSA upon the signing of this MOU.

Appendix 3

Renewal Letter