

Motion on Free Speech and University Censorship

Proposer: Danny Goodwin, Student

Seconder: George Tricks, Student

This Union notes:

1. Lancaster University has a history of implementing policies that have an impact on free speech and expression in the form of the protest and poster codes;
2. That the Confucius Institute filed a complaint with the University about the posters about the Tiananmen Square incident;

This Union believes:

3. Freedom of expression is the bedrock of a functioning democratic society, and it is the right of individuals to hold the powerful to account for their actions;
4. That our members should be free to organise protests, vigils, demonstrations, protests and other meetings in support of causes that they deem to be important;
5. That our members should be free to distribute materials in support of causes that they deem to be important;

This Union resolves:

6. To condemn the actions of the University on the 31st of May to remove posters that it deemed as controversial on the flimsy pretence that it violated section 4.1.2 of the poster code;
7. To amend the poster code further to ensure that it is not liable to abuse from University managers;
8. To oppose the continued existence of the Protest Code, and to support amendment that directly undermines it.