

28 March 2017

Dear Stuart,

Law School Staff Meeting – Motion concerning Statute 24

At its Staff Meeting on Wednesday, 15 March 2017, the Law School discussed the University's proposed reform to Statute 24 and its related Ordinances. We believe that the Law School has a particularly important role to perform in ensuring the protection of both substantive academic freedom within our institution and the procedural integrity and rigour in any decision-making process in connection with these proposed reforms.

The following motion was passed by a majority at the meeting:

As a Law School we recognise that the proposed reform of Statute 24 and its related Ordinances infringes upon academic freedom and the intellectual independence of our profession, both in terms of substance and procedure.

We commit therefore to act as an example within the University in communicating the School's concerns to the Vice-Chancellor, and to support the ongoing negotiations and consultations by the trade unions and other colleagues, including supporting any proposed motion for debate of the reforms at a Staff Assembly.

We should add that the meeting was unanimously of the view that the procedure by which it is proposed to replace statute 24, without full prior consultation with the academic community, is inappropriate in view of its importance in relation to academics' contracts and relations between the University and its academic departments.

We would ask that any further consideration of these measures should be put on hold until the University has explained the rationale and expected impact of the proposed changes and has facilitated full consultation with the academic staff, departments and Faculties.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Rebecca Probert and Professor Roger Leng