The meeting was held on 12 December, after lengthy discussion and debate agreed on the in principle agreement as possible merger with the Brighton College of Education, in the shorter term, to the entrenchment of the University's role in teacher education and through the diversification of the balance of student places in the College, and in the longer term, through the proximity of the College's site; additional problems of student accommodation should not ensue from an expansion of the University's numbers by merger.

b) The University should actively pursue negotiations, with the aim of gaining representation of its interest in Education into the University, on terms acceptable to the Senate and the Council;

c) In such negotiations the Vice-Chancellor should seek to ensure as far as possible that the College's site was maintained.

d) The Council should consider the following issues:

1. Finance: The UGC's terms for the college and the University should be so less than for a comparable expansion of the University of the existing site and that, in particular, the needs of the Library should be adequately met.

2. Staff: That there should be adequate procedures for considering the position of the members of the College's academic staff and their possible transfer into the University of the UGC stipulated by UGC (a) above.

3. Academic development - Plans for the allocation, between existing courses and new courses, of the extra student places resulting from the merger should be drawn up and agreed through the University's normal planning procedures; and as a result of such a merger the additional commitment to initial teacher training should not exceed 500 student places out of the 1100-1200 places which would become available; such numbers would be in addition to the numbers planned for existing courses in the Education area.

4. With reference to c, 2 above, a set of procedures should be agreed by the Senate and the Council, in consultation with the AUT, which should be based upon the following guidelines:

1. Normal appointments procedures for the filling of newly created posts associated with developments outside the teacher training field;

2. In regard to posts associated with teacher training, an initial preference for existing staff of the College, subject to the requirements of the academic developments agreed through the University's normal procedures;

3. A clear timetable for the phasing out of existing courses and the maximum possible notice for those staff whose working pattern was required for new courses;

4. Recognition of the need for opportunities for professional development and study for higher degrees for College staff;

5. Consideration of limited term contracts, e.g., three to five years, for staff members who would have a role in a transitional period but whose prospects of permanent employment might not, for academic reasons, be apparent in the initial stages of a new academic pattern.

6. The negotiations should be conducted by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with a group, whose membership might be directly involved in the negotiations as occasion required; the group would report regularly to the Planning Committee, Senate and Council. The Students' Union should be given observer status at the Group's meeting.

Proposals for the composition of the Group which should include at least two non-professorial members, should be presented to the next meeting of the Senate and members of Senate Committee wishing to nominate themselves to the Group should so notify the Group to that effect to the Vice-Chancellor.

Planning for 1981-82

Senate received a paper which reported that:

a) The UGC had accepted the following as the planning figures for the University:

1976-7 1981-2 1982-3

SFT Arts- science students 6,000 7,000 7,900

SFT SAE based students 2,123 3,000 8,3

Total 8,123 10,000 8,1

b) The UGC has asked the University to submit, by 31 March 1974, its outline growth plan, in two parts:

1. Site development and capital projects required to meet the 1981-82 planned numbers, including forecasts for each project;

2. Further projects required to bring the University to full capacity on the site available or likely to be available; projects did not need to be costed and alternatives could be listed.

The Registrar and Secretary, Mr. G. Lockwood, reported that Planning Committee had noted the need for discussion of the numbers and distribution of postgraduate students to the next policy committee, had approved the paper and, in particular, had requested the Site Development Team to outline the growth plan, for submission to the Senate at its meeting on 15 March 1974.

The Vice-Chancellor said the University's recurrent grant income of under-achievement in student numbers could not be predicted. Both underachievement, if rational in scale and in consequence of national factors, would be a serious issue for the future development of higher education. Senate approved the Planning Committee's recommendations.

Site Development

The PTV - Vice-Chancellor, Professor M.R. Thompson, introduced in detail the outline growth plan for the development of the University's site up to 1981-2, which had been prepared by the Site Development Team and approved the paper, but noted that:

With regard to the decision on the future use of the southern end of the eastern field the present proposals in no way prejudiced the choice between the two main development options stated in the Site Development Discussion Paper.

