

# COUNCIL BULLETIN

MAY 2020

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS APPROVED BY COUNCIL AT THE 11 MAY MEETING:

March 2020 Financial Statements | 2021 Domestic and General Fee Schedules  
2020, 2021 and 2022 International Fee Schedules

The next meeting of the USQ Council is scheduled for Monday 13 July 2020.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 11 May 2020 Council meeting was conducted entirely via Zoom.

The Chancellor briefed Council on the University's first ever virtual graduation where graduands had their awards conferred in absentia, rather than at the usual autumn graduation ceremonies. This initiative received good media coverage, along with the recently announced student support package to provide assistance for USQ students experiencing hardship caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Council noted the resignation of the Student Member, Ms Lauren Walsburg, from 30 March 2020. An election process is about to commence for a new Student Member on Council, for a two year term.

## REPORTS

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

Updates were provided on the COVID-19 situation and impacts on the University, as well as Government assistance being provided through the Higher Education Relief Package. The package includes provision for a number of new online certificate short courses to be offered at reduced student contribution rates. USQ will offer a suite of 20 of these (13 Undergraduate Certificate and 7 Graduate Certificate programs), subject to accreditation requirements.

Council was advised that, following recent Government announcements relating to COVID-19, the University executive is reviewing options for a safe return to campus for staff and students.

Council received a preliminary Final Student Load Report for Semester 1, 2020 where it was noted that USQ achieved slightly above the total target. However the full impact of COVID-19 restrictions on continuing domestic and international enrolments is as yet unknown, but is likely to have a significant effect on load and budget for the remainder of the year.

Consideration was given to a proposed review of gender equity at USQ. Following approval of the scope for such a review, broad consultation will be sought from across the University as well as from targeted stakeholders.

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. A progress update was also provided on items identified from the final report of the External Review of Corporate Governance 2019.

A report on the key initiatives and activities of Academic Board was provided to Council, including work that is continuing on the development of an Academic Freedom Policy for USQ. Council also received the 2019 USQ Animal Ethics Committee Annual Report.

The following reports were also provided:

- Progress update on USQ Sydney
- USQ Student Endowment Fund (USEF) Report
- Risk Management Report
- University Safety Report for the period 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2019
- Employee Relations Report for the period 1 October 2019 to 29 February 2020
- Policy and Procedure Status Report (at 16 April 2020).

## USQ STUDENT GUILD

Council received a final report from Emeritus Professor Aileen Cater-Steel in her role as Council's Representative on the USQ Student Guild Board, and expressed thanks for her two years of service on the Student Guild Board (from March 2018 to March 2020).

Mrs Helen Nolan, Executive Director (Strategic Liaison Education Community) was appointed as the Council Representative on the USQ Student Guild Board for a two year term from 11 May 2020.

Council also noted an update on the Student Guild provided by Ms Jennifer Rix, Chief Executive Officer of the USQ Student Guild.

## RESOLUTIONS PASSED

Council approved the following:

- March 2020 Financial Statements
- 2021 Domestic and General Fee Schedules
- 2020 / 2021 / 2022 International Fee Schedules.

Council also noted minor revisions to the Delegations Policy and the Council Delegations Schedule.

All correspondence for University Council should be directed to [USQGovernance.Office@usq.edu.au](mailto: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>