Lee, Sue

From: Alexander, Karen
Sent: 06 September 2007 16:16
To: d.colquhoun@ucl.ac.uk
Subject: Patrick Holford

Dear Professor Colquhoun,

Thank you for your correspondence relating to the University's recent decision to confer the title of Visiting Professor upon Patrick Holford, and apologise for the delay in responding due to the fact that I have only just returned from annual vacation.

As you are probably aware, I was not personally present at the meeting of the Professorial Conferment Committee (PCC) where Mr Holford's case for conferment was discussed and I am therefore unable to comment, at this stage, on the extent to which the Committee was aware of some or all of the issues that have been raised. As I am sure that you are also aware, the University has well established procedures for making such conferment decisions, based upon a combination of a personal CV, a citation from the nominating School and a number of both personal and independent references. I can confirm that information from all these sources was available to the Committee when it reached its decision.

I would also like to stress that the proposal to confer the title of Visiting Professor upon Mr Holford came from our School of Social Sciences and Law, not our School of Health and Social Care and was not in any way linked to the University's work in the field of nutrition. The University has, in recent years, made significant strides in building its research base, not least in the area of public health and nutrition, but it was not my understanding that Mr Holford would have any involvement at all in this aspect of the University's research activity, and his research activities would be solely linked to our work in Psychology within our School of Social Sciences & Law. Further, the exact title that Mr Holford may be permitted to use has yet to be agreed with the University and is a subject of discussion between myself, as Chair of PCC, or my Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise), who is Vice-Chair of PCC, the Dean of School and Mr Holford – a discussion which has not yet taken place.

Thank you once again for drawing your concerns to my attention. I have invited relevant colleagues to look into the information that you have provided to ensure that the Professorial Conferment Committee was in possession of accurate information at the time it reached its decision.

With kind regards.

Professor Graham Henderson
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