

Petition on College Expenses, 1864

These items were both found in the archives of University College in November 1995. It is not known when they were put there, but one at least may have been deposited soon after its creation.

UC:P41/N/1-2

n.d. (Mar 1864)

Two copies of a *Petition from the Resident Bachelor and Undergraduate Members of University College to the Fellows* concerning expenses of the College, and how some economies might be made, and also concerning College Hall, with reference to the efficiency of serving the food and the improvement of the food itself.

The document is undated, and on one of them Charles Faulkner wrote "Date about 1865". However, at the back of **UC:O12/A1/2**, one of the volumes of minutes of the University College Debating Society, there is a section titled "College Meetings", which shows that this petition was drawn up following a series of undergraduate meetings about College catering, culminating in one held on 2 March 1864, at which a group of undergraduates led by Alfred Robinson (matr. 1860) was deputed to write and present a petition to the Master and Fellows. These are copies of the petition in question.

This petition is discussed in R. Darwall-Smith, *A History of University College, Oxford* (Oxford, 2008), p. 381–4.