

Student Contracts Motion

CUSU Notes:

1. That the Congregation of Colleges, in Oxford, has created a "Student Contract" which it is encouraging its members to make students to sign, on matriculation.
2. That this contract aims to make it impossible for students to sue the University should they feel that the university has not provided adequate levels of education.
3. In a section headed "Your Undertakings", the following vague phrase: "You undertake to pursue such studies as are required of you by any tutor... or other qualified person assigned by the college to teach you."
4. That should such a contract be successfully implemented in Oxford, it is probable that Cambridge will follow the lead.

CUSU Believes:

1. That it should have a pre-emptive policy on "Student Contracts".
2. That the University should not attempt to force students to sign contracts which set out unfulfillable expectations.
3. That any contract which requires students to attend all lectures and supervisions discriminates against those who may have legitimate reasons for absence (e.g. religious observance, medical appointments or child-minding).
4. That any contract which sets lecture attendance as part of a student's legal responsibility aims to fundamentally change the relationship between the students and the University.
5. The lack of formal requirements for attendance encourages a level of self-discipline which sets Oxbridge graduates apart from those from other Universities.
6. That a contract which formally sets out what each student should expect from the University, without placing unreasonable demands on the student, would be of benefit to students.
7. That if the University's education is of a high enough standard, it should need to worry about being sued.

CUSU Resolves:

1. To oppose any attempt by the University to introduce similar "Student Contracts" unless they will be of demonstrable benefit to the students.
2. To inform the Council, at the earliest opportunity, should any part of the University or College begin to consider such contracts.