Submission from Campbell Scott

I graduated from St. Andrews University in 1971 and am therefore a member of its General Council. I am currently a research scientist at a large US information technology company. As such, I am concerned that the subject Bill, if passed, will do irreparable harm to the academy quality, vitality of research and traditions of Scotland’s first university and its peers.

Each of Scotland’s Universities is unique. My brother and many of my friends went to Edinburgh. Other friends went to Glasgow and Aberdeen. One was in the first class to matriculate at Stirling. We all have different experiences to share and compare, adding to the diversity of our individual lives and our common culture. In Higher Education, one size does not fit all. From my perspective of 44 years since graduation, 6000 miles of distance, and a worldwide view of academic institutions, their students as interns, and their graduates, Scottish Universities rank among the best in the world. There is thus no need for government oversight of the entire system. Let the best institutions govern themselves in the way that has been successful for centuries or decades as the case may be, adapting and reinventing as times dictate.

By all means, if there are specific problems with a particular institution that the Scottish Parliament can identify, it should have the authority to step in and help it to solve them. But as they here say in the States, “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it”.

Sincerely,
Campbell Scott