

## **SSSQAF Response to Chaplaincy Report for 2012-13**

### *Commendations:*

1. The Chaplaincy's vision offers a thoughtful and creative understanding of its place within the University.
2. Reflecting this vision, the Chaplaincy makes wide-ranging efforts to make the service, which has its roots in a long-established Christian Chaplaincy, inclusive of 'all faiths and none'.
3. These many activities, often conducted in partnership with varied groups, include a variety of welcome innovations, as outlined in the report.
4. The Chaplaincy maintains and develops strong and successful partnerships beyond as well as within the University.
5. Seeking to meet the needs of the diverse student body, the breadth of the Chaplaincy's multi-faith team is a strength, enhanced by the expansion of the Honorary Team in 2012-13, including the creation of a Humanist Honorary Chaplain's role.
6. The use of social media is a worthwhile enterprise to expand the Chaplaincy's reach, though this is likely to remain a low-level facet of its work.
7. The opening of the new Sanctuary significantly enhances the Chaplaincy's offerings to students and other users.
8. The Chaplaincy's work on Religious Literacy Leadership in Higher Education makes an important contribution to the University in the area of Equality and Diversity, including staff development.
9. The Chaplaincy's interest in outreach to all student communities informed the development of services for ODL students, also benefiting others looking for online access to its offerings.
10. The Chaplaincy's work on sustainability won recognition via a EUSA Special Award.
11. The Chaplaincy improved signing for its premises, to tackle its visibility problem.
12. In cooperation with other key services, the Chaplaincy helped to develop a network for the promotion of mental health and well-being across the University.
13. The 'What's the University for?' project successfully promotes discussion on important issues for the University; a notable achievement is the production of an alternative set of graduate attributes. Another achievement is the identification of good practice in bridge-building.
14. Among the successes of the Soweto Melodic Voices partnership was community outreach, including work with local schools.
15. The Chaplaincy pays careful attention to the needs of staff training and development.
16. The Chaplaincy's engagement with mental health issues is a strength that should be maintained and developed.

### *Recommendations to the service:*

1. In consultation with Human Resources, the Chaplaincy should take forward its interest in developing a Staff Death Protocol, to mirror the Student Death Protocol.
2. The Chaplaincy should seek to build on the successful launch of the Sanctuary by looking for ways to boost its already promising awareness and usage.
3. Action should be taken to promote awareness of, and to share the results of, the 'What's the University for?' project, perhaps through the Institute for Academic Development.
4. The Chaplaincy should continue to work with the University to take appropriate action on the space challenges that the Chaplaincy is encountering out at King's Buildings (KB). It was noted in the report that the Chaplaincy was often 'over-full, especially at lunchtimes'. The issues at the KB site, where both medium- and longer-term plans are apparently unclear, seem to require special attention.

### *Recommendation to the University*

It is recommended that Estates and Buildings consider space issues in relation to Chaplaincy space at Kings Buildings, if this is not already in hand.