

COUNCIL BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2017

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS APPROVED BY COUNCIL:

July 2017 Financial Statements | Internal Audit Charter
New Student Fees for digital copies of Academic Transcripts and replacement Testamurs
2018 USQ Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the USQ Council is scheduled for Monday 30 October 2017
at the USQ Toowoomba Campus

The 11 September 2017 Council meeting was held at the USQ Springfield Campus, where Professor Geraldine Mackenzie was welcomed to her first Council meeting as Vice-Chancellor. Professor Mackenzie expressed her thanks to the Chancellor and all Council members for welcoming her to the University.

This was the last meeting of the Ninth USQ Council, with the Tenth USQ Council to commence from 7 October 2017.

The success of the recent Graduations held at the Empire Theatre, Toowoomba on 8 September 2017 was noted, where speakers for these ceremonies were Kathryn Campbell CSC and The Hon Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO. Honorary awards were presented as follows:

- The Hon Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO – Doctor of the University
- Professor Ronel Erwee – Professor Emeritus (awarded posthumously)
- Professor Peter Goodall – Professor Emeritus.

While at Springfield, Council members took the opportunity to visit the flight simulator and a brief presentation by Professor Paul Bates, Professor of Aviation and Logistics, was well received by those who attended.

REPORTS

The Vice-Chancellor presented a detailed report on activities and issues since the previous Council meeting, and acknowledged the efforts of Professor Janet Verbyla as Interim Vice-Chancellor over the previous eight months. Included in the Vice-Chancellor's Report were the University Performance Report – September 2017, a report on the Good Universities Guide 2018, updates on TEQSA re-registration, the Higher Education Support Legislation Amendment (HESLA) Bill, the Voluntary Severance Round and the new divisional structure.

Mr Peter Becker provided a report on student matters, noting in particular the Respect Now Always survey results released in August 2017.

Council received a report from Professor Aileen Cater-Steel, Chair of Academic Board, outlining key activities of the Board. The appointment of Associate Professor Alexander Kist as Deputy Chair was endorsed by Council.

Results of the 2017 Academic Board Self-Assessment Survey are to be discussed by Academic Board with a view to making recommendations on the various issues raised.

A special meeting of Academic Board has also been scheduled to consider and respond to the recent internal audit report.

Council approved a minor change to the Terms of Reference of Academic Board to re-instate a sentence which had been deleted some time ago in what appears to have been an administrative error. This relates to the number of *ex officio* members comprising not more than one third of the total Board membership.

Council also received a Policy and Procedure Status Report, Risk Management Report and HR Quarterly Safety Report.

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Council approved a proposed change to the University's investment strategy, specifically for funds held as part of the University Student Endowment Fund (USEF). It was agreed that allowing the use of managed funds would provide greater long term return and financial benefit relating to the placement of USEF funds, as well as an improved value proposition for potential donors to the USEF.

TENTH USQ COUNCIL

The following staff members were recently elected to serve on the Tenth USQ Council (for a four year term from 7 October 2017 to 6 October 2021):

- Associate Professor Pauline Collins (elected Academic Staff member)
- Mrs Mary McGilvray (elected Professional Staff member).

Advice is yet to be received regarding the Governor in Council (GIC) appointments to the Tenth USQ Council.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Council approved the following:

- July 2017 Financial Statements;
- Revised USQ Internal Audit Charter;
- New student fees for digital copies of academic transcripts, replacement testamurs and replacement Australian Higher Education Graduation Statements (AHEGS); and
- 2018 USQ Meeting Schedule.

All correspondence for University Council should be directed to USQGovernance.Office@usq.edu.au

Information on the University Council is available at: <http://www.usq.edu.au/about-usq/governance-management/council>