

# VC - Statement on Campus Press Censorship, March 26 1977

The Senate at its meeting on Thursday agreed to a number of matters concerning recent events to do with student publications. In particular they agreed to:

1. The establishment of a university Press Board of Reference consisting of one member of Council, one member of the academic staff of the Law Dept, and two students.

2. After careful consideration they passed with large majorities the two following proposals:

A. If student publications do not conform to reasonable canons of accuracy, good manners and good taste, then the Senate with reluctance and regret will give serious consideration to the reintroduction of censorship.

B. If material regarded as objectionable for the publication of which is not in the interests of the university is presented for ~~publication~~ reproduction using any of the university's facilities, then the use of these facilities ~~will~~ may be withdrawn.

The Senate further ~~approved~~ appointed a panel of members from whom the VC may select

i. to offer advice to student editors who seek it on material that may give rise to difficulties.

ii. to advise the VC whether he should take action to withdraw university printing facilities.

The Senate also left no room for doubt that it regarded offences relating to the written word as falling within the ambit of the Student Disciplinary Code.

The question before Parly was one of Press freedom, & The university is faced with a situation of Press license. It is not my intention to dictate to students what matters they can discuss but if the way in which they present material, particularly material which could be regarded as salacious or in bad taste, is going to bring the university into disrepute or give serious offence to individual members of the university, then I should be failing in my duty if I did not take notice of it and take the necessary action. In other ~~words~~ words, very much of the same material and comment, if it were presented in an acceptable manner, one would not find objections. (Draws attn to Senate motion on 'good manners and good taste'.)