

COUNCIL BULLETIN

MARCH 2018

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS APPROVED BY COUNCIL AT THE 19 FEBRUARY AND 12 MARCH 2018 MEETINGS:

Annual 2017 Financial Statements | 2017 USQ Annual Report
Academic Board Terms of Reference and Duty Statement for Chair of Academic Board
Investments and Cash Management Policy

**The next meeting of the USQ Council is scheduled for Monday 14 May 2018
at the USQ Ipswich Campus**

Council's first meeting for 2018 was held on 19 February at the Toowoomba Campus, where consideration was given to the 2017 unaudited financial statements, the Closing Audit Report for USQ for the year ending 31 December 2017, and the 2017 USQ Annual Report, including the 2017 International Travel Report.

This was Professor Aileen Cater-Steel's last Council meeting as Chair of Academic Board and her contribution to Academic Board particularly over the previous 12 months as Chair, as well as her service to the University over many years, was acknowledged and applauded. Professor Cater-Steel was subsequently appointed to serve as Council's representative on the USQ Student Guild Board for a two year term from March 2018 to March 2020.

Council noted that Associate Professor Alexander Kist would assume the role of Acting Chair of Academic Board for the remainder of the current term of the Board, and that Associate Professor Helen Farley had been elected as Acting Deputy Chair. The process for appointing a new Chair will be undertaken to coincide with the commencement of the next Academic Board term (ie from 31 July 2018).

Council also met on 12 March, again at the Toowoomba Campus.

REPORTS

The Vice-Chancellor provided detailed reports on activities and issues since the December 2017 Council meeting, including the University Performance Report – March 2018, and an update on student load as at Semester 3, 2017.

The Vice-Chancellor also provided a strategic presentation outlining the key factors and challenges expected to influence higher education over the coming years, as well as an overview of the current status of the University and priorities for the year ahead, together with a review of 2017 performance and achievements.

Mr Peter Becker, Student Member on Council, provided a report on student activities and acknowledged the efforts of staff from Phoenix Central and Study Desk in supporting students over the orientation period.

Key initiatives and activities of Academic Board were highlighted and Council was advised that the Board's main areas of focus for 2018 would include:

- Delegation of Academic Authority (establishment of an Academic Delegations Schedule is proposed);
- Academic Risk Management (increased engagement with the Director, Internal Audit and Risk; academic risk management now explicitly included in the Academic Board Terms of Reference; and establishing how best to provide advice to Council on academic risk management processes); and
- Governance of Academic Quality Framework (a working group has been formed to progress the development of this framework).

Council also noted that Academic Board had adopted a Charter, setting out the principles and procedures under which the Academic Board and its Standing Committees operate.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Council approved the following:

- 2017 Financial Statements;
- 2017 USQ Annual Report and 2017 USQ International Travel Report;
- Revised Academic Board Terms of Reference, including duty statement for Chair of Academic Board;
- Revised Investments and Cash Management Policy and Procedure.

Council also authorised the Vice-Chancellor to execute a number of research funding contracts, where the total value of the contract was above the current delegation limit. Further consideration is to be given to this issue and a potential change to the Financial Delegations Schedule to accommodate such funding contracts in the future, providing the USQ contribution to the contract was below the Vice-Chancellor's delegation, is to be investigated further.

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>