

## **KCSU notes**

1. That on 22 October, 201 students, an absolute majority of resident undergraduates, voted in agreement with the following statement:

“I agree that it is unacceptable for King’s College to plug its deficit by increasing student rents and charges without making sufficient savings from other sources. If College refuse to accept this, I am willing to consider joining other students in direct action as protest.”

2. That King’s rents have risen at least 27% real terms since 1999, and that further increases (e.g. as per the Bursar’s presumptions of a 24% rise over two years in the current budget) would have severe consequences for student hardship and efforts to widen participation for future students, especially without reform of maintenance provisions.
3. That the resolves clauses of the motion passed on 16 October by a vote of 126 to 24 require KCSU to work for a rent freeze for 2004-5, an abolition of KFC as directed by the SFCC, a statement of commitment to public, state-funded education and to consider other cost-cutting measures.

## **KCSU believes**

1. That KCSU must continue to work for the implementation of this motion.
2. That this will be best achieved by a combination of continued negotiation and direct action as protest against planned rent increases and continued unnecessary expenditure.
3. That a collective withholding of College Bills will be the most effective form of direct action, as it is passive, directly related to students’ financial concerns, and not personally confrontational. It is also most likely to achieve the desired result of College offering to address all students’ concerns in a concrete manner.

## **KCSU resolves**

1. To support students who so wish to join in a collective withholding of College Bills, the details to be worked out by the Fight Against Increased Rents (FAIR) Committee to be elected later.
2. To allocate £30 from “Campaigns to Allocate” fund for publicity and administration for this cause.
3. To mandate the FAIR committee to approach College to negotiate for guarantees along these lines:
  - i. *Inflation-only rent rises for 2004-5, or until such time as College addresses its problems with financial accountability and makes sufficient savings and raise revenue from other areas of expenditure, in particular central administration, entertainment, King’s school and rents of resident fellows;*
  - ii. *Abolition of KFC in a 3 year programme, following the plans laid out in the original SFCC report;*
  - iii. *A guaranteed five-year plan for rental increases based on the premise that all rooms must be affordable to all King’s students, regardless of financial wealth, and that future building programmes aim to build affordable accommodation for students not conferences;*
  - iv. *The reform of hardship funds to ensure that all students have a minimum of £4900 (2003 prices) for living expenses, the necessary minimum assumed by the SFCC and University prospectus;*
  - v. *A reaffirmation of College’s commitment to widening Access to Cambridge from the state sector and other under-represented groups, and a statement of King’s College’s opposition to top-up fees and commitment to the principle of no charge state provision of tertiary education.*
4. Further, to work cooperatively with College to find ways to eliminate the deficit in a way fair to students, staff and fellows and according to the guarantees above.
5. To require FAIR to bring the results of negotiations with College to an open meeting for ratification, and to require them to make it clear to College that this is the limit of their mandate.

Proposed: Oscar Leonard

Seconded: Jo Tate, LJ Smith, Helen Kearney