

SEC17D014

Title: *Update on Multi-Faith Centre Activities*
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Issue

An update on activities in the Multi-Faith Centre

Recommendation

Recipients are invited to note the contents of the report

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications

Risk Implications

There are no risk implications

Equality and Diversity

The Multi-faith Centre pays very close attention to issues of Equality and Diversity in the provision of services to the University community

Timing of decisions

No decision from the committee is required

Background

The Student Experience Committee receives an annual report from the Lead Chaplain detailing key issues of note arising from the previous year. Oversight of Multi-Faith provision falls to the Director of Student Services, our commitment to spiritual well-being being complementary to Student Services' responsibility for supporting emotional and mental well-being for our students. Student Services have taken an active role in Faith related activities in the last year. The Lead Chaplain report (see below), provides a brief overview of MFC activity. In addition to that report, the following items relating to Faith matters are of note:

- The University has refurbished the main Multi-Faith Centre building
- Further improvement works, as discussed with ISOC, will be undertaken in the Islamic Prayer Facility during December 2017 and arrangements are in place to provide alternate facilities for those students who remain on campus during this period

- The University has established a Working Group comprising staff and student representatives, chaired by the PVC HUM, Professor Sarah Barrow, that will identify appropriate long-term space provision for Muslim students
- The University will be extending access to the private worship/ contemplation spaces within the Multi-faith Centre with effect from December 2017. Access will be provided on request and will permit Cardax based 24/7 entry for personal religious, spiritual or contemplative activity.

Report from Lead Chaplain, Jen Woodfin:

We are delighted to report that the Multifaith Centre is very busy and well used. It has been partially refurbished during the summer which has helped to create a very welcoming atmosphere. All the rooms are now well used throughout our opening times and the evenings are continued to be used by groups that book the upstairs space. We continue to offer worship facilities on a regular basis for in excess of twenty times each week. Some of these that are included are: Christian Union Prayers, Dharma Society, Rosary, Buddhist Meditation, Mindfulness with a Christian perspective, Chinese Christian Fellowship, Quaker meeting, Love world fellowship, Staff Prayers, Christians Against Poverty, 'Simply Be' Student Society, Anglican Eucharist, Hindu Worship and Chat, Roman Catholic Mass, Christian Medical Fellowship, Baha'i Devotion, Al-anon meeting, Sikh Student Union Society, Coptic Orthodox Worship.

We continue to work with the Student Union for room bookings which is very helpful. It has also been beneficial to have a chaplain administrator working for us one day a week. It enables us to expand the multimedia focus and we look forward to seeing how we can further the opportunities that this makes possible. We are working as a team ministry as much as possible. Both to encourage and enable all the chaplains' gifts to be used, and be a model for interfaith working in a practical way.

There is a good sense of multifaith collaboration within the building, especially in the informal conversations in the common room.

We are looking forward to the future as we work with the University to offer more opportunities for prayer for all students. It continues to be a rewarding place in which to be involved.

