



Office of the Hon Julie Bishop MP

Minister for Education, Science and Training
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues

27 JUN 2006

Mr Mark Starkey
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Dear Mr Starkey

University of Queensland Senate Finance Committee

Thank you for your letter of 3 June 2006 to the Hon Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Education, Science and Training, concerning the composition of the University of Queensland Senate Finance Committee. The Minister has asked me to reply on her behalf.

The National Governance Protocols and the Higher Education Workplace Relations Requirements do not set explicit obligations with respect to Senate Committee membership. However, the changes being made by the University of Queensland are consistent with the intent of the Protocols.

The Protocols require that the governing body have an external majority, to give it greater independence from both university management and particular constituencies within the university. Appointing only external Senate members to the Finance Committee could strengthen the independent oversight of the University's budget and expenditure and help to ensure that its financial position remains sound.

Ultimately, this is a matter for the Senate and I would encourage you to pursue your concerns through the Senate.

Yours sincerely

Zoë McKenzie
Senior Adviser