

USQ Council Bulletin

November 2012

The following matters were considered by the Council of the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) at its meeting held at Toowoomba on 22 October 2012. Immediately prior to the Council meeting, a number of Council members attended a financial training workshop facilitated by Professor Julie Cotter.

The Chancellor welcomed Ms Jennifer Robertson and Ms Jayne Staddon of Board Matters Pty Ltd who were in attendance to undertake an evaluation of the Council meeting as part of an overall governance assessment.

Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor reported on a number of events and meetings recently attended, in particular the September graduations.

Vice-Chancellor's Report

The Vice-Chancellor's Report highlighted information on a number of topics including:

- Details of the Federal Government's 2013 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook released on 22 October. The Vice-Chancellor commented that USQ appears well positioned and no major negative effects for USQ are anticipated.
- Progress on the development of the Strategic Plan continues.
- Appointment of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor positions for Research and Innovation and Academic Services are nearing completion.
- Consultation on the academic restructure is continuing.
- Executive space allocation planning is currently underway with VCC having endorsed solutions to better accommodate the new executive management structure.
- The Regional Universities Network (RUN), of which USQ is a member, has announced its "Regional Accord" aimed at enhancing capacity and sustainability through greater collaboration of its members. RUN is also undertaking a project to determine "What is the value of RUN universities to regional development and to the nation".
- USQ achieved excellent rankings in the 2012 International Student Barometer Survey having achieved a "1" in each of the Overall categories of Learning, Living, Support and Arrival.

Achievements

Council commended the success of Associate Professor Dorothy Andrews in being named this year's recipient of the prestigious Miller-Grassie Award from the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL) Queensland.

USQ Student Guild

Council noted that the University and the Student Guild have signed the Services Funding Agreement (SFA). Council noted that every effort will be made by the University to work with the Guild to ensure that Guild staff, impacted by the SFA, are supported through the transition period to the new level of service under the SFA.

Professor Mark Toleman was appointed as the Council's representative to the Student Guild Board for the next 2 years.

Research and Innovation

Council received a presentation from Professor John Cole, the Acting Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation). Of note from the presentation were:

- Collaborative ventures in the energy and mining sectors are being explored in terms of agricultural research and coal seam gas water;
- Climate, water, agriculture and fibre composite technology are likely to be the main areas of research focus for USQ. Emerging areas could include health and human rights law;
- Total research income over the period 2007 – 2011 is on an upward trend, with the Total Research Income per FTE exceeding \$20 000 in 2011;
- Higher degree completions are increasing, with new enrolments equating to completions, providing a good position for 2013;
- Research Centres will continue to be the core of USQ's strategic research activity;
- Significant funding support has been received for two Australia China Science and Research Fund (ACSRF) projects, with MOUs having been signed between USQ and Chinese partner universities focusing on food security and fibre composite technology;
- The Collaborative Research Network (CRN) will shortly be launched and will assist in capacity and capability building.

USQ Strategic Plan

Council members reviewed and provided further feedback on SP1 of the USQ Strategic Plan 2013-2015. Feedback on the SP1 is progressing and SP2 is in development. It is anticipated that the final draft of the entire Strategic Plan will be available for Council to consider at its 10 December 2012 meeting.

Academic Board Report, 02/10/12

Council received the Academic Board Report from its meeting of 2 October 2012, noting the continued review of Academic Board standing committees. The Report on Scientific Use 2011 Animal Use Statistics was received and noted.

Audit and Risk Committee Report, 20/09/12

Council received the Audit and Risk Committee Report from its meeting of 20 September 2012. A draft Internal Audit Charter was discussed and approved subject to the inclusion of a paragraph to formalise the Committee's involvement in the appointment and termination of the Head of Internal Audit position.

Finance and Facilities Committee Report, 20/09/12

Council received the Finance and Facilities Committee Report from its meeting of 20 September 2012 and approved recommendations relating to financial statements and financial delegations.

Chancellor's Committee Report, 20/09/12

Council received the Chancellor's Committee Report from its meeting of 20 September 2012. The Chancellor outlined various issues relating to the terms of reference and business of Chancellor's Committee and Governance and Legislation Committee that had resulted in a joint recommendation from these Committees to amalgamate into one committee – renamed as the Chancellor's Committee. Council approved the amalgamation (to take place in 2013) but recommended that further discussion be held on the terms of reference for re-submitting to Council.

Governance and Legislation Committee Report, 20/09/12

Council received the Governance and Legislation Committee Report from its meeting of 20 September 2012. The following policies were recommended for Council approval:

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- i) the draft USQ Policy and Procedure Framework; and
 - ii) the draft Under 18 International Students Policy.

Honorary Awards Committee, 02/10/12

Council received the Honorary Awards Committee Report from its meeting of 2 October 2012 and noted that invitations to accept an honorary award of the University had been issued to two candidates.

Student Representative Report

Mr Justin McGovern, the Student Representative on Council presented his report noting concern amongst students relating to the student appeals process. Mr McGovern was asked to present his issues for consideration by Academic Board.

Conferences Attended

Council was provided with comments and feedback from members who attended recent governance conferences. It was noted that an area of concern from the university sector was members' responsibilities in the area of safety. Members agreed to the inclusion of a safety report for each Council meeting.

Resolutions Passed

Council **approved** the following:

- the revised draft Strategic Plan (SP1)
- the August 2012 Financial Statements;
- a revised Schedule of Financial Delegations;
- the Internal Audit Charter (subject to a revision of the appointment and termination process for the Head of Internal Audit);
- the USQ Policy and Procedure Framework;
- the Under 18 International Students Policy;
- the amalgamation of Chancellor's and Governance and Legislation Committees to take place in 2013 subject to continued work on the terms of reference.

Next Meeting

Council's next meeting will be held at the Queensland College of Wine Tourism, Stanthorpe on Monday 10 December 2012.

Ms Robyn Ivey
Executive Officer (Council)
and Minute Secretary

Ms Pam Steele
University Secretary