

## GUIDELINES FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE ON CAMPUS

### 1. PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The University of South Australia in its mission statement commits itself to providing a teaching and learning environment which fosters excellence in scholarship, innovation and social responsibility.
- 1.2 In promoting access to all of its programs for a diverse student population (Mission Statement Goal 5), the University recognises that some staff and students belong to religious groups, and will look to their religious traditions for support in their work and study.
- 1.3 The University of South Australia, while having no role in promoting or preventing religious belief or practice, will co-operate with recognised<sup>1</sup> religious groups who may wish to provide a chaplaincy service on campus for their members who are also members of the University community.
- 1.4 The University acknowledges a responsibility for the religious needs of students who come from overseas to undertake their studies by providing appropriate facilities such as prayer rooms for Muslim students.

### 2. THE ROLE OF A UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN

The role of a University Chaplain includes, but is not limited to:

- providing opportunities for religious observance on campus
- undertaking pastoral care of students and staff of the University community who choose to access their services
- fostering and supporting the spiritual life of the students and staff of the University of South Australia who seek this form of support
- facilitating activity, interest and fellowship groups according to need.

### 3. FACILITATION OF CHAPLAINCY SERVICES

In order to facilitate chaplaincy services, the University will take reasonable steps to provide Chaplains with access to:

- office accommodation on each campus, shared where necessary by Chaplains or with other staff of the University
- telephone with voicemail, email, personal homepages, photocopiers, library, mail room, staff room (where available) and a permit to access unreserved parking (normally Chaplains may be expected to pay for voice mail if not already installed and will be expected to pay for photocopying and car parking fees)
- suitable male and female prayer rooms for Muslim students on campus

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<sup>1</sup> Recognised religious groups are: for Christian applicants, those whose chaplains are eligible for membership of the Tertiary Chaplains Ministry Association; for non- Christian applicants , the state or national religious organisations of the applicant.

- facilities for group activities, booked through normal room booking procedures
- a chaplaincy entry in the internal telephone directory
- induction to the University
- access to University publications (such as the Outlook and University News) for Chaplains to advertise their presence and activities.

#### **4. UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS OF CHAPLAINS**

In facilitating chaplaincy services, the University requires Chaplains

- to observe University policies, including the statutes and by-laws
- to be familiar with and work in support of the University Mission and Statement of Values
- to work with the Learning Connection Manager in the first instance to establish a campus presence and to gain access to the services of the University
- to work co-operatively with all other University Chaplains, regardless of religious affiliation
- to offer pastoral services to all students and staff within the University community, regardless of religious affiliation
- to work co-operatively with University student support staff, where applicable.

#### **5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAPLAINS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY**

- 5.1** Chaplains will be authorised to function within the University by the nominating religious body submitting a request to the Vice-Chancellor for approval.
- 5.2** Chaplains will liaise with other helping services in the University to extend the range of resources available for personal development and problem-solving. The primary role of Chaplains' pastoral care is the enhancement of individual and community life and does not involve clinical counselling or the application of therapeutic intervention addressed to a particular problem. Where they perceive such a need, Chaplains will refer students to staff at Learning Connection on campus
- 5.3** Chaplains will report annually to the University through the Learning Connection Manager.

#### **6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF RELIGIOUS BODIES**

- 6.1** Chaplains are nominated by the appointing religious body which has requested recognition by the University.
- 6.2** The appointing religious body is responsible for providing oversight, support and accountability in terms of performance standards within their code of ethical practice.

- 6.3 Industrial matters are the responsibility of the appointing religious body, with whom Chaplains have an employer/employee relationship.
- 6.4 Religious bodies are responsible for any costs associated with accessing equipment and services within the University.
- 6.5 Professional indemnity for Chaplains is the responsibility of the appointing religious body.