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From: Ted Steele <ejsteele@uow.edu.au> Subject: Special meeting/Legal implications

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Dear Colleagues and VC Sutton:

I am sending this e-mail to you today in advance of tomorrow's meeting of the Dept Biological Sciences to outline some of the award and legal implications of the current drive to silence me as a whistleblower of how declining academic standards take place through current academic procedures.

First, you are in receipt of my statutory declaration. VC Sutton should be aware that it does not contain the key phrases (below,in capitals) which he has attributed to me and then asked me to provide details about viz. "I reiterate my request, indeed I now direct you to provide me with the names of the person or persons who INSTRUCTED YOU (me) to increase the grades of honours students"

It seems to me therefore that VC Sutton's repeated demand for information about a statement I did not make is vexatious and bullying and probably outlawed under the award.

I now publicly request that VC Sutton publically withdraw his demand and apologise to me.

The meeting VC Sutton has asked HOD Mark Walker to call on Wednesday 17 2001 has a number of problems which I wish to raise in advance of the meeting:

- a). The agenda is not at all clear. I accept that the department has to right to meet to discuss any and all matters that it has a legal right to do. For example it may meet to discuss standards and procedures for honors marking arising from the recent public debate. Or, the discussion might be on future reforms to the Honours Assessment process. At the moment the actual agenda is not clear.
- b). However from my limited knowledge it seems to me that the Department is not a properly constituted entity to enquire about matters of fact that have been put on the public record under my statutory declaration of Wednesday 10 January. Further, it seems to me that the Department lacks the legal jurisdiction, rules, power authority and objectivity, not to mention procedure fairness to engage in such an inquiry.
- c). The facts of the matter are as I stated, the Department through its deliberations overrode the opinions of the external and internal experts where the non-expert examiner's evaluations differed very greatly from that

- of myself and the external expert. I have covered all the relevant details is covered in my stat dec.
- d). If VC Sutton wishes to have the facts of the matter determined he should, under the Award and other appropriate Industrial Legislation, set up an independent, properly conducted, fair, objective and detached inquiry. Given that VC Sutton's adversorial stand against me has been documented in the public domain there is doubt in my mind as to whether he is legally in a position to do so.
- e). Indeed VC Sutton as a party to the dispute is the only person on the public record who has disputed the matters of fact in the stat dec, I feel he has no right to bully or force or his employees and subordinates to make a determination of matters of fact in this regard. I would go so far as to state that the entire actions by VC Sutton now lacks fairness and smacks of conflict of interest

f). One way to proceed is for all witnesses to the events covered by my

- stat dec be invited to record their own versions of events under stat decs, and/or to make themselves available to any properly constituted court or tribunal that may be seeking information about these matters. In such a situation they would speak under oath, with rules of evidence and proper representation of the parties to the dispute. Technically then meetings made up of some witness and some non witness should not be conveyned, under pressure, to negotiate, fabricate or otherwise jointly construct such evidence.
- g). As far as I am concerned, my statements are covered by a stat dec, and may become matters that are sub-judice, if VC Sutton (or the Department even) persist in this line of approach. Therefore the members of the Department should be aware that they may be cited for defamation and/or harassment etc (other damages to my career) if they collectively engage as directed by VC Sutton in the supposed determination of these matters of fact at this juncture and these determinations are in any manner, shape form or substance injurious to me.

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