

12 June 2020

Settlement of the Federal Court case WAD303/2019

This statement represents my personal views. I am not suggesting in any way that the views expressed here represent the views of my university, Murdoch University, or of the Senate of Murdoch University or of any other group that I belong to.

I am pleased to announce that my university, Murdoch University, and I have succeeded in finding a resolution to the Federal Court Case that commenced in May 2019.

This court case followed my criticism of our university's international student recruitment practices, expressed in the Four Corners episode 'Cash Cows' of 6 May 2019. Within days of that program, the then-Chancellor of Murdoch University proposed a motion intended to remove me from my elected position on the Senate. I commenced legal proceedings to protect my role on the university's governing board and thereby to protect the voice of those who had elected me.

The key elements of the agreement are expressed in the following joint public statement:

"Associate Professor Schröder-Turk and Murdoch University have decided to withdraw all legal claims against each other in the Federal Court Case WAD303/2019, as part of an agreed resolution.

The Chancellor of Murdoch University confirms that Murdoch University has permanently withdrawn the Senate motion to remove Associate Professor Schröder-Turk from his office as Senate member elected by and from the academic staff that was proposed in May 2019.

Murdoch University shall continue with its preparations for, and shall facilitate a comprehensive and independent review of its Senate governance processes as part of a University Senate review.

Associate Professor Schröder-Turk remains a valued member of both the Murdoch University academy and of the Murdoch University Senate."

I look forward to continuing to contribute to the governance of Murdoch University through my membership of its Senate, and to contributing, as a member of the academic community, to the broader public discussion around governance and international student practices in Australia's higher education sector.

I would like to express my gratitude to all individuals, groups and associations who have contributed to the public discussion in relation to this dispute and its subject matter.

I would also like to express my profound gratitude for the overwhelming public support and sympathy extended to me and my family over the last seven months. This support was not merely helpful, it was essential for coping with a very challenging and stressful, and at times hurtful, year.

I thank the National Tertiary Education Union for support and Maurice Blackburn Lawyers for legal advice.

Onwards and upwards, I am dreaming constructively towards an academia where happy academics and happy students thrive in a tertiary sector whose purpose is defined through open and informed debate, and which is guided by strategic priorities for the long-term benefit of our society.

