



Leicester UCU was concerned to hear that the University Council has stripped Peter Armstrong of his title of emeritus professor.

As reported in the *Guardian* in April last year

(<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/apr/08/university-leicester-strip-professor-title-social-media-barbs>) a university pro-vice chancellor earlier wrote to Peter, threatening to recommend this action to Council.

The decision appears to reflect university managers' antipathy towards Peter's posts on Twitter during the recent "Shaping for Excellence" programme in which many staff members were made redundant. The minutes for Council have not been made available since May 2021, so the precise decision-making process remains opaque.

We do not believe that an academic of Peter's standing should be stripped of an emeritus position on the say-so of a body consisting overwhelmingly of university managers and the Council's own appointees, and subject to no democratic control from the broader academic community.

We urge Council to discuss with UCU how best to respond to contentious social media posts and to engage in open discussion with us about how governance could be reformed to allow the whole university community to determine how our university is run. We would also like to suggest that Council approach UCU to facilitate a meeting between Council's representatives and Peter, to discuss under what circumstances he could be reinstated to his position.