

The following resolution was passed almost unanimously by a meeting of members of the Free University of Essex on Friday, May 17.

This meeting of the Free University of Essex reaffirms, without any equivocation, the principle that any action by any member or members of the university imposing any form of punishment on any other member or members is utterly null and void if not taken in accordance with the legal and moral principles of natural justice which include, among other things, the right of any accused person to be informed of any charge against him, to have an adequate opportunity to prepare his defence, and a full and fair hearing with the right to call any witness he wishes.

The meeting takes note of the various statements issued collectively and individually by members of the Senate. The meeting notes further that these statements are not entirely free from ambiguity. The meeting declares that the only logically and morally consistent interpretation of these statements could be that

1. the three students excluded from the university as a result of incidents attending the visit of Dr Inch last week are fully and without any qualification reinstated as members of the University with all the normal rights of such members;
2. no member of the university is presumed to be guilty of any offence in connection with Dr Inch's visit unless and until a properly constituted court of enquiry shall have, after proceeding according to the principles of natural justice, reached its conclusions;
3. this court of enquiry is free to find any member of the University guilty of moral misconduct.

This meeting of the Free University of Essex will act upon the assumption that this interpretation is correct unless a formal denial is received from Senate by 2 pm on next Monday and in full confidence of the good faith of the Vice-Chancellor.

Finally this general meeting of the Free University resolves that it reconvene at 2 pm next Monday.

The following resolution was also passed almost unanimously by the same meeting.

That this meeting requires that the Committee of Inquiry does not consider any question of anyone's conduct till after 2 pm on Monday next and that the Committee of Inquiry does not accept the Senate's enunciation on the principle of freedom of speech, and feels itself free to accept evidence on the question of that principle, and will make up its mind on the principle for itself.