

WHY BOYCOTT TRINITY?

Trinity College Council has voted to buy out of the USS pension scheme, despite opposition from a large number of its own Fellows and students.

The College Council concedes that the material risk to which the college is exposed through membership of USS is vanishingly small, and the cost of buying out very high (£30 million).

The impact of withdrawal on the USS scheme may be significant. Trinity's withdrawal undermines confidence in a scheme on which much of UK higher education relies. It might encourage other wealthy institutions to follow suit, with potentially disastrous effects for the scheme as a whole.

Staff and students made major sacrifices during last year's strike to stave off damaging changes to USS. Trinity's decision to withdraw has now put the mutual scheme at risk. The decision reflects a narrow and unsustainable view of the College's best interests, privileging a contestable financial calculation over Trinity's interdependence with the wider academic community.

The intellectual life of Trinity depends in great part on the goodwill, collegiality and commitment of others in Cambridge and beyond. If the College no longer sees value in the principles of mutuality and solidarity reflected in the USS scheme, the University community should no longer feel bound to continue the collegial, discretionary labour that sustains Trinity's teaching and research.

**TRINITY FELLOWS ARE NOW CONSIDERING THE
COUNCIL DECISION.**

THE COMING DAYS ARE CRITICAL.

TAKE ACTION TODAY — SEE OVERLEAF

WHAT'S HAPPENING

In recent days, hundreds of Cambridge staff have committed to withhold discretionary labour for Trinity until the Council's decision is reversed. The national Congress of the University and College Union has voted to call for invocation of a national censure and academic boycott.

The actions taken in Cambridge so far enjoy significant support from students: Cambridge's Graduate Union supports the boycott, and is encouraging its members to participate. Over 60 of Trinity's own students have signed a letter condemning the Council's decision.

WHAT TO DO NOW

Please join hundreds of your colleagues:

- **Add** your name to the open letter to the Council and Fellows: <http://bit.ly/2MtEUvB>.
- **Refuse** to engage in discretionary work in support of Trinity's teaching and research activities. This includes: supervising Trinity undergraduate students; assisting Trinity with admissions interviews; participating in recruitment and assessment for Trinity appointments; and attending or speaking at seminars or conferences sponsored by Trinity.
- **Write** to the Senior Tutor, Catherine Barnard (senior.tutor@trin.cam.ac.uk), to inform her of your decision.

Questions? Contact us at admin@ucu.cam.ac.uk