

From Kelly Roe to kim.sterelny@anu.edu.au and vc@anu.edu.au April 12, 2022 7:56am

(1) I apologise for including the Vice Chancellor into this email. I do not know the appropriate administrative person to contact within the ANU. I trust the VC is able to forward this email to whoever is appropriate within the ANU.

(2) I was the recipient of a Summer Research Scholarship to the Research School of Social Sciences. I worked with Professor Martin Davies of the Philosophy Program. We had weekly meetings over the summer and he provided readings to me and asked me to send him a certain amount of written work in time for him to read it before our weekly meeting the next week.

(3) At the end of the Scholarship I had a written essay that I read or delivered in a seminar slot. He said it was 'as good as anything that had been done here'. I asked him to write me a reference for my PhD applications. He said that I should not apply to the USA and Australasia at the same time because of the way that funding rounds worked. If I accepted an offer of place from Australasia and then heard back from USA then if I declined the Australasian place at that point it would be too late for the Australasian place to replace me with another student because of the way that funding rounds worked. He also refused to write me a reference for my USA applications.

(4) I acted in good faith with the ANU by holding off applying for a year because I wanted to study a 5 year program (breadth and depth requirement) and undertake 2 years of graduate level coursework before writing my PhD.

(5) I did not obtain an offer of place from MIT or Cornell, so the following year I applied to the Australian National University, Macquarie, and University of Queensland. I was offered funded places at all of these Universities. Martin Davies did not supply me with a reference for my applications -- but he did say that he would put in a good word for me with the ANU.

(6) Martin Davies, at that time, had moved to take up a Professorship at Oxford. I do not know what would have happened if I had have started my PhD with him before he left (if I had have applied to do that rather than applying to the USA).

(7) When I arrived to the ANU I was informed that Kim Sterelny was the best fit for my type of project (naturalisation or science of psychiatry).

(8) I don't think that we had any supervision meetings.

(9) I have records of having given talks to the department and producing written work that I delivered in talk format to the department -- but I distinctly remember that I was not allowed to give my 6 monthly review talk until after I had been enrolled for around 1 year.

(10) I do not know what my supervisor said about my progress over or during that year.

(11) I was granted an Australian National University Vice Chancellor's Award to be a visiting scholar for 1 academic year to the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill after I had been at the Australian National University for around 1 and 1/2 years. This put my ANU enrolment on hold for 1 year. I suppose my progress would be been written up as satisfactory for me to have been granted that award and been allowed to serve as some kind of ambassador for the ANU.

(12) I was not allowed to give my mid-term talk before leaving for North Carolina. I had written work that I presented to the department, again, but I do not believe that the department regarded this to be my mid-term.

(13) I gave a talk that was to be my mid-term after returning from North Carolina. Kim Sterelny refused to come to fellows after the talk when he made a very big deal of always showing support to his other students by going to fellows and dinner with the department every time one of his students completed a thesis milestone.

(14) The only faculty member to come to fellows was Jonathan Schaffer to say that he just spent the last hour trying to persuade Kim that my talk 'wasn't that bad'.

(15) The day before my 6 monthly review and the day before my mid-term Kim had asked to see the talk that I planned on giving to fulfil that requirement. Both times he launched into a tirade about how my work wasn't good enough, and wasn't of the correct format etc. He tried to bully me out of regarding the talk or my writing to be enough for completion of the progress milestone.

(16) None of my work that I gave him was forwarded on to external examiners such that if he was personally too busy and / or too lazy to help a demonstrably capable student from being signed off or acknowledged to have completed satisfactory thesis within the scholarship funding period of time, the external examiners be allowed to state concretely what needed to be altered in order for the external examiners to sign off on completion of the research thesis.

(17) The ANU knew the quality of my work and how I was willing and able to work in the ANU environment from my summer school research. I am concerned that the ANU was acting in bad faith when they decided to offer me a scholarship funded place based on that knowledge and then went on only to offer me bullying once I arrived to work on my PhD.

(18) I have asked the Records Department to supply me with what information they have from my supervisor about what meetings we had, about my progression on my milestones (6 monthly review and mid-term review) and what work was sent to external examiners or why work was not sent to external examiners.

(19) One of the RSSS Philosophy Programs other students got funding from the ANU to do 2 PhD's. That is to say, Carl Brusse's work was not sent to external examiners for one lot of PhD funding for a PhD. Then he was given funding to do another PhD with the ANU. I don't know if Kim Sterelny funded him out of his own personal research funds that he gets or if he decided to forsake some of his own personal salary that he gets for supervising students (since he didn't have any teaching requirement at the ANU) or if the ANU or the Australian Government decided that it would be appropriate for Carl Brusse to be funded at PhD level for at least 6 years before getting his work to external examiners so that they could examine it and sign off that he had done enough for a PhD.

(20) Kim Sterelny informs me that I 'only got 1 bite of the Cherry' or some such nonsense.

(21) I wanted to study Medicine. I am a NZ citizen and not Australian. I believed that I was not eligible for Australian loans to study Medicine in Australia. I was informed by University of Auckland that they wouldn't acknowledge a qualification from an Australian University and I needed to have completed a qualification from a NZ University within the last 5 years in order to apply to the Medical Program.

