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Date: Fri, 22 Dec 2000 09:49:30 +1100
To: all_academic_staff@uow.edu.au, all_general_staff@uow.edu.au
From: Ted Steele <ejsteele@uow.edu.au>
Subject: The title "Professor"/Wollongong Standard
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Lines: 154
Status:

Dear Colleagues :

The e-mail interchange I have just had with departing DVC Robinson is in the public interest and so I am broadcasting on all e-mail channels. It is my response to his chip that I misrepresented him on how the new Head of Biological Sciences was appointed (see below).

There is a general issue here which needs to be highlighted again in the light of all of VC Sutton' appointments as he moves into his 2nd seven year term of office.

Let me repeat what I have said below :

" I mentioned on the open e-mail that Mark (Walker) "is a good bloke and a good administrator". But I have not said he is worthy of the title "Professor". This title is reserved only for those making highly original contributions to knowledge. But of course this concept of the title "Professor" has been so debased here my views on this are certain to be ignored - we are an institution, which since the time of VC McKinnon, has been a leader nationally in the "Dawkinisation" or degradation of academic of standards"

Indeed it is so bad here that I urge all self respecting scholars and/or scientists with the title to drop it and revert to simply "Dr." - I do this, as I have said before, because there will at least be a thesis somewhere which can be independently evaluated. The "Professor" title is so associated with derision that it would make that great humanist of good will Walt Disney turn in his grave.

It has become so bad, and VC Sutton is so drunk with power, that the place behaves (to those outside the "Wollongong Loop") much like a tin-pot South American dictatorship in a state of academic degradation metaphorically akin to contemporary Russia/Eastern Europe/Cuba.]

But it does not stop here - we export them to run or set up other so called "Universities". The smartest and the one who has unleashed the greatest destruction nationally was former DVC Chubb - he moved to Canberra (Higher Education Council) and fired VC Aitkin's bullets to soften up the destruction of the ANU, and then to Monash, Flinders and now ANU. As I indicated in an earlier e-mail release an appointment of this type at ANU would not have been possible in the early 1990s.

Yours

Dr. EJ Steele

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>Date: Wed, 20 Dec 2000 14:08:22 +1100
>To: Peter Robinson <peter_robinson@uow.edu.au>
>From: Ted Steele <Ted_Steele@uow.edu.au>
>Subject: Re: Head of Department

>Cc:
>Bcc:
>X-Attachments:

>
>
>Dear Peter :

>
>Let me refresh your memory on what I said on the open e-mail viz. "no
>formal application process" - which meant the publication of an
>advertisement seeking CVs etc and an application followed by a properly
>structured selection committee that could evaluate the scientific merit
>and achievements of each submitted CVs.

>
>This process is however unheard of at this institution (there have been
>farical attempts however in the past) - but I nevertheless thought that
>this important point should be ventilated to all staff at this institution.

>
>You have used a process alright - but an outcome which reeks of Executive
>decree (everyone outside the loop is able to see this).

>
>Having said that I mentioned on the open e-mail that Mark "is a good bloke
>and a good administrator". But I have not said he is worthy of the title
>"Professor". This title is reserved only for those making highly original
>contributions to knowledge. But of course this concept of the title
>"Professor" has been so debased here my views on this are certain to be
>ignored - we are an institution, which since the time of Ken McKinnon,
>has been a leader nationally in the "Dawkinisation" or degradation of
>academic of standards.

>
>This is why the term "Mickey Mouse Professor infestation" holds true both
>here and now in quite a few other so called "Universities", even sadly ANU
>to some extent.

>
>Yours
>
>Ted Steele

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>
>*****
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>*****

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>> Dear Ted,
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>>May I correct your assertions and refresh your memory. The following
>>email was sent to all academic and general staff of the Department of
>>Biological Sciences on 19th October 2000.

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>> * Professor Rob Whelan has indicated that he will stand down as Head of
>>the Department of Biological Sciences on 31/12/00. Therefore, in
>>accordance with University policy, I am seeking from members of the
>>Department comments on any issues regarding the future directions of the
>>Department and the role of the Head and any expressions of interest in
>>the role of Head. I would welcome email and phone comments from the
>>Department and I will be available for confidential discussions with any
>>staff member who wishes to raise any issues. This period of consultation
>>will be followed by a Departmental meeting to assess opinions should
>>there be a range of candidates for the position.*

>>

>> Subsequently a departmental meeting was held on 24 November to discuss
>>the issues prior to a recommendation being made to the Vice-Chancellor.

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>>Peter Robinson
>>Deputy Vice-Chancellor

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