REGULATION 18
CENTRES

18.1 A University of Divinity Centre (a Centre) may be established by determination of the Council for the purpose of fulfilling one or more of the objects specified in section 4 of the University of Divinity Act.

18.2 The purposes of a Centre may include:
   a) The promotion of excellence in an area of scholarship;
   b) Public engagement with an area of knowledge;
   c) The development of intercollegiate cooperation within the University;
   d) The development of partnerships with external parties;
   e) Enhancing access to resources.

18.3 Prior to establishing a Centre, the Council must seek the advice of the Academic Board.

18.4 A Centre must meet the following criteria:
   a) Its aims and purposes are aligned with the University’s Vision and Mission;
   b) It is controlled by the Council and governed by a committee that is appointed by the Council, the committee to include the Vice-Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor’s delegate as a member;
   c) Its governance, management, staff, and membership are clearly defined and appropriate to its aims and purposes;
   d) It has sufficient resources or the potential to acquire sufficient resources to fulfil its aims and purposes.

18.5 A Centre is not permitted to enrol a student in an award of the University.

18.6 To resource the work of a Centre, the Council may
   a) establish agreements with a College or group of Colleges of the University;
   b) establish agreements with an external party or parties;
   c) establish an internal fund for the receipt of donations.

18.7 A Centre must submit an Annual Report on its activities to the Council.

18.8 A Centre is established for a period determined by the Council and of no more than five years. A Centre may only be renewed by the Council following a review of its operations.

18.9 The Council has the power to terminate a Centre.
1.1 Aims

The Centre for Research in Religion and Social Policy:

a) promotes and undertakes research on the interaction between religion and society with a special emphasis on policy implications

b) encourages public conversation about the implications of religious social thinking, including its socio-economic, environmental, cultural and political aspects

c) adopts an advocacy role about relevant areas of public policy

d) engages in research for peer reviewed journals and monographs

f) draws the academic resources within the University of Divinity into closer engagement with current public issues

g) identifies and resources informed spokespeople to engage in the public conversation in areas of their expertise

h) develops partnerships among the Colleges of the University of Divinity; the churches, religious organisations and religious orders, their agencies and networks; organisations and individuals who share the Centre’s aims.

i) encourages, through collaboration with the Colleges, the teaching of specific units on religion and public policy

1.2 Governance

1.2.1 There is a Committee of the Centre of Research in Religion and Social Policy which is responsible for management of the Centre and fulfilling its aims. The Committee is accountable to the Council, and has access to administrative and financial support from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

1.2.2 The members of the Committee of the Centre of Research in Religion and Social Policy are

a) A person appointed by the Council as Chair of the Committee for a period of up to three years. A person so appointed may be reappointed.

b) The Vice-Chancellor, or a person nominated by the Vice-Chancellor

c) The Director of the Centre

d) The Director of Research
e) At least two persons appointed by the Committee for a period of up to three years. Persons so appointed may be reappointed.

1.2.3 The Committee must meet no less than three times each year. Persons able to provide additional expertise may be invited by the Committee to attend meetings, but are not members of the Committee.

1.2.4 The Committee must make an annual report to the Council.

1.2.5 The Committee may not enter into contracts or employment agreements. All such arrangements must be referred to the Vice-Chancellor, who may take advice from the Committee.

1.3 Director

1.3.1 There is a Director of the Centre, appointed by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of the Committee.

1.3.2 The Director is the executive officer of the Centre, liaising with members of the Centre, donors and supporters, and the wider University, and representing the Centre in public forums.

1.3.3 The Director is responsible for assisting the Committee to develop and implement a strategic plan focused on developing nationally and internationally recognised religious and social policy research.

1.4 Members

1.4.1 The Committee may appoint as Members of the Centre persons who are able to contribute to its aims.

1.4.2 Members of the Centre are entitled to access facilities of the Centre and, through the Centre, may be entitled to access the facilities of the University.

1.4.3 Members of the Centre must acknowledge the Centre and the University in public activities and research publications supported by their association with the Centre.

1.5 Review

1.5.1 The Centre is approved for a period of three years from 1 July 2016 to 31 July 2019. A review of the Centre must be conducted by the Council in 2019.