

Appendix M

Petition to the University Mediator signed by ten members of the academic staff, University of Waikato

To
Bethea Weir
Mediator
The University of Waikato
Hamilton

Dear Bethea,

we understand that 10 Jewish members of staff have lodged a formal harassment complaint against a Ph.D. candidate in FASS who is listed by the American Nitzkor project, an organisation which identifies people active in denial activities of the holocaust and derision and defamation of members of the international Jewish community. We understand the candidate has also engaged in the publication of racist and deeply insensitive cultural statements.

We urge the university to analyze these statements carefully and in detail and to determine how they appear as regards

(1) general ethical principles upheld by the University
(2) its regulations regarding "Misconduct" namely clause f) of the Calendar Regulations: "Misconduct includes conduct which could reasonably be held to be prejudicial to the functioning or interest of the University, as well as behaviour which could reasonably be taken to bring the reputation of the University into disrepute, wherever that behaviour takes place", University Calendar P. 264)

We wish to express our solidarity with our Jewish colleagues in this deeply distressing situation and urge the University to take a stance on this issue, which we consider a touchstone of inter-cultural relations.

We write this letter in the spirit of our responsibility as academics to uphold a tolerant and hate-free academic environment and academic integrity and to make sure that no member of the University violates basic principles enshrined in the Treaty of Waitangi. Furthermore, we seek to ensure that our Jewish colleagues who lost loved ones in the holocaust are not subject to any form of derision whatsoever.

We would be grateful if you could keep us informed about the progress of your inquiries.

Hamilton 16/11/99

Norman Franke
Benjamin Gibbs
Judith Macdonald
Michael Goldsmith
Bill Bolstad
Carly S. Colborne

Mel Jorgensen
(Murray Jorgensen)
Jan F. S.
Ms Jones