Student Accommodation

The Chairman of Community Services, Dr. Brian Smith, introduced a paper on the present student accommodation situation. He explained the present stock of accommodation available to the University, the increase in the proportion of student accommodated on campus, the relative availability and popularity of different types of accommodation, the existing capital commitment of the University, the deteriorating supply of accommodation and the diminished ability to initiate and maintain loan-financed schemes on the present basis.

The following points were raised in discussion:

1. Among the main factors which had contributed and would continue to contribute to the worsening supply of accommodation were the decreasing popularity of lodgings, the simultaneous expansion of the Polytechnic, the difficulties of Brighton C.C.P.S., in agreeing to planning applications for student residences in Brighton, and the delay in the announcement of a viable loan-finance scheme for building new on-campus residences.

2. Attempts were being made to find and use accommodation beyond Brighton and Lewes, but the social consequences on the University community of a large number of students commuting were to be avoided if possible.

3. A Housing Association could only reserve a limited number of places for married students.

4. While some might question why the University needed to accept its responsibility to provide accommodation, such a service has been invaluable and universal in universities and was now regarded as part of the University's commitment to the future of its students.

5. The four basic implications of the statement were:

1. That the University's academic development plans were now inexorably linked with accommodation provision.

2. Loan-financed schemes on the present basis were no longer viable.

3. The planning of accommodation provision had to be vitally concerned with comprehensive planning.

4. A balance of provision off and on the campus should be maintained.

Trinities

The Vice-Chancellor paid tribute to Professor B. Ford who left the University at the end of the term. He had been one of the most prominent figures in the innovative development of the University over the past ten years. Professor Briggs said Senate warmly endorsed the Vice-Chancellor's vote of thanks to Professor Ford.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to Professor K. F. K. Brown for his considerable services as Dean of the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences to that School and to the University generally.

Chancellor of Education

Senate approved the Vice-Chancellor's recommendation to appoint Mr. A.J. Brooke as Chairman of Education for three years from 1 September 1974, in succession to Professor G.C. Allen, who will be Chairman from 1 January to the end of the academic year 1973-74.

Clerical and Related Staffs Committee

The Committee met on 27 November

Fixed Time

The Committee agreed that if 'Fixed Time' - Flexible working hours - was introduced it should be a well controlled pilot scheme. Before a pilot scheme could be considered the discussion should be held with the Personnel Officer to decide the ground rules as 'Fixed Time', and a reduction of working hours.

The Finance Officer, Mr. B. Howard, said the University was prepared to work as far as possible to extend whether the proposed reduction in working hours could qualify as an anomaly, on the basis of the link with the local government who had reduced their working hours by one hour before the pay freeze which was agreed by the Staff side.

Overtime

Mr. B. Howard, reported that the Council Committee is prepared to agree to a change in the conditions of overtime which at present state that overtime payments are not made. Work in excess of the normal hours per week is normally discouraged by the University, but where such overtime is unavoidable it has been given effect. It is agreed that to link working hours to the work could only be performed if payment were made. If a number of staff were engaged in which case payment would only be allowed for those hours. Extra time of less than half an hour on any day would not be recorded as overtime, and the rates of payment and method of payment shall be the same as for local government, i.e., for overtime on any other day than a Sunday, payment shall be made at double time for the first five hours in a calendar month and at 1 1/2 time for the next five hours, of five, and 1 1/2 time for all overtime (i.e., where time off in lieu is not granted) worked after midday Saturday or work on Sunday or a bank holiday.

New Press director

Michael H. Shaw and Alastair Maclean resigned as Managers of Sussex University Press at the end of last term. They plan to work full time as Literary agents.

Mr. David Robertson J. has been appointed Director of the Press from 1 January, 1974. He read history at McGill University and worked with the Bowes and Bowes group of university bookellers and Butterworths, the publishers, before becoming as editor of Chitto and Winds.
INQUIRY REPORT

By Nick Osmond

Senate voted on 31 October to "give no further consideration" to the Committee of Inquiry Report, published last spring. The Report looks like sinking without trace. The implementation of the Report is now Students' Union policy, and what is being done will be put through the annual review of the university which takes place this year. An agenda has been arranged of all the key points.

