First meeting of USQ’s 9th Council

The first meeting of the University of Southern Queensland’s (USQ) 9th Governing Council was held today in Toowoomba.

Although there were few changes in the membership of this 9th Council, the superior contribution and longstanding service of the three members who leave was recognised and acknowledged as outstanding by fellow Councillors.

Both Mr Graeme Stratford and Ms Jane Farmer have an impeccable record of service to USQ for well over a decade, Graeme as Chair of Audit and Risk Committee and Jane as the professional staff representative with membership of a range of Council committees most recently the Finance and Facilities and the Chancellor’s Committees.

While Professor Peter Terry has a shorter period of membership of Council, his contribution to USQ has been equally impressive. As Chair of the Academic Board his strong leadership and specialist understanding was always valuable and brought important guidance to Council on this significant area of USQ responsibility.

The Chancellor and Chairman of the Council, Mrs Bobbie Brazil stated that “they have all been exemplary board members, respected by their fellow Councillors and willing to make sometimes difficult decisions - but always in the best interests of USQ and a pleasure to work with.”

“USQ is fortunate to have people of such capability willing to accept the responsibility and sheer hard work of Council membership and it should be emphasized that they do so as volunteers.”

Mrs Brazil also warmly welcomed the three new members. Firstly, Mr Brett Delaney a longstanding Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) senior partner and Auditor who will ensure the continuing record of strong audit and financial governance is maintained. Secondly Mrs Mary McGilvray who was the successful professional staff representative at the recent staff elections who has had a range of administrative experience in different departments within USQ and prior to that a successful career in local government and thirdly Mr Jim Varghese AM whose professional experience includes appointment as Director General with the Queensland Government across four departments.
including Education and Agriculture and who is currently an Executive Director with Springfield Land Corporation.

Mrs Bobbie Brazil said that this 9th Council of the University will continue to monitor the changing landscape of higher education in Australia and how that might impact on the immediate and future needs of the University.

“Under the new political backdrop of both state and federal governments and the need for continued economic sustainability, the 9th Council of USQ will have a far reaching agenda to guide the overall functions of the University across its three campuses and study centres.

Mrs Brazil also listed a number of major achievements that had occurred over the term of the previous Council including the appointment of Professor Jan Thomas into the role of Vice-Chancellor following the retirement of Professor Bill Lovegrove, significant investment at the Springfield campus with the second major building project currently under construction, and a considerable increase and focus in the research agenda for the University.

**Members of the 9th USQ Council include:**

- Mrs Roberta (Bobbie) Brazil (Chancellor)
- Professor Jan Thomas (Vice-Chancellor)
- Professor Peter Terry (until new appointment made to Chair, Academic Board)
- Dr A. Carol Cox (GIC nominee)
- Mr Brett Delaney (GIC nominee)
- Mr Stephen (Steve) Dixon (GIC nominee)
- Mr George Fox (GIC nominee)
- Mr Jim Varghese AM (GIC nominee)
- Ms Jan Boys (Additional member)
- Mr Chris Bazley (Additional member)
- Mr John Dornbusch (Additional member)
- Associate Professor Kevin McDougall (Academic Staff Representative)
- Mrs Mary McGilvray (General Staff Representative)
- Mr Justin McGovern (Student Representative)

(ENDS)

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