

By email: 16th February 2021

Dear Professor Heycock

I would like to thank you for writing to me in relation to our proposed changes in the English department.

I am grateful for the views and feedback that you have provided in great detail. As you know, the proposals that we have put forward are being considered as part of a formal 90-day consultation process, and I have asked that the views and feedback you have expressed be considered as part of this consultation exercise.

A key driver behind the changes we are pursuing is a stark national decline in students choosing to study English at university. The Times has reported recently that the number of students accepted for English degrees nationally has decreased by a third in the past decade. This decline has been even greater at Leicester, where numbers have fallen significantly in recent years. This has necessitated us to think about what the right staff complement should be to deliver our curriculum, which is currently very broad. We are and remain committed, however, to continue to enable students to experience and study the full range of literature expected in an English curriculum.

It is my strategic ambition to ensure that we continue to be a research-intensive, comprehensive university that offers a broad range of subjects, including English. Taking these steps now will ensure that we can continue to do so, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely,
Nishan

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