

Wedsdy May 15th

X  
Copies of documents

Sent to Senate members

To: All Members of Senate

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I enclose two letters from your consideration, one is a letter from a firm of solicitors which I consulted on behalf of Students' Council. I am very sorry that it is not possible for me to expand upon this letter at Senate itself. Enquiries to this end have proved fruitless.

15th May 1968

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Dear Mrs. Sloman,

May I take this opportunity of expressing my personal apologies for any inconvenience or anxiety caused by the gathering of members of the University in the vicinity of your house last Friday and for subsequent incidents.

I am certain that the vast majority of students are of a similar opinion to myself. It is my personal opinion, however, that at no time has any member of the University suggested or would condone a suggestion of the use of physical force as a means of achieving our political ends.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Brodie.

To: Mrs. A.E. Sloman  
Members of Senate.



67/70 North Hill,  
Colchester,  
Essex.

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ref: E/1626/D/MT

15th May 1968

Dear Sir,

re: Suspension of Students - Vice Chancellor

We confirm our interview this morning when we discussed with you the question of three students from the University being suspended by the Vice-Chancellor.

First we must say that in the short space of time available to us you must appreciate we have not had a full opportunity of considering the University Charter and application at law in any great detail but it does seem to us that the Vice-Chancellor's action by suspending the students in question is in breach of natural justice.

Paragraph 7 of Section 5 of the Charter in our view gives the Vice-Chancellor wide powers of suspension and exclusion but in the time available it appears to us that the Charter is silent on the question of fair and sufficient notice of the charges made against the students and the question of opportunity for the students to defend themselves and this being so there has been abuse of the quasi-judicial powers of the Vice-Chancellor.

One of the most important applications to quasi-judicial functions is that a man must not be removed from office or membership or otherwise dealt with to his disadvantage without having fair and sufficient notice of the charge and being given an opportunity of defending himself with regard thereto and if the rules of natural justice apply to the Charter, as it seems to us they do, then it is possible at Law to have the proceedings declared void and the member or members affected re-instated and maintained in his rights until the matter has been treated in regular fashion.

If the Vice-Chancellor has not acted in strict accordance to the Charter or if on any particular point the Charter is silent then an application must be made to the Court for the rules of natural justice to apply to the case that we have discussed.

We would like, in due course, to know if the suspension notice given to the students gave reasons for such notice as under Section 5 Paragraph 7 of the Charter the Vice-Chancellor is not obliged to give the reasons although it may be said that even if he did not do so such reasons are common knowledge.

Doubtless you will let us know the outcome of the meeting of the Senate this afternoon and whether you require us to take any further action in which case we will, or course, require a full opportunity of investigating the matter further and taking the advantage of Counsel's Opinion. In the meantime should you require any further assistance or advice please do not hesitate to contact us and we await your further instructions.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) Cunningham Son &amp; Orfeur.

Mr. I. Brody,  
Chairman of the Student Council,  
University of Essex,  
Wivenhoe Park.