

Proposer: Hope Worsdale

Warwick No:

Seconder: Nat Panda

Warwick No:

Protect Academic Freedom: Defend Statute 24

Policy Zone: Education

This Union Notes:

1. That the University's Statute 24 covers academic freedom, academic disciplinarys, dismissals and redundancies.¹
2. That Statute 24 affects the rights of academic workers at the University.²
3. That the University is proposing changes to Statute 24 including moving large parts of this statute into Ordinances & policy.³
4. That UCU, the academic union, opposes the wholesale changes to Statute 24, claiming that it will affect job security and academic freedom.⁴
5. That other universities have attempted make similar changes to regulations and have come up against opposition. ^{5 6}

This Union Believes:

1. That academic freedom should be a key value of all universities.
2. That in practice reduced job security can impact upon academic freedom.
3. That any weakening of academic freedom at the University of Warwick would be detrimental to academics, to research students and to taught students.
4. That while Statute 24 might need updating in parts, the contents of Statute 24 should remain largely within Statutes as this provides more checks on future amendments.
5. That moving large parts of Statute 24 to Ordinances or policy could jeopardise academic freedom in the long-term.

This Union Resolves:

1. To oppose the wholesale changes to Statute 24.
2. To show solidarity with and offer reasonable support to students and staff who wish to oppose the changes to Statute 24 and the weakening of academic freedom, including any student- or staff-led direct or industrial action in support of the aims of this policy.
3. To mandate all Students' Union Officers to speak out against these changes in all relevant University fora.

¹ <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/gov/calendar/section2/charterstatutes/secondschedule2/>

² <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/news/intnews2/statute24reform/feb17>

³ <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/news/intnews2/statute24reform>

⁴ <http://warwickucu.org.uk/campaigns/statute-24/>

⁵ <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/unions/UCU/campaigns/statute/index.htm>

⁶ <http://www.leedsucu.org.uk/archives/2282>

- 4. To mandate the President to write to the Vice-Chancellor and Provost setting out the Union's position as described within this policy.

Policy History		
Action	Body	Date

(Please leave the above box blank)