QUT Council Report

QUT COUNCIL REPORT OF OUTCOMES – 27 FEBRUARY 2026

QUT Council (Council) is established in the public interest by the *Queensland University of Technology Act 1998* (Qld) to deliver high-quality education and research for the benefit of the community.

Council is the governing body of QUT (Queensland University of Technology or QUT or University) and actively oversees the University's strategy, performance, risk management, culture, and compliance consistent with its purpose and in the public interest (*aligned to Principles 4.1a and 4.1b*).

Council met on 27 February 2026 via web conferencing and at the Gardens Point Campus, and considered, noted, endorsed, or approved the following items.

Statements of alignment with the Principles provided in the *Final Report and Principles | Expert Council on University Governance* are contained in the Report and will inform the annual Principles Compliance Assessment.

COUNCIL MATTERS

Latest disclosed interests for Council

Aligned to Principles 2.4bi-iv

When noting the latest report of disclosed interests, Council resolved to approve the changes to the *Disclosures of Interest Policy*, allowing reporting at a summary or de-identified level where full detail is not necessary to manage the conflict, particularly in relation to personal relationship disclosures. Under the *National Higher Education Code to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence 2025*, there is a requirement to disclose personal relationships. Council approved a change in policy title to *Conflicts of Interest Policy* to separate disclosures that relate to conflicts of interest with those that relate to gender-based violence.

Business arising

Council noted the business arising in relation to the QUT Guild financials and that the funding received in advance, included in their statement of financial position, would be used in the following financial year.

Chancellor's report to Council – February 2026

Aligned to Principle 1.3d

Council noted the Chancellor's report to Council – February 2026.

Vice-Chancellor report to Council – February 2026

Aligned to Principle 1.4di

Council considered the 'Vice-Chancellor report to Council – December 2025', which is available at the following address: Reports to Council - QUT Digital Workplace (QUT staff access only).

Reports from other Council committees

Aligned to Principles 1.2a, 7.1f, and 7.2a

Council noted the reports from Risk and Audit Committee (RAC) and Finance and Planning Committee (FPC), and provided there were no conflicts of interest, agreed to extend an invitation to Council members to observe RAC, FPC, or University Academic Board at their discretion.

PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY

QUT Corporate Performance Report December 2025

Aligned to Principles 4.1c, 4.2b, and 4.2d

Council noted the QUT Corporate Performance Report December 2025 on the University's key performance indicators.

2026 Admissions Update
Aligned to Principle 4.2b
Council noted the progress of admissions for Intake 1, 2026 across key markets. Domestic intake was strong and international admissions were down. QUT has adopted a number of strategies, aiming to improve student admissions.

STRATEGIC FOCUS

QUT Campus Master Plan
Aligned to Principle 6.2a
Council approved the final QUT Campus Master Plan for public release and noted that priority development opportunities would be subject to market soundings and approval of a business case.

Updated on QUT Health Facility – *Confidential*
Aligned to Principle 4.1c
Council noted the update on the QUT Health Facility. It is anticipated that the final business case will be provided to Council, via the relevant governance committees, by the end of the year.

Strategic outcomes and actions from the Council Strategy Session
Aligned to Principle 4.1c
Council noted the strategic outcomes and actions from the Council Strategy Session, including a summary of the discussion, identified key considerations, and proposed management actions.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

2025 Annual Financial Report
Aligned to Principles 7.1a, 7.1c, 7.1g, and 8.2f-g
Council noted the Summary of Financial Performance and approved the QUT 2025 Annual Financial Report, including the Financial Analysis by Major Category of the 2025 Financial Results. Council authorised the signing of the Management Representation Letter provided in support of the 2025 Annual Financial Report. Council further noted the Audit Completion Report issued by the external auditors, Queensland Audit Office (QAO), the Audit Clearance from RSM (under an outsourcing arrangement from QAO), and the 2025 Consolidated Statements of QUT Enterprise Holdings Pty Ltd (QEH) Trust. Council was reminded to maintain *confidentiality* of the 2025 financial results until they are tabled in Queensland Parliament.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Annual Report – QEH Group
Aligned to Principle 1.4f
Council noted the QEH Group report, including noting that an independent external review of controlled entities had recently been undertaken and the outcomes will be discussed at the Governance, Nominations and Remuneration Committee.

Report on the activities of the Brisbane Business School Pty Ltd (BBS)
Aligned to Principle 1.4f
Council noted the annual report on activities of the BBS for the year ended 31 December 2025. The BBS facilitates the Student Management Investment Fund (SMIF), two teaching and learning units from the School of Economics and Finance. The SMIF reported an increase of 7.6% on 2024.

