



User Name: AYCEID ServicetoService

Date and Time: Monday, October 12, 2020 5:55:00 AM EDT

Job Number: 127401704

Document (1)

1. Academics want say over university deals with hostile regimes

Academics want say over university deals with hostile regimes

The Times (London)

October 12, 2020 Monday, Edition 1, National Edition

Copyright 2020 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved



Section: NEWS; FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

Length: 348 words

Byline: Charlie Parker

Body

Professors are demanding that university bosses consult them over deals with repressive regimes as they attempt to tackle threats to academic freedom on campuses.

Academics across the country have drawn up a series of demands in response to concerns that university administrations have been ignoring foreign interference for years. Scholars at Edinburgh, Exeter, Goldsmiths, King's College London, Lincoln, LSE, Oxford and the School of Advanced Study have formed the Academic Freedom and Internationalisation Working Group to address the issue.

It will present a code of conduct today "designed to embed more transparency and accountability" in all British universities after scores of students and staff reported that threats of surveillance, persecution and the coercion of family members was having an impact on research. Collaborations between universities and foreign governments should be scrutinised "at all stages" by academics who, the group says, are "too often frozen out of partnership decisions". It also demands that professors and students be allowed to raise fears in confidence about interference that could lead to self-censorship.

There is frustration among academics that complaints about interference from hostile states including China, Russia and Saudi Arabia have been ignored. Senior politicians and former diplomats have also drawn attention to the financial dependency of universities on research grants and students coming from authoritarian regimes.

The code of conduct is backed by Matthew Hedges, a British academic who was arrested and falsely accused of being a British spy during a research trip to Dubai in 2018. Mr Hedges, who was detained in solitary confinement for six months and faced life imprisonment before he was released, said: "We have found that at every significant event that has occurred, the university has tried to keep their head down and avoid bad press."

This week Universities UK, which represents vice-chancellors, will release security guidelines designed to address concerns over university partnerships. Universities accused, page 4

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Academics want say over university deals with hostile regimes

Journal Code: TIM

Subject: ACADEMIC FREEDOM (91%); COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (90%); ETHICS (90%); NEGATIVE PERSONAL NEWS (90%); STUDENTS & STUDENT LIFE (90%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (79%); CENSORSHIP (78%); ESPIONAGE (78%); TYPES OF GOVERNMENT (78%); UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION (78%); ARRESTS (70%); JAIL SENTENCING (69%); SURVEILLANCE (69%)

Industry: COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS (90%); COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES (79%); EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (78%)

Geographic: LONDON, ENGLAND (90%); EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (57%); DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (71%); UNITED KINGDOM (90%); CHINA (79%); SAUDI ARABIA (79%); National Edition

Load-Date: October 12, 2020

End of Document