

# QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

## COUNCIL

### REPORT – 16 April 2020

Council met on 16 April 2020, and noted or considered the following items.

#### **Vice-Chancellor and President's Report to Council – April 2020**

Council considered the Vice-Chancellor and President's Report which is available at the following address: <https://qutvirtual4.qut.edu.au/group/staff/governance/organisational-structure/chancellery/vc/reports-to-council> (QUT staff access only).

#### **Response to COVID-19**

Council considered a submission and verbal briefing about the University's actions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Matters noted by Council included impacts for international students due to travel restrictions; the transition to online teaching delivery; and other issues which had been addressed including support for higher degree research students, student financial assistance measures and changes to policies and procedures relating to academic concessions. Sector-wide impacts were also noted including: financial impacts due to the loss of international students; discussions with government and government announcements responding to issues for universities; and discussions with professional bodies in regard to student practicums that have been impacted by shutdown measures. Council also noted direct impacts for QUT staff and students and commended the significant efforts of University management in responding to the crisis.

#### **Future scenario planning**

Council considered future scenarios arising from COVID-19. A presentation was provided on student load and financial modelling and implications, with Council noting that international student intakes are expected to be significantly impacted in 2020 and out-years. 2020 budgets and cash flows would require careful management and capital expenditures in major projects would be deferred or redefined. Other matters discussed included future revenue generation, the University's priority to provide meaningful work to staff wherever possible, and other aspects of the recovery phase.

#### **QUT Corporate Performance Report December 2019**

Council noted the December 2019 Corporate Performance Report, with Council noting that this would be the final report on the key performance indicators in place prior to 2020.

#### **Annual Summary of 2019 Progress Reports: External and Corporate Reviews**

Council noted the annual summary of 2019 progress reports for external and corporate reviews.

#### **Corporate and External Reviews, including Business Transformation Program Post-Implementation Reviews – 2020 and Beyond**

Council considered the approach to corporate and external reviews in 2020 and 2021, and approved a pause in the reviews scheduled to be conducted in the short term, noting that the COVID-19 pandemic impacts necessitated a re-prioritisation of activities.

#### **Evaluation of Council performance in 2018-2019 – Draft Implementation plan**

Council considered and endorsed the draft implementation plan relating to the review of Council performance in 2018-2019.

#### **Update on governance reform process for Council**

Council considered the update provided on governance reform processes including the proposed consultation plan, and noted that timing for consultation on governance reforms would be determined taking account of staff impacts due to the COVID-19 response. Correspondence to the Minister for Education concerning governance reform was also noted.

#### **Proposed revisions to MOPP B/8.1, QUT Staff Code of Conduct**

Council approved, with immediate effect, a revised MOPP B/8.1, QUT Staff Code of Conduct. Council commended the revised Code, noting it was well-written and addressed academic and intellectual freedom in a balanced way.

## **Proposed revisions to MOPP A/1.4, QUT seal**

Council approved with immediate effect revisions to policy MOPP A/1.4, QUT seal, and related delegations published in the Schedule of Authorities and Delegations.

## **Health, Safety and Environment Annual Report 2019**

Council noted the annual report of the Health, Safety and Environment Department.

## **Map of Corporate Risk, Quality and Assurance Coverage: Extract from the Assurance and Risk Management Services Annual Report 2019**

Council noted that the Assurance and Risk Management Services assurance map had been extended to include quality assurance activities, in order to address requirements for monitoring of activities as set out in the Higher Education Standards Framework, and endorsed the map of corporate risk, quality, and assurance coverage as providing an adequate framework to address assurance and monitoring under the Higher Education Standards Framework.

## **Naming of Council Room**

Council endorsed a proposal to name the Council Room the Tim Fairfax Room, in recognition of the substantial contribution made by the former Chancellor, Mr Tim Fairfax AC, to QUT, to Council and in support of QUT students. A ceremony would be held once U Block refurbishment was completed, to coincide with a future Council meeting.

## **Items for information**

- Chancellor's Report to Council
- Council action list
- Post Meeting Action Sheet for Council's 27 February 2020 meeting
- Council Annual Work Plan and Items Pending 2020
- Latest disclosed interests for Council

## **Reports from Committees**

Council noted reports from Council sub-committees as follows.

Chancellor's Committee – 27 February 2020

Finance and Planning Committee – 26 March 2020

Risk and Audit Committee – 21 February and 25 March 2020

University Academic Board – 30 March 2020