



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
NEW SOUTH WALES, 2308

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

TELEPHONE 68 0401

EXT.

21 December, 1980

Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Australia

Dear Sir:

I am conducting research on corruption in Australian universities. I have reason to suspect that one of your university's former post-graduate students, Alan J. Williams, obtained a doctoral degree by fraudulent means. After a detailed study of his thesis, I came to the conclusions that a substantial proportion of the chapters in the first half of the thesis was plagiarized from numerous sources, which I have traced because most of them were listed in the bibliography; and that the supposedly original second half of the thesis is almost entirely invalid, due to the use of inappropriately scaled data (which I'm not convinced is authentic, because he has consistently refused to let me inspect it), spurious statistical analysis, and a reversed causal model. In short, his conclusions are almost entirely unwarranted.

I have studied a recent calendar of your university, and believe that there is a prima facie case that Williams violated various provisions of General Regulations 12A, 45, 45A(3) & (4), and Section 2.(2)(g) of Statute 17. But since I don't know whether those provisions were in force at the time his thesis was accepted (which was apparently in late 1974 or early 1975), I can't be certain that he has violated them. I also have reason to suspect that he and/or others violated other regulations not contained in the calendar, such as those in re thesis supervision and examination. I do know that his supervisor died before the thesis was completed, and was apparently not replaced. Williams also admitted that he had nominated his own examiners, and your Registrar confirmed that Williams knew who they were, but declined to inform me. In order to clear up some of these questions, I would appreciate your sending me copies of the Statutes, General Regulations and other relevant regulations that were in force when his thesis was accepted, and the names of his thesis examiners so I can contact them for information I need for my research.

I think it is my duty to report that in 1979 someone circulated a note around the Dept of Commerce here, superimposed on the Acknowledgements page from Williams' thesis, asking: "is the implication of this that a j w killed a m b ??????". As soon as I received a copy, I sent it to Don George, who apparently did nothing about it. Perhaps it should be called to the attention of your state's Attorney General, to forestall possible charges of misprision of felony.

I would appreciate your prompt attention to these matters, and am prepared to fully cooperate in a proper enquiry, including provision of documentary evidence to support these allegations. Thank you.

cc Al Williams, Don George,
Paul Landa, Frank Walker,
& Selected Others

Yours truly,

M. E. Spautz
M. E. Spautz, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer in Management
Studies