



Wellness Convenors

As Determined College Administration—1 July 2015

Context

Grace College is a residential college located in the St Lucia campus of the University of Queensland. It operates under the auspices of the Queensland Synod of The Uniting Church in Australia, and the Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of Queensland. According to our Constitution, the College exists to:

- (a) provide proper accommodation and tuition for women students of the University for the purpose of giving such students the benefit of collegiate life and of making provision for their care, guidance, discipline and instruction;
- (b) encourage a liberal education for its students by endeavouring to draw its students from all faculties within the University;
- (c) provide all necessary facilities for the presentation of and instruction in the Christian faith, including worship, study, teaching and counselling; and
- (d) encourage students to relate their academic disciplines to Christianity and grow in the Christian faith.

The Role

The role of Wellness Convenor was a new one for the College in 2015. Wellness Convenors are an important part of the College's commitment to encouraging "a liberal education" as well as providing "care, guidance, discipline and instruction" for all residents.

As residents identified as active and thoughtful in the areas of social, personal and political issues, Wellness Convenors will:

- live out a commitment to social justice and ethical practice in personal and communal relationships;
- model the treatment of all people with dignity and respect; and the respectful understanding of differing perspectives;
- listen carefully to the concerns and hopes of other residents;
- provide opportunities for residents to encounter and explore various perspectives on a range of social, personal and political issues;
- offer opportunities for residents for conversation and dialogue about varying values, attitudes, beliefs and perspectives;
- encourage residents to link with approved organisations and events which help them to explore these significant issues;

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- liaise with any equivalent resident representatives of other Colleges to provide shared discussion and action opportunities;
- meet regularly with the Dean of Students as part of the Personal Formation Team (PFT);
- assist the Principal and the Dean of Students with raising and addressing significant social, personal and political issues for residents; and
- provide appropriate feedback to the College Administration about the social, personal and political issues of concern to residents of the College.

Wellness Convenors will be AWESOME by:

- encouraging AWARENESS among residents of significant social and political issues affecting them and the communities of which they are a part (local, regional, national, global);
- promoting WELLBEING among residents in relation to living a balanced life that weaves together academic study, sporting and cultural activities, opportunities for social and community service, spiritual nurture and appropriate emotional and mental support;
- promoting EMPOWERMENT of residents as global citizens and interdependent persons;
- highlighting issues of gender and SEXUALITY for residents to assist in their awareness, wellbeing and empowerment;
- fostering an atmosphere of OPENNESS for the discussion and addressing of significant issues within the College community;
- highlighting matters related to MENTAL health and intellectual engagement with those significant issues;
- promoting the awareness and practice of fair and EQUAL relationships between people.

The Convenors

Wellness Convenors will be 2-3 senior residents chosen by the Principal in consultation with the Dean of Students. Application and selection of Wellness Convenors will normally occur in the September/October of the year prior to that for which the Convenors are responsible.

Wellness Convenors must:

- have lived in College for at least two years;
- demonstrate involvement in action and/or discussion around significant social issues such as women's empowerment, gender & sexuality, social justice, mental health;
- be committed to open and respectful discussion and debate involving the sharing of a diversity of perspectives on a range of issues;
- be able to articulate an awareness of their own personal political and social convictions including a recognition of where their attitudes have changed and/or are not yet fully settled;
- uphold and model the Grace College core values of Community, Collegiality and Care and the GRAPHIC characteristics of being Generous, Reconciling, Aware, Protective, Healthy, Inclusive and Committed;
- have a cumulative GPA of 4.5 or more to allow for the additional load which such a leadership role entails;
- be willing to work as part of a team, sharing the planning and organisational work;
- be committed to acting justly and ethically; and

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- be aware that their behaviour as College representatives is open to scrutiny and take care with their public reputation in matters such as approachability, support of College activities, use of alcohol, and behaviour at College events.

In addition, Wellness Convenors will have:

- demonstrated maturity in their personal formation;
- willingness to be guided by the Principal and/or other appropriate authorities in matters relating to their role;
- demonstrated organisational ability;
- willingness to work cooperatively and facilitatively with a team.

The Convenors are responsible for liaising with:

- College Administration about the issues being raised, the methods of addressing them, and the pastoral needs of the College community when addressing significant issues;
- guest speakers/presenters/resource persons who may assist in the work of the Wellness Convenors;
- the Student Leadership Team concerning support and assistance for the work of the Wellness Convenors and vice versa; and
- O-Week Committee concerning support and assistance during O-Week;
- the Chapel Committee and the Care Convenors as part of the PFT.