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From: V-C's Office <vc.admin@sydney.edu.au>

Date: Tue, 19 Jan 2010 16:27:19 +1100

To: SUPRA President <suprapre@mail.usyd.edu.au>, Noah White <president@src.usyd.edu.au>

Cc: DVC Education <dvc.education@sydney.edu.au>, Colin Streeter <colin.streeter@sydney.edu.au>

Conversation: University review of Harassment and Discrimination policies

Subject: RE: University review of Harassment and Discrimination policies

Dear Rashmi, Nick and Elly

Thank you for your joint letter on the subject of the Colleges and Harassment and Discrimination Policies, dated 11 November 2009, and signed in the case of the SRC by Noah White. I apologise for the delay in providing this response but, as a result of more recent executive considerations of these issues, I think I can give you a reassuring progress report.

First in relation to the coverage of the residential Colleges by the policy, I have opened negotiations with the Colleges to ensure that they understand the effect of the policy on behaviour on their premises. As well as their own policies, the University's policy does cover the behaviour of its students wherever they are. I expect more work to be done in the immediate future to ensure that College residents' awareness and understanding of their responsibilities and jeopardies in this regard, are greatly improved.

Secondly in relation to the possibility of an independent manager for student complaint resolution, I can report that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) is considering the introduction of such a role. Further consideration of this aspect will occur in the new year, in the context of the high priority that the University places on this issue, notwithstanding the competing demands for administrative resources in a difficult budgetary climate.

I would assure you also that the recent events and the necessary attention of senior University management that has followed them, mean that a further examination of the efficacy of the revised procedures, including any mandated response times, is very important to me, and will be pursued.

These matters reflect on the essential wellbeing of the University. I appreciate, and share, your serious concern in continuing to raise them.

Yours sincerely

DR MICHAEL SPENCE | Vice-Chancellor and Principal

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