I should like to contribute to this year's debate a clear outline of the Report's thinking and to show how the recommendations flow from its overall logic.

In 1963 the University held the first of its major reviews. The McKinley Report of that year was prepared by business consultants. My own view is that they concentrated on efficiency rather than participation.

The Inquiry Report is part of the second major review of the University.

Analysis

The overall logic of the Inquiry Committee's thinking is clear. They see the McKinley devolution of power to the Areas as going too far, and not far enough. It has gone too far in the sense that the central academic committees are ineffective. Planning Committees "consists almost entirely of office-holders who have no concern for funding their sectional interests at the expense of the University view" (p. 35). Senate is ineffective because it consists of an over-large number of people who have no concern for any one or uncertain of their roles. In practice it usually acts as a rubber-stamp for Planning Committee.

But in another sense devolution hasn't gone far enough. Effective power is vested in the Area Committees because this is the level at which the decretions of Schools and Subjects which operate in the Area Committees interact and can be co-ordinated. But, for instance, the changes affecting Planning Committee, the Area Committees become simply places for ministerial bargaining.

The centre is weakened by the domination of the two managerially-oriented Areas - while the unresolved tension between Subjects and Schools as the focus of academic activity means that interdisciplinary and narrowly disciplinary activities co-exist confusedly, with no clear centres of intellectual identity and academic planning.

Return to Original Principles

The authors of the Report feel that this process has eroded the original ideals of the University. The core of the problem is that the areas are open-ended structures for learning, and is particular to promote the theory and practice of inter-disciplinarity, so that a new and more flexible framework could be discovered for the gathering and interpretation of knowledge. (See The Idea of a New University, D. Cohen, 1964.) This, the Report argues, is being destroyed by the new areas, which have different traditions, departmentalism and a narrowly professional, inwardly oriented identification with established subjects and disciplines, each myopically jealous of its own interests.

Thus the Report is radii in the sense that it returns to the roots of the university and suggests that the whole institutional framework which will give reason for hope and vigour to the ideal of inter-disciplinary learning. (I, 1.9)

Power to Senate and Schools

The remedy is simultaneously to retain and diversify the academic institution. In effect, the University would become a federated academic college. The Report proposes that Schools (so Subjects) should become the primary academic unit, since it is they which are interdisciplinary in nature and function. (IV, 2.6, IV, 2.16, IV, 2.19) Subject groups would remain as a focus of intellectual discussion, but for purposes of academic decision-making would form into sub-groups identified for a unified work of a particular school, (IV, 5.7 & 2.9) Schools would enjoy considerable autonomy, each controlling its share of 99% of the Area budget. (IV, 4.9) They shall be governed by elected Councils made up largely of the representatives of the Subjects and the Complex groups. (IV, 4.9)

Strictly speaking, for "Senate Committee" throughout. The latter is a device by which the membership of the Senate has been enlarged without having to change the Charter.

Senate will be reduced from about 150 to about 20 members and will be composed of representatives of Schools (3 each) and the professors. Previously all professors sat on Senate as of right, but the Report proposes that in future professorships should be regarded as a recognition of intellectual leadership, not as a ticket to power. (IV, 5.6) Thus future chairs will be persons who would have no fixed allocation.

The Report also recommends the setting up of a central Academic Planning Group with a small but flexible membership, chaired by the VC and accessible to all members of the University, "to discuss long-term academic projects and provide a focus for creative and innovative thinking." (III, 3.4, IV, 6, 18).

The Report argues that student participation is not only a matter of input by students identifying themselves as a deprived class and insisting on more "brick and mortar" facilities, bargaining the worker's control or consumer's control depending on where you stand. More essentially, it is something which should actually flow from the original idea of the "tutorial university"; students are integral members of the educational process in the passive recipient.

They should therefore be fully integrated as members of the academic community. But the Report believes that it is not only students who are present are deprived of full integration. (I, 3.7)

Many teachers remain passive and uninvolved (indeed to be so is often seen as a sign of intellectual serious). To say nothing of administrative, clerical, manual and other workers.

