The First Meeting of the SWRC Board

The director of the Centre was on long service leave in second semester 2015, and the activities associated with the Research Centre in the period under review have been somewhat curtailed because of it. Nevertheless, since the last report, several significant activities associated with the centre have taken place, not least the first meeting of the board of the SWRC on 11 August 2015. Currently, the board members consist of:

Professor Tony Williams, Chair
Associate Professor Robert McIver, Secretary
Dr Graeme Humble
Dr Wendy Jackson
Mrs Bev Christian

It is expected that further members will be co-opted, with an eye to their expertise and standing.

Much of the time of the first board meeting was devoted to a consideration of the Terms and References of the Board. The resultant document is attached to this report (it is not yet official, in that it is yet to be approved by the Research Committee). The discussion of the TOR for the board ranged widely, and the aims and objectives of the SWRC were clarified (see below).

Other activities of the SWRC include promotion of the centre at various staff functions, and negotiation with key stakeholders regarding access to research databases which may become available through the centre. One of the future activities of the SWRC Board will be to develop policies for the access to such data bases.

Aims and Objectives of the Spirituality and Worship Research Centre

The following were determined to be the Aims and Objectives of the SWRC by the SWRC Board at its meeting of 11 August 2015:

1. The Centre will provide an environment for interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research relating to matters of spirituality and worship.

2. The Centre will seek out research that that has practical applications that meets identified needs in the Christian Church and the wider community,

3. The Centre will act as a forum where academic discussion relating to the nexus between society and Spirituality and Worship is encouraged.
4. The Spirituality and Worship Centre will, by its very existence, highlight the continued importance of the core spiritual heritage and ongoing vision of Avondale College of Higher Education. It will respect historical roots within Seventh-day Adventism, and will welcome dialogue with the broader community.

Recent Avondale Publications Related to Worship and Spirituality

Books:

Chapters in Books


Journal Articles


Other


Robert K. McIver, PhD
Director Spirituality and Worship Research Centre
Associate Professor Avondale College of Higher Education
Purpose

These Terms of Reference set out the membership and responsibilities of the Spirituality and Worship Research Centre (SWRC) Board. The SWRC Board is appointed by the President of Avondale College of Higher Education, to provide SWCR staff with advice and direction to achieve the purposes of the SWRC, which are as follows:

1. The Centre will provide an environment for interdisciplinary and inter-institutional research relating to matters of spirituality and worship.

2. The Centre will seek out research that that has practical applications that meets identified needs in the Christian Church and the wider community,

3. The Centre will act as a forum where academic discussion relating to the nexus between society and Spirituality and Worship is encouraged.

4. The Spirituality and Worship Centre will, by its very existence, highlight the continued importance of the core spiritual heritage and ongoing vision of Avondale College of Higher Education. It will respect historical roots within Seventh-day Adventism, and will welcome dialogue with the broader community.

Advice and direction will be given by the SWRC board to SWRC director and staff about the following issues:

- The range of research projects in which the centre should involve itself. In particular, it will provide advice in defining the boundaries of research and publications that can be classified as relating to spirituality and/or worship.

- Access to and use of any data repositories that are under the management of the SWRC.

- The yearly budget.

- The activities of the director, those who are associated with the centre, in response to reports provided to the SWRC Board.

- Management of the SWRC.

- Criteria for membership of the SWRC.

- Identifying and facilitate relationships with potential external collaborators to support and enhance the programs of the SWRC including:
  - other Australian universities, colleges and schools;
  - international universities, colleges and schools;
  - within the Adventist network; and

- Sources of Research Grants

- Any other area that the SWRC Board deems to be helpful to the activities of the SWRC.

Responsibilities

The SWRC Board will provide advice to the Research Committee regarding:

- planning, monitoring and evaluation of the SWRC's activities and services;

- SWRC funding and grant applications;
- SWRC research and scholarship activities and output;
- College research activities and output related to Spirituality and Worship; and
- liaisons with internal and external partners.

**Membership**
The SWRC Board comprises at least 5 and up to 10 members including the director of SWRC, and the Vice President (Academic and Research). The Chair and other independent members may be appointed for up to three years and may be reappointed.

**Meetings**
The Chair of the SWRC Board will be responsible for determining the timing, frequency and location of all Board meetings in order to carry out its responsibilities. However, the Board shall meet at least two times per year. A quorum for a meeting is half of the membership plus one. Members should, where practicable, make themselves available to attend Board meetings. If members forego three consecutive meetings, their membership may lapse and an alternative member may be considered. Records of all meetings must be approved by the SWRC Board and kept by the Chair. Minutes of the meetings will be submitted to the Research Committee.

**Conflict of Interest**
All SWRC Board members are required to complete a Conflict of Interest Statement and abide by the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policies.

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