



10.03.2011

Dear Vice-Chancellor,

We write to express our dismay and frustration that you have decided not to allow a vote on CUSU's proposed amendments to the University Council's Grace, despite the amendments receiving 140 signatures, nearly six times the number of signatures necessary. The future of our bursaries is a matter of huge concern to thousands of our students, and an issue that academics also clearly feel passionate about.

The blocking of the amendments was on the basis that the amendments were "incompatible with the main purpose" of the University Council's grace: we reject this argument completely. The main purpose of the grace was to seek approval by the Regent House, the governing body of the University to whom the Council is responsible, of the intention to propose an Access agreement. The amendments simply served to impose conditions upon that approval, in order to prevent huge damage to our Access work and the welfare of our poorest students. This is manifestly not "incompatible with the main purpose of the Grace – they are just conditions that the Old Schools didn't like. The Regent House has thus been denied the ability to save the bursaries that matter to thousands of students.

The continued generosity of Cambridge's maintenance bursaries is more vital than ever in the context of the disastrous £9,000 fees that will be imposed from 2012. Maintenance bursaries provide money that is beneficial to students whilst they are students, and there is no justification for cutting them at a time when fees are rising astronomically. Cambridge's bursaries are one of our key tools in our Access work, and they must not be compromised.

We call on you to listen to your students and academics, and to give the Regent House the chance to save our bursaries.

Yours,

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

College/Department \_\_\_\_\_