

Open Letter to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania from Alumni of the Law School

We, the undersigned student and academic Alumni of the University of Tasmania Law School, are gravely concerned about recent developments at the Law School.

Particularly we are concerned at the permanent abolition of face-to-face lectures and the reduction of lectures to only one hour per subject per week. Further, the teaching load of academic staff has been significantly increased, at the expense of time available for their research, student and community engagement.

The changes have led to great dissatisfaction amongst both the students and academic staff. A significant number of the latter, including many leading researchers and teachers, have now left the School, with more likely to follow.

These matters strike at the heart of the Law School's teaching, research, publication and contribution to the general community, in all of which the Law School has previously excelled.

Students understand that their best education lies in a collegial, in-person and nurturing environment, where they freely mix with their teachers and peers. Lowering the quality of the law degree will see many choose interstate universities instead, with obvious consequences.

We urge that you immediately act to reverse these retrograde developments, and provide assurance that they will not be repeated. Our students, staff and community deserve nothing less.