

ECUMENICAL IDENTITY OF THE SCD STATEMENT

Approved	Council
Approval Date(s) (from most recent)	09/11/2016, 22/02/2012
Date for Review (no more than five years from last approval)	2021
Responsible Officer	Dean
Author(s) and Role(s) from most recent	G. Kelly (Vice-President of Council)
Related Documents (explicitly cross-referenced)	
Higher Education Standards (2021)	
National Code (2018) (if directly relevant)	

A. As the SCD we make the following common affirmations:

- The unity of all Christians is the will and plan of God.
- Unity is a gift of God, and we are called to receive it graciously. The church has the mission to manifest to the world the unity God has given.
- The SCD aims to manifest the unity of the church by the witness it gives to cooperation in theological education.
- By its teaching and research – deepening the knowledge of the faith and furthering its transmission – the SCD helps to realise the unity that the church has been given.
- We recognise and respect the distinct witness to the Christian faith in the traditions of each of our Member Institutions.
- We are open to learning from each other insights about Christian faith and witness.

B. The ecumenical identity of the SCD is determined by our values:

- Celebration of faith in Christ and life in the Spirit
- Affirming unity in diversity
- Mutual respect and support for the mission and ethos of fellow MIs

C. The ecumenical identity of the SCD is characterised by:

- A willingness to engage with each other on matters relating to our disciplines in learning, teaching and research
- A spirit of generosity
- An openness to learn from each other
- A desire to give witness to the communion we already share

D. The following instruments sustain the SCD's ecumenical model:

- Graduation ceremony and MI events around graduation
- Prayer together at meetings
- Principals' Fellowship
- (Sub-)Discipline meetings and/or "conferences"
- Communications policy
- Committees of the SCD
- Office of the Dean
- Exchanges between the Member Institutions
- Faculty ListServ
- SCD website
- Libraries
- Conferences
- Planning Days
- Professional Development Days

E. Ways in which we can provide an enhanced focus on the ecumenical dimension of SCD programs, courses and research:

- Co-teaching across the MIs
- SCD Press
- Academic Supervision
- Students taking course units at other MIs
- An annual Service that rotates around the MIs