Would you like to make a submission or provide feedback about the independence of the advocacy provided by the SSAA Student Academic Advisers? The Academic Advice and Advocacy Audit Panel (Audit Panel) is now conducting a review of the independence of the advocacy provided by the SSAA Student Academic Advisers, and is keen to hear your views.

Students, staff and the Student Academic Advisers are welcome to lodge submissions about this issue with the Audit Panel at any time. However, the Audit Panel conducts an annual review, and you now have an opportunity to participate in that review by making a written submission to the Audit Panel regarding the independence of the Student Academic Advisers, or by making a submission in person.

Written submissions must be lodged by 5 pm on 24 September 2010.

A meeting of the Audit Panel will be held at the Hawthorn campus between 10.00am – 1.00pm on Monday 11 October 2010.

If you wish to make a submission in writing, this should be addressed to the Chair of the Audit Panel care of Ms Juliana Durovic, Governance and Policy Unit, by email jdurovic@swin.edu.au or by internal mail H2.

You are welcome to include in your submission whatever information and comments you consider to be relevant to the issue of the independence of the Student Academic Advisers. Please note that the Audit Panel's terms of reference do not extend beyond the review of the independence of the Student Academic Advisers, and that it therefore will be unable to consider submissions made regarding any other aspect of the Academic Advice and Advocacy services.

The Audit Panel is of course concerned to ensure that the privacy of those students who use the Academic Advice and Advocacy services is protected. Therefore, if you wish to draw the attention of the Audit Panel to a concern regarding the services provided to any particular student (other than yourself), please do not provide the name or any identifying details in respect of that student.

If you wish to make a submission in person, please contact Juliana Durovic on 92145713 to make arrangements.

You are also welcome to meet with the Audit Panel for the purpose of discussing any written submission you make, and if you wish to do so you should let Juliana Durovic know when you lodge your submission.

Any submission that you provide will be treated as strictly confidential and private. You will not be individually identified in any information or reports produced from your submission. Further details of Swinburne's Privacy Policy can be accessed at http://www.swinburne.edu.au/privacy.htm.

Please do not hesitate to contact Juliana Durovic if you have any questions, or would like to speak to the Chair of the Audit Panel before making a submission.

About the Audit Panel

The Swinburne Student Amenities Association Limited Academic Advice and Advocacy services are provided under an Independent Academic and Advocacy Charter. That Charter sets out a number of requirements which apply to the Student Academic Advisers when advising and
advocating on behalf of a student. One of these is the requirement that the Student Academic Advisers should be 'completely independent and impartial'.

The Audit Panel was established by the Swinburne Council pursuant to the Independent Academic Advice and Advocacy Charter.

The role of the Audit Panel is to:

- Review for independence the advocacy provided by the Student Academic Advisers employed by Swinburne Student Amenities Association Limited;
- Receive and respond to any submissions made to the Audit Panel by the Student Academic Advisers in relation to their independence; and
- Receive and respond to any submissions made to the Audit Panel by staff and students in relation to the independence of the Student Academic Advisers.

The Audit Panel members are Geraldine Farrell and Stephen van der Mye, who are both external members of the Swinburne Council, and Mayank Parekh, who is a Council member elected by the students.

For more information, please go to

http://www.swinburne.edu.au/corporate/registrar/advocacy_audit_panel/