

Message from the Chancellor and Council Bulletin November 2025

Dear colleagues,

As you would have seen from my email of 17 October, the recruitment process for the position of Vice-Chancellor and President is now complete, with Professor Paul Mazerolle joining the University in March 2026. In the interim, Professor Karen Nelson will continue to act in the role.

On 20 and 21 October I attended the University Chancellors Council (UCC) Plenary meetings in Perth, where the main item of discussion was the recently-released [Expert Council on University Governance – Final Report and Principles](#) which the Federal Minister for Education has endorsed. UCC received a presentation from the Chair of the Expert Panel Melinda Cilento and recognises the need to support the Principles and remain engaged and responsive to this work. UniSQ Council will discuss the Report and Principles at its December meeting.

The first meeting of the 12th UniSQ Council was held on 20 October, with all members attending either in person or via Zoom. The 12th Council membership is as follows:

- Official Members:
 - Chancellor Hon Dr John McVeigh
 - Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen Nelson
 - Chair of Academic Board Professor Alexander Kist
- Appointed Members (appointed by the Qld Governor):
 - Emeritus Professor John Cole OAM
 - Mr Brett Delaney
 - Ms Amanda Kenafake
 - Assistant Commissioner Charysse Pond APM
 - Aunty Lorraine Hatton OAM
- Additional Members (appointed by Council):
 - Mr George Fox
 - Ms Heidi Dugan
- Elected Members:
 - Dr Sarah McKibbin
 - Dr Samantha Rose
 - Mr Joshua McKeiver

Information about our Council members, including their backgrounds, qualifications and experiences is included on the updated [Council website](#), which I encourage you to visit.

Details of the key discussions and resolutions from October Council meeting are included in the Bulletin below. If you have any questions about the Bulletin, or any other Council-related matters, please feel free to contact me via email to chancellor@unisq.edu.au.

Kind regards

John

Hon Dr John McVeigh, Chancellor

Council Information

The fifth UniSQ Council meeting of 2025 was held on Monday 20 October at UniSQ Toowoomba campus. The meeting marked the first meeting of the UniSQ 12th Council with the term of office commencing on 7 October 2025. Information about Council is available on the [University of Southern Queensland Council](#) webpage.

Strategic Presentations and Reports

- **Research Strategy**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) Professor John Bell presented an update on research performance metrics, funding trends, strategic risks, and future planning to support the development of the University's Research Strategy for 2026 and beyond.

- **Horizon 3 Future Strategy**

Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen Nelson and the Director Planning Julianna Dawidowicz presented a progress and development update of the new [University Vision and Statement of Strategic Ambition 2026-2030](#).

- **University Student Load Report High Level Strategy and 2026 Student Load Projections Report**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students and Education) Professor Glen Coleman presented an update to Council on the high level strategy for optimising student load and information relating to the 2026 student load income estimates based on load as at Quarter 2 2025.

Reports to Council

The following reports were received at the 20 October 2025 Council meeting:

- **Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Hon Dr John McVeigh presented an update on events and meetings attended since the last meeting of Council in August 2025.

- **Vice-Chancellor's Report**

Vice-Chancellor Professor Karen Nelson presented an overview of activities, achievements, and matters arising for the period ending 29 September 2025. The Vice-Chancellor's Report informs Council on the development, overall operations and attainments of the University as required under the UniSQ Governance Charter.

- **Academic Board Report**

Academic Board Chair Professor Alexander Kist presented the Academic Board Report to Council. Items received included:

- Academic Board Meeting Minutes 9 September 2025
- Annual Student Grievances and Appeals Report
- Annual Program Quality Assurance Report 2024.

- **Finance and Facilities Committee Report**

Finance and Facilities Committee member Amanda Kenafake presented the Finance and Facilities Report to Council. Items received included:

- Unconfirmed Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes 18 September 2025
- Financial Report to 31 August 2025 including the Quarter 2 Review Forecast
- 2026 Annual Plan and Budget Update
- Union Institute of Language – Springfield Campus Pty Ltd Quarter 2 Report.

- **Audit and Risk Committee Report**

Audit and Risk Committee Chair member Amanda Kenafake presented the Audit and Risk Committee Report to Council. Items received included:

- Unconfirmed Audit and Risk Committee Meeting Minutes 18 September 2025
- Safety and Wellbeing Annual Report
- Cybersecurity Quarter 2 Report
- Annual Insurance Renewal.

- **Chancellor's Committee Report**

Chancellor's Committee Chair and Chancellor Hon Dr John McVeigh presented the Chancellor's Committee Report to Council. Items received included:

- Unconfirmed Chancellor's Committee Meeting Minutes 18 September 2025
- Summary of Awards Conferred to Students
- 2026 Council and Council Committee Meeting Schedule.

Council Resolutions

Council resolved to approve the following items at the 20 October 2025 meeting:

- 2026 Council and Council Committee Meeting Schedule
- Revised [UniSQ Governance Charter](#).
- **Election of the University Deputy Chancellor**
 - Council resolved to approve the appointment of George Fox to role of University Deputy Chancellor.
- **Standing Committee Membership**
 - Council resolved to approve the appointment of Amanda Kenafake to the role of Chair of the Finance and Facilities Committee.
 - Council resolved to approve the appointment of Emeritus Professor John Cole and Heidi Dugan to membership of the Finance and Facilities Committee
 - Council resolved to approve the appointment of Emeritus Professor John Cole to membership of the Chancellor's Committee
 - Council resolved to approve an update to the Audit and Risk Committee Terms of Reference to include a maximum of three external members.

Council Meeting Information

The 2025 University Meeting Schedule is available on the [Council and Committee Terms of Reference](#) webpage. 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 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 emerging.