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Mr. John Carter  
Secretary to the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations  
and Education Committee  
Suite SG52  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Carter:

I appreciate this opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee as it considers the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2005 Measures No. 4) Bill 2005 and the Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment Bill 2005. These amendments are a necessary precondition for Carnegie Mellon University to operate a successful branch in Adelaide, South Australia and I urge the Committee to support their passage.

**Issues Related to the ESOS Amendment Bill 2005**

At present, foreign universities like Carnegie Mellon must establish a formal Australian legal entity (i.e., a wholly owned subsidiary) in order to enrol international students. Passing the ESOS amendment would provide myriad benefits to the students themselves, their home nations and Australia.

There are students around the world who might wish to obtain a US credential, but do not wish to attend a university in the US. For these students, the opportunity to study in Australia and obtain a US degree is greatly appealing. Passage of the ESOS amendment will ensure that Australia has access to this large market of students and we anticipate that the opening of Carnegie Mellon University will increase the number of students studying in South Australia. Both the State of South Australia and the Australian Government have a strategic goal of branding Australia as “an education destination” and we believe that Carnegie Mellon can help achieve this goal. Recognized among the top universities in the world and as one of the top ten policy schools in the United States, our reputation will attract new international students to Australia.

Additionally, Carnegie Mellon's masters programs in public policy and information technology will attract future leaders of both government and industry. There is long-term benefit to the Australian Government in having future leaders of other nations trained on Australian soil, and understanding and appreciating the Australian context. Carnegie Mellon alumni form an international network of influential leaders in both the public and private sectors and their ties to one another encourage strong cooperative relationships on a global level.

**Issues Related to the Higher Education Legislation Amendment (2005 Measures No. 4) Bill 2005**

Passage of the HESA Amendment would allow Australian students interested in attending Carnegie Mellon to access FEE-HELP and would provide them with more options for pursuing advanced degrees. This flexibility would allow all students, regardless of socio-economic status, an opportunity to study at a foreign university on Australian soil. Providing this access to Australian citizens—and allowing them to obtain a Carnegie Mellon degree and build the international networks described above—benefits all Australians.

Carnegie Mellon consistently seeks opportunities to collaborate and cooperate with its peer institutions and we have been building relationships with other universities in South Australia. Flinders University and Carnegie Mellon have discussed a number of areas for collaboration and will begin with cross-teaching of courses, joint research (one project is already underway), and co-location of Flinders' faculty at the Carnegie Mellon site in Adelaide. We have also discussed opportunities for joint student projects, speakers and internships. Meetings with the University of Adelaide have explored areas in which we might cooperate on student services and meetings with departments within the University of South Australia have focused on possibilities for research in the information technology area. We expect that our relationships with our peers in South Australia will, like those in the US, serve as opportunities for innovation and collaboration.

As the first foreign university to complete a National Protocol 2 application, I can say with some experience that the Commonwealth's broad criteria and the State's process demonstrate the necessary rigor to ensure proper protection of Australia's higher education sector. Universities that are approved under this Protocol should be able to enrol overseas students on their Australian campuses.

For the reasons above, I commend the passage of these amendment bills and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Brenda Peyser  
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