APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF NATURALJUSTICE TO ISSUES IN UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this research are to examine the application of the principles of natural justice to issues in university governance, determine the extent of the power of the university to discipline students and to determine the power of the courts to review the proceedings of disciplinary panels. The methodology was based on the use of secondary data. The secondary data were collected from textbooks, journals, magazines, periodicals, internet, etc. The research findings include: first, the university is statutorily empowered to discipline students; secondly a defect in disciplinary proceedings can render the entire proceedings void; and thirdly, where the issue involves a criminal misconduct, the student(s) could face proper trial in a court of competent jurisdiction. It is recommended that to avoid a miscarriage of justice, staff and students’ disciplinary proceedings must comply with the basic requirements of natural justice.

Keywords: Natural Justice, Fair Hearing, Secret Cult