

MEMORANDUM

From: Keith Ives and Brian Downie

To: All Senate members

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We understand that the Vice Chancellor will be inviting Senate tomorrow to advise him on further action following his temporary exclusion of 3 students.

We feel it appropriate to write to you on this matter in view of the fact that the action has met with extremely widespread and sincere disapproval, by no means confined to students. We realise that this reaction has developed in the inevitable absence of any clear reason having been given so far for the decision. The main aspects of concern are

- i) that the students appear to have been punished without any form of hearing, and
- ii) that three were selected for no apparent good reasons from a much larger group, all of whom feel equally responsible for the situation.

We also believe that there are two aspects of the current attitudes of the bulk of the people whose feelings we hope we represent, which should be stressed; first, that reasonable limits must be set on behaviour in our community; and, second, that guilt of and punishment for breaches of these standards of conduct must be determined by a process which is at the same time authoritative and manifestly fair, for both of which aspects broad support throughout the community is essential and a prerequisite of law and order in any free society. The last thing we wish is for intolerable behaviour to go unpunished.

Finally a comment on the present 'political' situation as we interpret it. Those who sought to turn the sincere sense of grievance of their fellow students to the advantage of a distinctly minority ideology (which does not exclude the use of disorder and violence) have been decisively rebuked by the vast bulk of students and staff who met throughout Monday to discuss these problems. Nevertheless, we are profoundly fearful that should Senate fail to take action which could be regarded as just, that it would be hard indeed to deny the extremists a considerable following whose subsequent action could cause the University incalculable harm. Some form of re-instatement of the 3, so that their final punishment could be awarded by some just process, seems to us an essential part of such action. At the same time, we fervently hope that solution of the underlying problems will not be overlooked as a result of the highlighting of the cases of these individuals.

*if any*

14th May, 1968.