

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

1) The Staff Council: Wilson College is probably one of the few colleges that has a Staff Council, and is part of the college constitution. It comprises the Principal Heads of Departments, Deans of Students, Vice Principals and Vice-President of the Gymkhana, IQAC coordinator, Hostel Wardens, and the Librarian. The Staff Council meets twice a year usually at the semester end, where detailed reports of activities from departments, committees, hostels are presented. The various extra and co-curricular activities are discussed and evaluated. Suggestions for improvement are made and implemented in the following year. Certain other important matters pertaining to plans and policies of the college are also discussed and a plan of action drawn up. These meetings are minuted and presented to the management.

2) The college has two hostels: Mackichan Hall (Estd. 1913) for men learners and Pandita Ramabai Hostel(Estd.1932) for women learners. The hostels provide an opportunity for learners to come to Mumbai and experience living away from home and get more exposure. The residents are admitted irrespective to class, caste and religion. This provides a very secular atmosphere for interaction among hostellers and also with local students. These hostels provide affordable, safe and comfortable accommodation for students who enroll in the college from different states of India and abroad. Activities are organized to nurture their talents; and being part of the hostel committee gives these youngsters opportunities to develop useful skills like leadership, management and cooperation.

3) The Gymkhana: The college gymkhana located on Marine Drive, has an active tradition in sports such as football, cricket, basketball and volleyball. Students get training for boxing and athletics as well. The gymkhana grounds are shared with other schools and institutions. The gymkhana committee looks into matters pertaining to sports activities.

4) North East Collective : Wilson College has been a popular college of choice with the students from the Northeast for several decades. Many have resided in the college hostels and have enriched the cultural, sports and academic life of the College. For their special benefit, a group

called Rainbow was created in 1997, which, under the guidance of two staff members, has been looking after the welfare of these students informally. Last year the name was changed to The North East Collective. The students select their own committee for each academic year. A balance is maintained for representation of all states. The committee organizes cultural events and visits for the year. This helps these students in gaining confidence, developing leadership and organisational skills. Most importantly it creates a feeling of solidarity and integrates them with the college at large. The group participates actively in cultural programmes organized on Independence Day and Republic Day every year with traditional songs and dances.

Over the years, the focus has been on fostering a spirit of mentoring between the senior and junior students, to ensure access to new students who are unfamiliar with procedural processes in the college. The group enthusiastically organizes musical and cultural programmes each year, usually followed by a delicious traditional dinner prepared by them. The purpose of these activities is to integrate these students with the larger student body and create a cross-cultural exchange.