Submission from Ms Susan Bickford  
Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Bill

Dear Committee Clerk,

I write to express my extreme concerns about the above Bill. My unhappiness is with the intent of the Bill. I leave it to those more capable than I to comment on it point by point.

I do not believe it is in Scotland’s interests that its Higher Education Institutions should have their governance dictated to them any further than is already the case. I don’t consider it to be the business of the Scottish Parliament to legislate on how these institutions run themselves. I see no benefit to the country, but do see much pointless, wasted, time, effort, money.

Scotland has several universities with worldwide reputations for excellence, for innovation, for scholarship. They work. They benefit the national economy. They raise Scotland's standing in the world. An important part of their strength is their individuality. Enforcing a level of consistency across the governance, indeed of almost any aspect, of separate institutions causes a considerable amount of entirely unproductive upheaval to them all, and invariably particularly penalizes the outstanding.

I repeat: These institutions work. With respect: Leave Them Alone.

Yours faithfully,  
Susan Bickford