

Amer 15

Complaint of Mr Blanche

Interview with Prof. Paul Rees

Date Monday, 22 May 2023
Time 12 noon
Location Room 133, Richard Price building, Swansea University
Present Billy Seagrim ('BS') and Paul Rees ('PR')

Introductions made.

Purpose of meeting explained by BS, *i.e.*, investigating the complaint of Geoffrey Blanche ('GB'), it includes an allegation that there was a university-wide conspiracy to fail GB, that this was dishonest/fraudulent behaviour, involving, amongst others, GB's supervisors. The investigation will not challenge the academic judgement of markers or the Board. The way this Stage 2 complaint has arisen is that GB appealed, and the filtering committee transferred it to a complaint. The final review of that decision was dismissed.

BS was taking notes.

BS stated that the interview was entirely voluntary, and HS could leave at any time.

BS I understand you became one of GB's supervisors, explain how that arose?

PR Yes. Taken on by CK, the very first supervisor, GB went through a number. I was brought in fairly late in the game. My role was to organise a viva and ensure it was fair. We had to make sure he went to viva and ensure we had a robust and sensible examining team.

BS What communications did you have with GB as supervisor?

PR Mainly or exclusively about getting to the viva. Asked the Chair and probably the internal too.

BS Were you present at the viva?

PR Not present at the viva.

BS Before the viva, what did you say to GB about his work, if anything?

PR Probably nothing.

BS GB alleges a conspiracy to fail him, fraudulently, and it was driven by a desire to cover up historical crimes he exposed against JWN. How do you respond?

PR It was the complete opposite. Despite concerns, we did organise a viva. Organised a very fair set of examiners. Key is that GB has to defend his work, from a scientific point of view. It gave GB ample chance to have his work examined.

- BS What could you gain from such conspiracy?
- PR Absolutely nothing. If he was correct, we would be holding him up as the champion of Swansea, and giving him Nobel prizes. The champion of the world.
- BS What would the university gain?
- PR Nothing.
- BS GB says there was an agenda to fail him motivated by anti-GB sentiment owing to his views on COVID-19 vaccinations and Swansea University. What do you say to that?
- PR He didn't do his experiments in the lab because of COVID. I can't point to any conspiracy. No causal link between his invention and COVID. They're completely independent.
- BS Did the VC have any contact with you?
- PR I had no communication with Paul Boyle. By the way, if GB was right we would applaud him. The most significant discovery in the history of science.
- BS Are you aware of any conspiracy?
- PR No. All I wanted was to ensure he was viva'd in a fair way.
- BS Were you present at the viva?
- PR No.
- BS Did you have any involvement after the viva?
- PR No involvement after the viva. He would have been entitled to contact me and I would have been compelled to meet.
- BS Anything else to add.
- PR No.