



CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

MEDIA STATEMENT

CCC report on sexual intimidation of students by university academic

2.9.10

A former Curtin University of Technology academic pressured three young, female overseas students for sexual favours in exchange for higher marks according to a Corruption and Crime Commission report tabled in the Parliament today.

He reduced the marks of a fourth female student because he was angry with her when she did not meet him while they were separately visiting Malaysia.

The report contains five opinions of serious misconduct against the academic, Dr Nasrul Ali, but as none of the complainants are prepared to be involved in a criminal prosecution and Dr Ali is no longer employed by Curtin University, the Commission made no recommendation for further action.

The events took place last year while Dr Ali was employed as a sessional academic in the Curtin Business School where he worked as a tutor, lecturer and unit coordinator.

Three of the students were from China and one from Malaysia.

While there was no sexual contact between Dr Ali and the students, the report said he targeted young, vulnerable, full fee-paying overseas female students.

The students were being financially supported by their families, needed to pass their units and were at risk of losing their student visas.

The report said Dr Ali asked three of the female students aged 24, 22 and 20 to think of something to convince him to change their marks. The evidence supports the students' belief that he was asking them for sex.

Dr Ali refused to increase the mark of the fourth female student from a fail of 45 to a pass of 50 because he was angry she did not contact him when she was in Malaysia at the same time as he was there.

He also marked down a paper from a group of three students that included the fourth female student from 73 to 50 out of 100 as he was annoyed with her.

Commissioner Len Roberts-Smith QC said Curtin University has accepted the five recommendations made in the report to improve practices, policies and procedures.

“The University acted very quickly to protect the victims and has taken a number of steps towards improving its systems for the detection, reporting and management of misconduct,” he said.

The Commission was initially notified of the allegation by Curtin University and Dr Ali was the only staff member about whom an opinion of misconduct was made.

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