(22) I discovered the University of Waikato (my former undergraduate university) offered a 1 EFT, 1 year research MPhil Degree. I asked specifically whether completing that would count for Medicine entry and was informed that it would. My GPA would come from my previous study with Waikato since the MPhil was ungraded pass-fail like a PhD.

(23) The University of Waikato refused to enrol me in the programme I applied to (when nobody else had applied to that programme). They delayed my starting enrolment. Then they refused to get theses that I submitted for examination out to external examiners in order to prevent and prohibit my timely completion of the research qualification.

(24) I was asked specifically how it was that the ANU managed to prevent me from completing / how it was that the ANU managed to not sign off that I had completed my PhD with the ANU. I said that I wasn't really sure, but I thought that Kim Sterelny and the wider department and the University simply refused to acknowledge any of the work that I did and refused to acknowledge the completion of any of my milestones.

(25) The University of Waikato then refused to get my work to external examiners (even when I got signed delivery acknowledgement they received my thesis submissions).

(26) The Vice Chancellor of the University of Waikato directed me to complain to the courts of NZ if I didn't like how they were treating me.

(27) New Zealand got Justice Toogood out of retirement to hear the proceedings (he was involved in having the report written about the death of Mason Pendrous in a residential hall in Canterbury. Justice Toogood makes false assertions in his written Judgment. Including asserting that they refused to get my work to external examiners because I was attempting to complete the 1 year enrolment 'too early' by submitting my work in time to allow up to 3 months external examination to be concluded before re-enrolment (and additional fees) were required.

(28) NZ Universities believe that in order to complete a 1 year research project you must work for 1 year before submitting your thesis for examination. Then the examination takes 3 months. Then the outcome of what they like to call 'first examination' is to do an additional 6 months work. This is to be followed by another 3 months of examination before (this varies by University) another 10 weeks of changes (University of Waikato). That is to say, the student who applied to be enrolled in a 1 EFT 1 year MPhil is required to 'work' for (and pay fees for) no less than 20 1/2 months of enrolment. Otherwise they are attempting to complete under 'truncated enrolment period' (according to Justice Toogood) which justifies the University refusing to get the work to external examiners.

(29) The University also sent my 120 point 1 EFT MPhil Masters thesis (of under 50,000 words) out with instructions for the external examiners to write 'doctoral reports' of it. That is to say, they requested that they examine it for the wrong qualification. This meant the external examiners could only say that more work was required (it was to effectively double in length). The NZ external examiner, more particularly, wrote a very lengthy report providing enough changes for the thesis to be doubled in length if I were to do everything they asked or suggested. They were clearly saying that the student's project was 'enough' for the student to proceed to PhD -- but the University of Waikato had no right to ask external examiners to examine the thesis for that qualification.

(30) During my time at the ANU Kim Sterelny wrote 'his slavery manifesto' or 'the evolved apprentice' where he writes about the prevention and prohibition of the development of a skilled labor workforce by refusing to develop an apprenticeship system by refusing to train workers and refusing to pay workers. He was employed at Victoria University of Wellington Wellington New Zealand (not to be confused with Victoria University Australia) and the Australian National University in a joint position. But then the Philosophy of Mind people left Australia (Martin Davies, Dave Chalmers) and so it looks like he gets pretty much all that research funding for himself, and maybe Carl, one day. I think Carl has subsequently been funded for 2 lots of post-doctoral research fellowship.

(31) It seems to me that the Australian National University acted in bad faith with me. Taking my research work and refusing to sign off on my milestones. My work was good enough for me to be offered more funding and to be offered extensions with more funding but my work was never given to externals so I was never seen by anyone outside the ANU to have completed the requirements of a PhD to international standards. The ANU refused to allow anybody to sign off on completion.

(32) Other graduates of the ANU were never given jobs -- but their life partners have jobs in Philosophy or jobs with the NZ government contract procurement so that they can live off of their salary. Brett Calcott and Ben Jeffares were both NZ students who Kim supported enough to complete their PhD and then get post-doctoral fellowships but, I believe, no further Philosophy or Academic or NZ Government funding has been granted to them since they finished their PhD and post-doctoral fellowships. Brett's wife is actually from the USA so they chose to hire an American graduate student rather than hiring him (when they both worked in similar fields).

(33) It seems to me that the Australian National University has acted in bad faith in their dealing and interaction with me, more particularly, since I was never allowed to complete the qualification and was only bullied into leaving because I was repeatedly told over and over and over that competitive research funding meant there would never ever ever ever ever be a job for me.

(34) I chose to pursue vocational training (Medicine). But Philosophy won't even allow me to get signed off on 1 year of research completed in 1 year so that I can take up a place in that program (or not) on the basis of my rank order score. Auckland apparently sells the places to the highest bidder or briber or gifts the places to the children of the administrator, or similar, and it is soooo competitive that there never ever ever ever ever will be a job for me.

(35) 'Students' have a right to know that Australasian 'Universities' regard themselves to be slave or detention camp facilities where they are entitled to refuse to acknowledge progress or allow progress of students.

(36) I have asked the ANU for student records so I can see how it is that the ANU gave me various scholarships that were supposed to be merit based only to refuse to allow me to be signed off as having completed my time of being a student and freaking get on with sharing the research funding around.

Kelly Roe.

