

COUNCIL BULLETIN

MARCH 2020

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS APPROVED BY COUNCIL AT THE 21 FEBRUARY AND 9 MARCH MEETINGS:

Annual 2019 Financial Statements | 2019 Annual Report
Revised Academic Board Terms of Reference | Interim Fraud and Corruption Management Policy

**The next meeting of the USQ Council is scheduled for Monday 11 May 2020
at the USQ Ipswich Campus**

Council's first meeting for 2020 was held on 21 February at the Toowoomba Campus, where consideration was given to the 2019 unaudited financial statements, the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) Closing Audit Report for USQ for the year ending 31 December 2019, and the 2019 USQ Annual Report, including the 2019 International Travel Report.

Council also met on 9 March, again at the Toowoomba Campus.

REPORTS

The Vice-Chancellor provided detailed reports on activities and issues since the December 2019 Council meeting, including the University Performance Report – March 2020.

Updates were provided on the novel coronavirus COVID-19 situation and impacts on the University and various other communities.

The Vice-Chancellor also provided a USQ Status and Performance Report which included a detailed overview of the University's achievements, challenges and learnings from 2019, as well as an outline of progress against key strategies from the current USQ Strategic Plan and initiatives relating to development of the next Strategic Plan for 2021-2025.

Council received a progress update on work that is being done across the University to address the various components of the TEQSA Re-registration Condition. The 2020 Academic Board Business Schedule provides details of reports and presentations scheduled throughout 2020 that will assist Academic Board to effectively monitor the quality of teaching, learning, research and research training, and provide assurance and competent advice to Council on academic outcomes, policies and practices. A progress update was also provided on items identified from the final report of the External Review of Corporate Governance 2019.

Ms Lauren Walsburg, Student Member on Council, provided a report on student activities and issues.

A report on the key initiatives and activities of Academic Board was provided to Council. Council approved the revised Academic Board Terms of Reference, which had been reviewed following the Board's self-assessment process and to bring the role and functions of Academic Board into alignment with the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework, the TEQSA Re-registration Condition and the USQ Act. The new Terms of Reference are expected to strengthen the various monitoring and review aspects.

Council also noted that Academic Board, at its meeting on 18 February 2020, had approved a proposed new Assessment Policy (implementation of this policy, and repeal of the current Assessment Policy, will be delayed until the revised Assessment Procedure/s are endorsed by Academic Board and approved by the Vice-Chancellor, so that both Policy and Procedure/s come into effect simultaneously).

The following reports were also provided:

- Progress update on USQ Sydney
- Risk Management Report.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Council approved the following:

- 2019 Financial Statements
- 2019 USQ Annual Report (including 2019 USQ International Travel Report)
- Revised Academic Board Terms of Reference
- Interim Fraud and Corruption Management Policy (to take immediate effect replacing the existing Fraud Corruption and Control Management Policy and Procedure while a major review is undertaken in 2020; an interim Fraud and Corruption Management Procedure is to be approved by the Vice-Chancellor).

COUNCIL REFLECTIVE FORUM

At the conclusion of the 9 March 2020 meeting, Council held its annual Reflective Forum to discuss future strategic issues and initiatives.

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

Information on the University Council is available at:

<https://www.usq.edu.au/about-usq/governance-leadership/governance/usq-council>