



## Council Bulletin December 2024

### A message from the Chancellor

Dear colleagues,

Thank-you for the warm welcome and very supportive messages I have received from across the University since my installation as Chancellor on 2 December. That occasion followed by the final Council meeting of 2024 that same afternoon, which was my first as Chancellor and Chair, has made for a very busy start to December. The details of the key outcomes of that Council meeting are included below for your information. I also had the pleasure of attending the end of year staff function at the Toowoomba campus last week and look forward to attending the Ipswich event tomorrow. Our outgoing Chancellor John Dornbusch tells me the end of year Springfield staff function, which was his last official event, was also quite enjoyable so I trust all have had the opportunity to stop and reflect with one another as this year draws to a close.

We all know that 2025 will be a complex and challenging year for our University and indeed all Universities across the country. With the support of Council, the Acting Vice-Chancellor and her Vice-Chancellor's Executive colleagues are already making significant progress on shaping the future of UniSQ. I look forward to working with the team into 2025 to ensure our University is best placed to thrive and excel.

As would be expected, Council has also commenced discussions regarding recruiting to the position of Vice-Chancellor, a process which will commence in early 2025. I will ensure you are all kept informed as we move through the various stages of this process.

If you have any questions about the Council Bulletin below, or any other Council-related matters, please feel free to contact me via email to [chancellor@unisq.edu.au](mailto:chancellor@unisq.edu.au).

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Kind regards,

John

Dr John McVeigh  
Chancellor

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## Council Information

The sixth and final University of Southern Queensland Council meeting of 2024 was held on Monday 2 December 2024 at the Council Chamber, UniSQ Toowoomba campus. The Chancellor Hon Dr John McVeigh is the Chair of Council. UniSQ Eleventh Council member information is available on the [University of Southern Queensland Council](#) webpage.

## Welcome to the fifth Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland, Hon Dr John McVeigh

The Hon Dr John McVeigh was officially installed as the fifth Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland on Monday 2 December 2024. Council members attended the Installation Ceremony and welcomed Dr John McVeigh to his inaugural meeting as Chair of the Eleventh Council of the University of Southern Queensland.

## Strategic Presentations and Reports

- **2025 Annual Plan and Budget**  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Enterprise Services) Michael Thomas and Chief Financial Officer Cliff Kaye presented the 2025 Annual Plan and Budget for Council consideration of approval.
- **Shaping our Future Across Three Horizons**  
Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen Nelson presented the Shaping Our Future Across Three Horizons Report to provide Council oversight in relation to workforce planning, budget recovery and activities underway to shape the future vision of the University.
- **2024 Attestation Statement – Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom**  
Director Governance and University Secretary Julie Shinnars presented the 2024 Attestation Statement – Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom, including the [Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech Policy](#) for Council to note.

## Reports to Council

The following reports were received at the 2 December 2024 Council meeting:

- **Chancellor's Report**  
Chancellor Dr John McVeigh presented on behalf of former Chancellor John Dornbush the Chancellor's Report to Council 15 November 2024. The Report provided an update on events and meetings attended since the last meeting of Council in August 2024.
- **Vice-Chancellor's Report**  
A detailed report on the University's activities and achievements to the 18 November 2024 was presented by Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen Nelson.
- **Elected Student Member Report**  
Elected Student Member Esther Rachel Shajan presented an update on UniSQ Senate activities and matters.
- **Academic Board Report**  
Academic Board Chair Professor Alexander Kist presented the Academic Board Report. Items received included:

- Academic Board Report and Unconfirmed Minutes 12 November 2024
- External Review of Academic Governance Action Plan
- **Finance and Facilities Committee Report**

Finance and Facilities Committee Chair Chris Bazley presented the Finance and Facilities Report to Council from the 14 November 2024 meeting. Items received included:

  - Unconfirmed Minutes 14 November 2024 meeting
  - Union Institute of Language Springfield Campus Pty Ltd Quarter 3 Report
  - Monthly Financial Report 31 October 2024
- **Audit and Risk Committee Report**

Audit and Risk Committee Chair Brett Delaney presented the Audit and Risk Committee Report to Council from the 14 November 2024 meeting. Items received included:

  - Unconfirmed Minutes Audit and Risk Committee 14 November 2024
  - Risk Management Report November 2024
  - UniSQ Insurance Renewal
  - Cyber Security Quarter 3 Report
  - Workplace Relation Report
  - UniSQ Positive Duty Action Plan
  - University Health Safety and Wellbeing Q1 Report
  - TEQSA Program update
  - Revised Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference
- **Chancellor's Committee Report**

Chancellor's Committee Chair and Chancellor Dr John McVeigh presented the Chancellor's Committee Report to Council from the 14 November 2024 meeting. Items received included:

  - Unconfirmed Minutes Chancellor's Committee 14 November 2024
  - 2024 UniSQ Workplace Wellbeing Survey results
  - Revised Conflict of Interest Policy
  - National Security Policy

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## **Council Resolutions**

Council resolved to **approve** the following items at the 2 December 2024 meeting:

- 2025 Annual Plan and Budget
- Monthly Financial Report 31 October 2024
- Revised Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference

- Honorary Awards Committee Terms of Reference
- Revised Conflict of Interest Policy
- National Security Policy
- Revised 2025 Council and Council Committee Meeting Dates

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### **2025 Call for Agenda Papers**

Guidelines for the Conduct of Council and Committee Meetings require agenda papers to be distributed at least seven days prior to the meeting. The standing orders of Council permit the tabling of papers only in exceptional circumstances. Approved briefing documents must be submitted by close of business on the date the agenda closes to the [Executive Officer \(Council\)](#). The 2025 University Meeting Schedule is available on the [Council and Committee Terms of Reference](#) webpage.

### **Council Bulletins**

Information about Council, including Council Bulletins can be accessed on the University of Southern Queensland Council webpage: <https://www.unisq.edu.au/about-unisq/governance-leadership/governance/council>

The University of Southern Queensland acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waterways where the University is located. Further, we acknowledge the cultural diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and pay respect to Elders past, present and future.



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CRICOS: QLD 00244B, NSW 02225M | TEQSA: PRV12081