The Women's College
within the University of Queensland
ready to lead

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Dear Students, Parents and Guardians

RE: COVID-19 Update – Fee Announcement

Thank you for your continued support during this most challenging time. The students in the College prior to the Easter/mid-semester break demonstrated excellent academic focus on their university studies and were also engaged in a myriad of activities to care for their wellbeing and maintain their connectedness, all with the COVID-19 health and safety precautions in place.

Mitigating the risks involved under the guidance of the health authorities, the College has remained open during the crisis to provide all students with ongoing stability and encouragement. Our support for students studying in College and at home has remained a priority, with students being able to access pastoral care, online tutorials and academic assistance at all times.

The COVID-19 crisis is continuing to challenge our Women's College community on several levels. We have been working proactively with our Council during this unprecedented time to respond to these challenges. As mentioned in an earlier Communique, the Council has been assessing the matter of residency fees. There were many factors to take into account.

The Women's College is a not-for-profit organisation and through these extraordinary circumstances, we have maintained resolute optimism that we will survive this crisis and continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for young women who undertake university studies in Brisbane, remaining true to our heritage. As a community we have had to make financial decisions to ensure the safe and smooth running of the College now and into the future.

While the College is not in a position to provide a rebate for Term 1 fees, the Council is pleased to announce the following assistance for our students and their families:

1. Students who choose not to live at College during Term 2 (20 April - 21 June 2020) will be entitled to a full rebate for the weeks they are not in residence in Term 2. This rebate will be applied as a credit towards Term 3 fees in Semester 2.

2. Any student who does not return to College in Semester 2 may apply in writing to the Head of College for consideration of release from their contract without penalty due to extenuating circumstances, in accordance with Clause 8 Fees and Charges in the Residency Agreement.

3. A payment plan is available for those students and families who have been financially impacted by COVID-19 and wish to return to College in Semester 2.

For those students wishing to return to their room and have their belongings stored, a room holding fee of $50 per week will be applied for each full week that a student is not in residence during Term 2.

To be eligible for a Term 2 rebate, students must ensure their Away from College (during COVID-19 restrictions) form on the Student Portal is accurate, and that they have completed the Return to College (during COVID-19 restrictions) form upon their return. Students must also hand in their key if they are away from College. Please note that the rebate is only applicable if a student is not in College for a full week (seven days) and will not be applied pro-rata if a student is away from College for a few days only. If there are any questions on these financial matters, please email our Business Manager, Elsa Geringer – e.geringer@womens.uq.edu.au – for assistance.

Thank you again to everyone in our Women's College community for your support and understanding in dealing with our current situation. Your continued messages and positive feedback have been reassuring for our students and staff.

We look forward to welcoming students back to College in Term 2 where possible, to take advantage of the focussed academic environment, pastoral care and personal support available. We are committed to assisting our residents to complete Semester 1 well and achieve their academic goals in spite of the COVID-19 crisis.

Kind regards

Flo Kearney
Head of College & CEO