

From the President:

As you all know, the Sydney College of Divinity is a consortium made up of multiple Member Institutions (Australian College of Christian Studies (formerly Emmaus Bible College), Australian College of Ministries, Booth College, Catholic Institute of Sydney, Nazarene Theological College, NSW College of Clinical Pastoral Education, St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, St Cyril's Coptic Orthodox Theological College). In addition, two centrally directed academic programs are delivered by the SCD Graduate Research School (research degrees) and the SCD Korean School of Theology (coursework taught in Korean). The major achievement of SCD last year, which Fr Gerard mentioned to you in TIN last October, was to be awarded self-accrediting authority by the federal Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) in June 2016. What Fr Gerard may not have mentioned was that achievement means that the SCD is now in a place from which it can apply for Australian University of Specialisation status with the Commonwealth Government. It cannot happen immediately. And there would be work to do before such an application could be made. But self-accrediting authority is a great achievement and a very significant vote of confidence in us by TEQSA. By awarding us such status, TEQSA is in fact acknowledging that we are well on our way to becoming a university. (There is currently only one University of Specialisation in Australia, the University of Divinity in Melbourne, and UD was awarded this status by the Victorian government before the advent of TEQSA. They also had an almost seventy-five year head start on the SCD, they have also-ran beaches, and silly football -- we are doing quite well!).

What are we to take from all of this? As I have noticed previously in TIN, via student feedback you continually comment on the quality of classes here at CIS. Just as with most major public universities in Australia, our lecturers hold doctorates in their fields and are active in research and link this research to their teaching - you also routinely identify this as a strength of CIS. That is, you have first-hand knowledge of the quality of your degree program because you spend time in our classrooms. But a lot goes on out of sight. Given TEQSA's very rigorous processes, high standards -- and especially the award of self-accrediting authority -- you can also be assured that behind the scenes the SCD is working very successfully to guarantee that your degree is of the highest standard available in Australian tertiary education. All the MIs are very grateful for the work done by the SCD faculty at its head office in Macquarie Park as they continue to secure our future as a provider of quality theological education in Sydney and in Australia more broadly.

Dr Rohan Curnow

STUDENT COMMON ROOM

The student common room is available to all students as a place of recreation and refreshment. It can be a place of good conversation. Tea and coffee are available in the back common room area, together with biscuits and drink and snack machines. Chilled filtered water is available in the front common room. There is also a microwave for heating food and drink.

A reminder to Class Representatives that if you notice a full tray ready for a wash, please place it in the dishwasher and push the start button. Similarly, once a wash has been completed, cups etc can be stacked on the rack.

Many hands make light work!



From the Registrar:

The all-important “Census Date” in the Semester has now passed. This is the date on which the Department of Education finalizes its records in regard to enrolment figures and the Commonwealth Assistance Notice is also determined. Students using FEE-HELP will shortly be informed of their current loan status.

Lecturers have now been issued with new class lists so that they have an updated version of post census date class enrolments. **Please, be sure to check that you are correctly identified on this revised class list!**

First assignments already are becoming due in a number of course units. Therefore, it seems opportune to remind students of the importance of academic integrity in both research and in the presentation of assignments. The CIS Academic Regulations and Procedures outline the mechanisms that the SCD and CIS have in place to address complaints about academic misconduct. It is important to note that the penalties for academic misconduct can be severe: possibly, failure in a course and exclusion from further enrolment.

It is particularly important to reference your work in the proper way. This is in regard to any direct quotations you might include from other authors in your work and ideas of others that you might paraphrase in our assignments. Sources – whether they are from printed text or from electronic sources such as the Internet – all require acknowledgement. Software now exists for tertiary institutions to trace work that lecturers suspect is from the Internet but not correctly referenced.

May I also draw your attention to the “Guidelines for Written Work” available on the Registry shelves. These detail the correct style for formatting references in your written work. Please be sure to abide by these academic conventions.

Finally, I’d like to thank Sr Michele Connolly and Dr Rohan Curnow who conducted the Study Skills sessions last weekend. Feedback from students who attended was extremely positive. The efforts of our two lecturers in conducting this session is gratefully appreciated and goes a long way to promoting the ethos of academic integrity described above.

Best regards

Janelle Craig

WEEKDAY MASS

Mass will be celebrated in the chapel
Tuesday -Thursdays at 12:40pm for this week.
 There will be no Mass, Monday 20th March .
 Monday Mass will resume 27th March 2017.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

A reminder that tuition fees including CISSA fees are now due. You can now pay your fees online with a credit card by logging in to www.cis.catholic.edu.au and clicking on the BPOINT icon.

