

**Jeremy Smith**  
**Department of Economics**  
The University of Warwick  
Coventry CV4 7AL  
Tel: (+44) (0) 24 7652 3336  
Fax: +44(0)24 7652 3032  
Email: jeremy.smith@warwick.ac.uk

Dear Stuart,

**Economics Department Staff Meeting – Motion concerning Statute 24**

At its Staff Meeting on Wednesday, 10 May 2017, the Economics Department discussed the University's proposed reform to Statute 24 and its related Ordinances. The following motion was passed by unanimous vote:

The Economics Department strongly opposes the proposed reform of Statute 24 and its related Ordinances because it infringes upon academic freedom and the intellectual independence of our profession, both in terms of substance and procedure. We urge the university leadership to acknowledge the unique position of academic researchers in producing cutting edge research and challenging established wisdom. The proposed reforms will strongly impact on the job security and academic freedom of academic staff and incorporate a change of contract for academic staff employed by the university.

In addition, we are concerned about recruitment of top academics from outside the UK who are holding jobs under a meaningful tenure system. Comparisons with other UK universities alone are only partly relevant in an international marketplace for top talent. Our statutes should be as attractive as those at leading universities outside the UK, such as in North America and continental Europe. This is not only crucial for individual departments but for the university as a whole if it wants to maintain its research intensity and status in the future.

The Department opposes the proposed changes to Statute 24 and its related Ordinances and hopes that the vote of the Assembly held on 12 May 2017 will strongly inform further action on these reforms.

Yours sincerely,



10 May 2017