To whom it may concern:

I refer to the proposed RSHA structure. I will keep my remarks brief, given that I assume as a mere former student they carry no weight.

Nevertheless:

1. I valued highly my studies at the ANU. Without the time and care of my teachers my life would be significantly poorer. My studies have led me to be a better thinker, a more critical adult, more awake to the drama of human life, a more responsible citizen.

2. The continued and exclusive focus of the university executive on applying the theory of comparative advantage to its institutions and members is creating an overspecialised and pointless organisation which is losing sight of the actual intellectual and academic value of the disciplines involved. It is building an intellectual banana republic. I might refer you to Goodhart's law; this focus draws away from the creation of perceptive adults and will contribute to the decay of social fabrics, of human politics, of a people's ability to think. It is profoundly anti-modern. By such small steps you are dooming your own dreams.

3. The dulling of reason asserted at point 2 is highlighted by your use of declining student numbers in some of the affected disciplines. Might it be that students are moving away from these disciplines because there is no longer critical mass of courses or academics in these areas? I refer particularly to gender studies, where available courses have shrunk seriously in recent years:

2000 level GEND courses on offer 2009-14:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
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4. I refer also to the continual ageism demonstrated by the ANU in seeking to pressure academics over 55 to retire. It is as if older human beings no longer have anything left intellectually to offer the young. This is certainly counter to my experience at the ANU, where the better teachers tended to be those with longer and deeper experience.

As I say, I imagine these thoughts carry no weight. I only hope to shame you.

Yours sincerely,

Aaron Kirby