For Information – Enforceable Undertaking (EU) with the Fair Work Ombudsman
Aligned to Principles 6.1a, 7.1c, 8.1a, and 8.2c-d
Council noted the progress of QUT's compliance with the EU and that no further contraventions, or potential contraventions, of the *Fair Work Act* (and other relevant legislation), and Enterprise Agreements have been identified.

Responding to sector-wide risk of non-compliance with workplace obligations
Aligned to Principles 7.1c and 8.2c-d
Council noted the Attestation Statement template relating to the *Statement of Regulatory Expectations* [SRE]: *Compliance with workplace obligations* and resolved to endorse the Attestation Statement required by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) to reflect that QUT is actively undertaking work to meet the relevant expectations of the SRE for all three compliance sections. Council further endorsed the *Index of evidence for SRE: Compliance with workplace obligations* for QUT for submission to TEQSA.

Support for Students Policy Report 2 – 2025
Aligned to Principles 6.2a and 6.3a
Council noted the Support for Students Policy Report 2 – 2025, submitted to the Vice-Chancellor as the authorised representative.

Academic freedom and freedom of speech – 2025 annual update
Aligned to Principle 6.2a
Council noted the 2025 annual reporting of actions, institutional responses, and developments associated with academic freedom and freedom of speech at QUT.

New *Elections Policy*, *Elections Procedure*, and *Elections Code*
Aligned to Principles 3.2aiii, 6.1a, 6.1c. and 6.1d
Council approved the new *Elections Policy* and noted the *Elections Procedure*, which will be approved under delegated authority by the Vice-President (Administration) and University Registrar, as the governing instruments for the conduct of University-level elections, and endorse their use for management-level and local-level elections, where appropriate. Council further resolved to approve to rescind *Council Procedure 7 – Conduct of Elections*, with effect from the date these instruments take effect. Council noted the *Elections Code*, to be approved under delegated authority by the Returning Officer, as a supporting document governing conduct requirements for candidates.

Report on outcomes of Council committee self-assessments 2025, including charter changes
Aligned to Principles 2.5a and 2.5f
Council noted the summary report on the 2025 self-assessments undertaken by Council committees and approved changes to the RAC, FPC, and Curriculum Standards Committee charters.

STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Council's engagement with the broader University community
Aligned to Principle 5.1b
Council endorsed the proposed engagement schedule with the broader University community in 2026 as set out in the submission and the proposed strategic discussions for Council in 2026 (subject to presenters' availability), aiming to assist Council to develop a deeper understanding of the business of the University. Council requested at a later meeting to be provided with the engagement plan being developed by the Vice-President Engagement.

New *Philanthropy Policy*
Aligned to Principle 7.1b
Council approved the *Philanthropy Policy*. Council noted the current philanthropic activities at QUT, e.g. Learning Potential Fund (LPF), and that major gifts and donations were regularly reported in the Vice-Chancellor Report to Council. Prof Sheil advised that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor International and Vice-President Business Development and Chief Commercialisation and Development Officer will report back to Council at a future meeting.

RISK CULTURE

Map of Corporate Risk, Quality, and Assurance Coverage (extract from the Assurance and Audit Annual Report 2025)
Aligned to Principles 7.1a, 7.2a, and 7.2c
Council noted the Map of Corporate Risk, Quality, and Assurance Coverage (extract from the Assurance and Audit Annual Report 2025).

OTHER MATTERS
Council also considered:
- Executive action: Update to *Committee Governance Policy* and delegation (*aligned to Principle 1.2a*)
- Draft 2025 QUT Annual Report (excluding financial statements) (*aligned to Principles 1.2b, 2.5h, 2.5i, 7.1g, and 8.2f*)
- Annual report on the use of the QUT Seal during 2025
- Post meeting action sheet – 2 December 2025
- Council annual work plan and items pending.

OTHER BUSINESS – UNIVERSITY CULTURE
Aligned to Principles 5.1c, 5.2e, 6.1a, and 6.1e
Council noted that the Staff Survey will open on 9 March 2026. The Staff Survey comprises a mix of questions (including

free-text comments) to assist in the identification of any potential risks but also has been designed to allow benchmarking to occur against historical data and results from the higher education sector in Australia and New Zealand.

DISCLAIMER

Aligned to Principle 4.2a

This Report is intended to communicate key outcomes from the meeting, not to be an official record of the meeting. It does not cover all matters discussed or the full detail of decisions or discussions. While the decisions of Council are crucial, there are sometimes legal and commercial reasons for maintaining confidentiality.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Aligned to Principles 1.1a-d, 2.4a, and 5.1a

The *QUT Council Charter* is published in the Manual of Policies and Procedures (MOPP) and sets out Council's responsibilities in alignment with its purpose to provide proper, effective, and prudent governance and oversight of the University's functions. The members of Council are listed on the corporate web site. To support its members in fulfilling their roles, Council also maintains the *QUT Council Charter and Code* (QUT staff access only).