

The Universities  
**Accord**  
Interim Report  
**Submission**

September 2023

**dassh** Promoting the  
Arts, Social Sciences  
and Humanities































## Challenges

- **Increasing bureaucratisation**

The TEC could contribute to the increasing bureaucratisation of the higher education sector and could undermine institutions' independence. Universities must retain significant degrees of autonomy which is vital to their dynamism and core to their function, but that is very much at risk in an overly bureaucratised TEC. Equally, the Aotearoa New Zealand experience has illustrated at times an unclear division of labour between the Department and the TEC which has increased inefficiency and badly impacted the sector as a whole.

- **Administrative burden**

The introduction of a TEC could lead to a greater administrative burden for universities by adding significant reporting requirements that increase cost and inefficiency without tangibly improving universities' educational or research outcomes.

- **Mission creep**

There is the potential for the TEC to experience mission creep over time as evidenced in the Aotearoa New Zealand context, particularly if the parameters of the TEC are not well defined at the outset.

- **Short-lived policies**

Major changes to the sector such as the proposed TEC need to have long-term support to avoid the destabilising impact of short-term policies as seen in the UK.