

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 2
Output Group: 2.4 – Funding for higher education.

DEST Question No. E369_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

I note that you tell us that Victorian Minister Lynn Kosky has assessed that MUP has met the research publications criterion she set for it. A list of the publications appears in the MUP Annual Report.

a) Is this the list that Minister Kosky considered, or was it the list that was the subject of quite intense scrutiny at the Committee hearing in Melbourne on 19 August 2004?

I ask because the two lists are not the same. Some of the items that I drew attention to at that hearing – items that did not meet either DEST's or any other standard criteria for bona fide refereed research publications – have vanished.

b) Why did MUP remove some publications from the list?

In addition to some of the publications having vanished, some have been added. I must say that this one, with the additions I have referred to, is quite an improvement. Those new articles and papers listed seem to have better credentials.

c) Has DEST examined this list and compared it with the earlier one, available last year?

The report claims (p11) that DEST has "recognised this list of publications – it presents it as a "List of DEST-recognised publications 2004".

d) Did the Department have a role in assessing the publications? Have you formally recognised them? Or is MUP doing no more than claiming that these publications are of the types that DEST recognises?

Answer:

Melbourne University Private

a) The list of publications was not tabled at the hearing and DEST is therefore not in a position to answer the question. The Senator may wish to refer this question to Minister Kosky.

b) The list of publications was not tabled at the hearing and DEST is therefore not in a position to answer the question. Melbourne University may be able to assist the Senator.

c) The list of publications was not tabled at the hearing and DEST has therefore not compared it to other lists. Melbourne University may be able to assist the Senator.

d) HEPs exercise their own judgement in determining which research publications meet DEST's requirements for inclusion in publications counts. DEST does not assess or formally recognise the publications. Nor does DEST audit or check HEPs' publications counts. In

DEST's experience, HEPs take considerable care to ensure that their publications counts are accurate.

DEST's research publication requirements are set out in the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) Specifications. The 2005 HERDC Specifications are available from http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/online_forms_services/documents/specs2005_pdf.htm.

Melbourne University may be able to assist the Senator with the third part of the question.