Thus the Report says that as many people as possible should have the chance and the incentive to become active participants. Everyone should be incorporated as fully as possible into the community. It follows from this emphasis that many important committees of the status of the members is not specified; for example about half the places on Senate are filled or filtered by representatives from the Schools, who could be either faculty or students.

The following are the other main recommendations which affect student directly.

IV, 3.2 Schools to be governed by representative Councils whose members are chosen by the Assembly of faculty and students in the School.

IV, 3.3 The School Assembly (all faculty and students) meets at least once a term, its recommendations are binding if passed in two successive meetings.

IV, 4.8 3 out of 10 members of the Academic Policy Group are students.

V, 2.3 Membership of the Subject should be the statutory right of (i) all faculty of that Subject in the School, and (ii) all students taking that subject as a major in the School.

V, 2.6 Students should be directly involved in appointing committees and it is suggested that selection be on a School basis with students chosen by the School Assembly.

V, 3.12-14 Open access in some form to most committee meetings, and to all committee papers. Meetings to be more generally publicised and reported.

V, 5.2 & 5.4 A University Assembly open to every member of the University would be held at least once a term (200 needed to be quorate). Its motions go automatically to the head of the agenda for the next Senate meeting, for discussion.

V, 3.11 A student under discussion at Students' Progress Committee should have the right to put his/her case personally, or to bring another member of the University to do so.

EXCLUDED FROM COMMUNITY

The Report is based on the ideal of the University as a whole community. It points to the many workers on campus, other than faculty and students, who feel "excluded from full membership." (p. 25). This issue is not made central, but it is recommended that ASTMS, the Staff Association/MALGO and NUSU should each have one representative on Senate.

Travel plan

Community Services have worked out two schemes to help people travelling to the university at a time of fuel shortages.

A clearing house has been set up in Sussex House Common Room for those wishing to set up or take part car pool arrangements. Maps of the area showing the distribution of faculty, staff and students and a series of lists corresponding to local areas are on display. Motorists who wish to join existing schemes are invited to register their name, address, telephone number and other details on an appropriate form and then get in touch with other people on the list to form a convenient car pool.

The clearing house will operate until 25 January, at least.

If there is a severe breakdown of public transport, Advice Services will put out a list of pick-up points will be arranged at convenient parts of the University to allow drivers who are willing to offer lifts home to be matched with appropriate passengers.

Motorists who are willing to offer lifts should put their details on a to pass one of the appropriate areas as they leave the University, and University members who hope for a lift are asked to wait at one of the pick-up points.

The details will be clearly displayed by signs and will correspond to

a) Lewes directions (including Kingston)

b) Palmer to Woodingdean and points beyond - Rottingdean or Kemp Town (0)

c) Central Brighton (Hove, etc)

d) Coldred Lane and Fosse (0)

If such scheme comes into operation pick-up point signs will be put in positions and displayed in individual buildings.

As a result of the fuel crisis, the Appointment Service has had to move from the Redriff Campus. For the time being it will be in the Greens Room North on the top floor of the Redriff. This room should be approached by the stairs, near the laundrette. The service will try to offer the usual service and distances are to be strained to be somewhat restricted.

The internal telephone number for all the cuts are asked to pass one of the appropriate areas will be 98-3186. Two external extensions on the ordinary university number have been added. Students can make limited use of the Appointment Service Information Room in the Redriff Campus, e.g. for collecting recruitment literature but they should be aware that it will not be heated and advisory staff will not normally be present.

DIARY OF EVENTS

JANUARY 1974

Monday 14

Chemical Society Download Section Sponsored Lecture Dr. B.B. Oldham (Nottingham) "Explosives" 5.15pm Mols Lecture Theatre.

Tuesday 15

Materials Science Colloquia: Dr. A.W. Simpson (University of Sussex) "Ancient & Modern Woodwind Musical Instruments: their Mode of Operation & Construction" 4.15pm Lecture Theatre A201.

Tuesday 22

Geol Lectures: Professor J. Berndt (Wisconsin) "Uran Die Natur: Was ur-tsglichen Denken" (in German) 3.15pm Arts C153.

Materials Science Colloquia: Dr. P. Bowden (University of Cambridge) "Deformation in Crystalline Polymers" 4.15pm Lecture Theatre A201.