

14 November, 2008

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Dear Clare

### **Guild campaigns**

As you are aware, concerns have been expressed in Resources Committee meetings this year as to the financial management and management generally of the Guild. It has been agreed that an external review is to be undertaken in order that the Committee can be satisfied that the continuation of the considerable financial and in-kind support provided by the University remains appropriate.

In this context of the current concerns of Resources Committee to Guild operations, I am concerned to see that Guild resources are increasingly being used and directed towards matters that are damaging to the University and not demonstrably enhancing the student experience. These include:

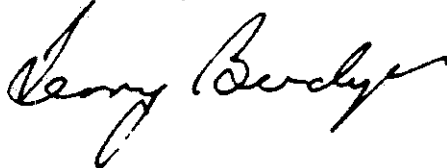
- recent placement of an advertisement for the Curtin University of Technology Business School in edition 5 of the Metior. Such direct promotion of the course offerings of a competing institution sends an extremely negative message both to current students of Murdoch, and to staff who work hard to attract and retain those students. I understand that some members of staff have discussed this with you directly, and you have indicated that the advertising decisions are the sole responsibility of the Guild Manager. I remind you that the Guild Manager is an employee of the Guild who is directly accountable to you, and therefore as President, you are responsible for these actions.
- continued commentary in local media by Guild staff regarding the Rockingham campus (most recently in the 24 October edition of The Courier). This only serves to undermine the tireless efforts of the University to secure the sustainability of this campus, by generating doubt about the future of the campus among the local community, prospective and current students that Murdoch then has to work harder to address.
- continued focus by both your office bearers and your full-time manager, on matters that are clearly beyond the traditional scope and responsibility of these roles, including campaigns that have included personal and aggressive attacks against University management, and negative campaigns regarding the current round of negotiations with the NTEU.

I would ask that, in looking towards 2009, the Guild take the opportunity during this review to carefully consider what its role on campus is and should be, in terms of ensuring it is directing its resources towards enhancing the student experience and the University in a positive way and how it chooses to position itself in relation to University staff generally (including management) The Senate is very aware of the considerable support currently provided to the Guild by the University.

These considerations are particularly pertinent in an environment where, per recent Federal government announcements, the University may expect to begin collecting fees from students for directing towards Murdoch student services needs, and to begin planning on the most appropriate ways for administering these funds for the best return to the broader Murdoch University student community.

I would appreciate your response to the matters raised, and whether in your view continued conduct such as that outlined above is consistent with an expectation that the University's financial and in-kind support will also continue.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Budge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Terry Budge  
**Chancellor**

cc Basha Stasak  
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