



The University of Western Australia

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Professor R. Street, FAA

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28th July 1981

Mr Brian Martin
Department of Applied Mathematics
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Dear Mr Martin,

Thank you for your letter of 13th July 1981 concerning your draft paper on the Spautz case.

I think I should begin by saying that your opening statement on page 17 is not technically correct as I understand it. I have been approached by Dr Spautz on two occasions in connection with the examination of Professor A J Williams' doctoral thesis. On the first occasion I initiated an enquiry into the matter which involved Professor Williams' supervisor among others and, on the basis of the information I received, I was fully satisfied that the proper examination procedures had been observed in every respect. The thesis had been independently examined by three respected external examiners who had been appointed by the University's Ph.D. Committee and their judgment and integrity appeared, in my view, to be beyond dispute.

I would suggest that, contrary to Dr Spautz's assertion, the action taken did not constitute "abdication of responsibility" nor was it an attempt to suppress the criticisms made by Dr Spautz.

In response to your second question, there has been no other enquiry into Professor Williams' thesis at this University either officially or unofficially.

Yours sincerely,

R Street

Department of Applied Mathematics,
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13 July 1981

Professor R. Street
Vice-Chancellor
University of Western Australia

Dear Professor Street,

The enclosed paper of mine concerns issues raised by a case involving Dr M. E. Spautz and Professor A. J. Williams. Professor Williams received his Ph.D. from UWA, and I discuss some points in relation to this. I have circulated the paper to a number of people, and one respondent has made the important point, with which I completely agree, that I should approach UWA in relation to comments on pages 16-17 for which I only have the word of Dr Spautz as evidence. I would appreciate your comments on these points, and indeed on any aspect of the paper. In particular, I would appreciate knowing whether UWA or any related body has made any investigation, official or unofficial, into Professor Williams' Ph.D. thesis, aside from the normal procedures through which it was awarded, or otherwise acted upon or responded to Dr Spautz' allegations. Any documentation you can furnish on this would be valuable. You will appreciate, on reading the paper, that my aim is not to lay blame on any parties but to comment on the nature of academic behaviour and institutions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Martin".

Brian Martin