

1. The Senate at a meeting yesterday heard a report from the Vice-Chancellor of the events which took place in Wivenhoe House on Tuesday afternoon the 7th May and of subsequent related events.
2. The Senate affirms that the University must uphold the principle that any group of individuals in the University is free to invite any speaker and to arrange with him the subject on which he is to address them; and that no other individuals or groups within the University have any right to prevent such a speaker and group communicating on the subject of their choice, except by way of action through the courts. The Senate noted that the right of peaceful demonstration has never in this University been in question.
3. The Senate heard an account from the Vice-Chancellor of the steps he took in order to uphold this principle, and it fully endorses his action. In his exclusion of three students from the University from the 10th May until the second Senate meeting thereafter the Senate believes that the Vice-Chancellor acted in full accordance with the Statutes of the University. Furthermore the Senate recognises that the situation as it stood on Friday the 10th May constrained the Vice-Chancellor to act in the way he did.
4. The Senate noted that the effect of calling the special meeting was to terminate the exclusion of the three students on the 22nd May and not the 19th June.
5. The Senate believes that the views subsequently expressed at meetings of staff and students open the way to a useful method of procedure. It is therefore setting up a Committee of Inquiry to investigate the events of Tuesday the 7th May, to consider how responsibility might be assigned for what happened, and to discuss how the principle of freedom of speech enunciated above bears upon this case. For the purpose of the inquiry, no action by the Vice-Chancellor shall be construed as having prejudged the case of any individual. The Committee shall on the basis of its investigation present a full report and recommendations for action to the Senate for its next meeting on the 22nd May.
6. In order that the membership of the Committee should be representative and independent, the Committee of Inquiry is being constituted by asking the Staff/Student Liaison Committees in each Department to meet at 12.30 p. m. today, 16th May, and to elect one member of staff and one student (neither necessarily being members of the Staff/Student Committee) to serve on the Committee of Inquiry, but excluding persons present at the events concerned and excluding the Deans. The Senate has appointed Dr. A. King to act as convenor and rapporteur and as chairman at the first meeting. It will be open to the Committee to co-opt Dr. King to act as chairman or to appoint its own chairman as it thinks fit.

7. The Senate requests the Committee of Inquiry to invite the three students excluded by the Vice-Chancellor to assist in the inquiry. The Vice-Chancellor has authorised the three students to be admitted to the University for this purpose. Other persons who wish to assist the inquiry are invited to inform Dr. King, as convenor, of their intention as soon as possible, preferably with some brief indication of the help they propose to give.

8. The Senate at its next meeting will set up a separate Committee to consider regulations concerning the freedom of speech and demonstration in the University, to investigate the University's order and disciplinary procedure and related matters, and to make recommendations.

9. Meanwhile as an interim measure the Senate formally declares that infringement of the rights of any members of the University as set out in paragraph 2 above constitutes a breach of discipline of the University.

10. The Senate recognises that it should deal with a number of other points arising out of the very welcome discussions among members of the University during the past few days and declares its intention to discuss these points at its next meeting.

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