



The Student View on the Congregation Resolution relating to Castle Mill
A Flysheet from the Executive Committee of OUSU

On behalf of the students of Oxford University, we call upon Congregation to vote against the resolution submitted by Prof. MacCulloch & 65 others in relation to Castle Mill. We believe that forcing the University to remove the top floor of the building, evicting all residents in the process; and spend £30m purely in order to improve the aesthetics of North Oxford is a scandalous waste of the University's limited discretionary capital and would have a seriously detrimental impact on the experience of all students at Oxford.

We contend:

- That moving over 300 postgraduate students into private housing would create a **dramatic spike in rents**, which would not impact affluent Jericho residents but would be primarily concentrated in East Oxford, hurting undergraduates, postgraduates, low-waged University staff and local residents alike.
- That the only seriously plausible place to find a spare £30m in the University budget is in the capital transfer from OUP, money OUSU has been campaigning for years to be spent on **postgraduate scholarships** and which divisions desperately need to help them meet their budgetary targets. Congregation must acknowledge that to spend this money on Castle Mill will have devastating consequences for research at this University.
- That to take the top floor off the Castle Mill building would remove a significant proportion of the total available **family accommodation** for graduate students in Oxford, which would disproportionately impact on women and undermine the University's recent work on promoting gender equality.

As the sovereign body of the University, we urge Congregation to do its duty and spend the University's money on what we are here to do: on **education** and on fostering **a culture of research**, and not on amplifying the voices of a small number of North Oxford residents who happen to have the rights and privileges of members of this august body.

The message of your students is loud and clear: **vote no.**

The Executive Officers of OUSU

Louis Trup, President & Brasenose College
James Blythe, Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs) & Brasenose College
Anna Bradshaw, Vice-President (Women) & Wadham College

Ruth Meredith, Vice-President (Charities & Community) & Brasenose College
Chris Pike, Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities) & St Edmund Hall

Julien Coyne, Brasenose College
Nikhil Venkatesh, Corpus Christi College
Lindsay Lee, Wadham College
Marina Lambrakis, St Johns College
Joseph Reason, Wadham College
David Parton, St Hildas College

