



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Mr Bill Shorten, Vice-Chancellor, University of Canberra

Reference: UC Annual Report 2023

Hearing: 21 February 2025

In relation to: University of Canberra hiring process

Question received: 27 February 2025

Answer Due: 6 March 2025

1) Regarding reporting from earlier this month is that Vice Chancellor Shorten's former speechwriter has followed him to the University of Canberra, can you tell us exactly what role this former speechwriter currently holds?

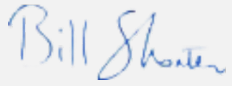
2) Can you confirm that she went through the same hiring process and consideration that any other staff member would be expected to undertake?

The Hon Bill Shorten: The answer to the Member's question/s is as follows:

- (1) The office of the Vice-Chancellor is a majority of existing UC staff. The office is half the size of the previous Vice-Chancellor and is within budget allocation. A staff member has been employed that has previous connection to the Vice-Chancellor. This role covers a broad remit, including speech writing, strategic communications and policy review. She worked for five years for the Vice-Chancellor of UNSW and has added considerable value to the Office of the Vice-Chancellor in a short time. She is a keen supporter of UC as an alumni of the former Canberra College of Advanced Education (CCAEE).
- (2) The hiring process followed the ordinary approvals for Vice-Chancellor appointments commensurate with the level of the position. It is unexceptional that a Vice Chancellor may bring a staff member or two with them to their new role. Staffing decisions are made within the allocated budget. No existing UC staff were displaced as a result of hiring externally.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Shorten". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Signature:

Date: 6 March 2025

By the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canberra, the Hon Bill Shorten