Submission from Dr A C Campbell

Dear Sir,

The Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill

I am writing to indicate my strong objection to this proposed legislation which I believe will have a very deleterious effect on the Scottish Universities as a whole and upon the Ancient Universities in particular. The system of governance as applied through the existing constitution of the University Courts has served the universities well and assisted them in becoming highly respected institutions, both nationally and internationally. At the centre of this is their autonomy which protects them from interference, particularly from politicians with agendas. History has shown how one very distinguished university institution, Trinity College Dublin, suffered a decline in reputation following political interference post 1921. It has took TCD 50 years or so to recover from the effects of this. There is no doubt that the legislation now being considered will reduce the reputation of the Scottish Universities and student applications will suffer. A decline will be bad for Higher Education, for the economy which benefits from it and for the future generations of students. In a sentence this will do no good. It is unnecessary: *If it ain't broke don't fix it!*

Yours faithfully

Dr A.C.Campbell