Joint Statement from representatives of the Cambridge UCU Justice 4 College Supervisors (J4CS) campaign and representatives of the Colleges, University, and the Office for Intercollegiate Services (OIS).

At meetings early this week the J4CS campaign and UCU Cambridge branch agreed to suspend the announced Boycott of Undergraduate Supervisions (BUS) planned for Michaelmas Term 2023. The decision was taken in response to an indicative proposal from the Bursars’ Business Committee aimed at addressing the J4CS campaign’s call for an increase in supervision intercollegiate re-charge rates.

The proposal is for a non-consolidated increase to the intercollegiate re-charge rates for the academic year 2023/24. This indicative proposal results in the 2023/24 intercollegiate re-charge rates for undergraduate supervisions being uplifted between 8.2 and 9.6% from the previous Michaelmas Term. This represents a significant increase from 5.1%, which was previously implemented by the Bursars’ Committee in line with the national UCEA salary increases.

The uplift and the suspension of the boycott are made on the understanding that a programme of work considering all of the issues raised by the J4CS campaign will be taken forward with a view to reaching an agreement. This programme will happen in parallel with the University’s Teaching Review to examine the undergraduate supervision system and will be undertaken with involvement of University and College stakeholders. Whilst the Teaching Review may not be completed before the end of 2023/4, the programme of work sets clear milestones for progress on the campaign’s claims.

The agreement is indicative only until it gains formal approval from all Colleges via the intercollegiate governance structures. It is hoped that all undergraduate Colleges will be able to approve this proposal in time for the Colleges’ Standing Committee meeting on 10 October, which can then formally ratify it on behalf of the Colleges.