

Submission
No 5

**INQUIRY INTO THE GOVERNANCE OF NSW
UNIVERSITIES**

Name: Name suppressed
Date received: 20/12/2008

Partially Confidential

20 January 2009

The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No. 2
Parliament House
Macquarie St
Sydney NSW 2000
Fax: (02) 9230 3416

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir,

[Information suppressed at the request of author]

I would ask the Committee to consider the following matters, and advise the Government of their conclusions:

1. The role that Anti-Discrimination laws are to play in Universities to prevent such a situation from arising again.
2. Empower the Chancellor and/or Vice-Chancellor to take substantial disciplinary action against any member of staff that contravenes Anti-Discrimination legislation.
3. As part of the grievance resolution process, enable students to appeal to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor; and make provision to ensure students receive a written response in relation to all matters raised.
4. The role of the University in informing staff of the confidential needs of disabled students, and penalties for failing to carry out that role effectively.
5. The nationalization of Universities to enable Government to have a greater participation in University governance in general.
6. The establishment of an independent arbiter to oversee the resolution of University grievances and issues of governance generally.
7. Streamlining the complaints process, and allowing students to voice their opinion on that process.
8. A voting system enabling all stakeholders to have a say in who fulfills the role of Chancellor and Vice Chancellor.
9. A voting system enabling all stakeholders to have a say regarding the continued tenure of the Chancellor and/or Vice Chancellor after allegations of misconduct.

I note that as a student who does not sit on any governing body of the University, we have little opportunity to vote on any of the decisions made by that body. The roles of students are limited to lodging a vote for elections of the student Council, and periodic e-mails informing students of the more important resolutions. I am sure there are many students that would like to lodge a vote regarding matters of University governance.

I would appreciate it if the Commission could provide their response to the very important matters that I have raised, and any resolutions or advice that has been made to government regarding these concerns. I thank you for taking the time to consider these matters.