COMMITTEES

Planning Committee

The meeting was held on 12 June.

Accommodation Account

The Committee noted that the Vice-Chancellor had appointed a project team, at the joint request of the Council of University Services and USTA, to consider the status and usage of the Accommodation account, paying particular reference to the rent levels of University-owned student accommodation in 1974-75, and to report to the Planning Committee. The Committee received the following papers:

(i) An interim report of the project team, with an appendix of eleven background and informational papers;
(ii) The final report of the project team;
(iii) A minority report by thehon. and U.T.A., members of the project team.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, as Chair, then introduced the reports during which he stated that:

(i) This was the first project team of the Planning Committee establishing a consonance recommendation. Every effort had been made to reach consensus.

(ii) The rent increase needed to balance the Accommodation account at the time of the report was £2 (which would raise the basic rent) rent from £6.50 to £6.52, if the increase was applicable throughout the year. The Committee, in respect of existing accommodation, could take effect before 1st January 1975 because of the statutory rent freeze.

(iii) The basic annuity rate of student grant had been increased for 1974-75 by 2.5% over 1973-74, and by 3.1% over 1972-73. The required rent increase was 33.2%, but to increase had been made for 1974-75 and the increase was payable for only £ of 1974-75 season;

(iv) Student maintenance grants had been increased with the increasing rent, and a further annual review would be made in the autumn;

(v) A ranking of the 1974-75 rents at 29 universities showed that, with the proposed increase, Sussex would come well down in the lower half.

Mr. D. T. Thomas, Secretary of the Union, in reply, argued that:

(i) A fair rent was one which a student could afford, and not necessarily one which balanced the Accommodation account.

(ii) Most students lived in University accommodation for only one year, and in the other two years paid rent to private landlords; such rents were extremely high in the Brighton area, and the University had tried to fix rates so as, if necessary, to substitute the low rents for the individual student when not in University accommodation.

(iii) The loan-fluxos system cannot continue to function; the University should recognise that and should not attempt to perpetuate it.

(iv) There should be no rent increase for 1974-75.

In the discussion, the following were agreed:

(i) It was important to identify the increase required to balance the account, if that increase could be applied from the beginning of the session (two weeks before the week); the deficit incurred because of the rent freeze could then be calculated;

(ii) Although it had been generally acknowledged in the discussions with the U.G.C. that a deficit in June 1973 that the accommodation situation is brightening, but two major circumstances, unusually serious, that situation could not be used to justify a rent increase when student grants had gone up;

(iii) The University’s bargaining position and the extent to which a reduction in rents would be destroyed if there was no rent increase when nearly every other university had raised rents; A base stand by the University is not increasing rents and seeking a large deficit on accommodation was unlikely, in the current economic crisis, to bring a change in Government policy.

(iv) No means were apparent for meeting a deficit of some £50,000 on the Accommodation account for 1974-75, as the U.G.C. block grant could not be used for this purpose.

(v) There was no prospect of a major change in the attitude of the U.G.C. and DoE to the student housing problem in Brighton, which would be to draw attention to the high level of private rents and the unreliability of the loan finance system, by the freezing of rents and by the University allowing the account to go into deficit.

After a lengthy discussion in which every effort was made to ensure that no point of view was not heard and was not overlooked, a motion that, the basic rent be increased from £6.50 to £6.52 with effect from next session, was proposed and seconded. The motion was carried at 3rd hand. The votes were three against, with one abstention.

Catering Charges

The Committee received a report from the catering committee of the Community Services Committee held on 8th May and 5th June 1974.

The Committee noted that the Community Services Committee had been advised by a recommendation on the level of catering charges for 1974-75. They noted the difficulties of the position, of which the members of the sub-committees were not able to reach agreement. Another sub-committee in the discussion were that:

(i) The increases in the past two years had been 2.5% and 3.5%, and an increase of around 3% was needed to balance the 1974-75 catering account as at present constituted;

(ii) Those percentages were below the general level of inflation and reflected increased efficiency achieved through close investigation of most sections of the catering services;

(iii) The catering account should not be considered in isolation from the accounts of the Recreational and Further Education area and other Recreational services, etc. in cleaning, though whether the effect of any doing would be to increase or decrease catering prices was open to question;

(iv) The increase in turnover assumed in the estimates was conservative particularly for catering though in the present period of inflation it was noted that increased turnover did not necessarily result in increased costs or lower prices.

The Committee agreed that catering charges should be increased by 3% in 1974-75, that the catering estimates based on such an increase should be approved, but that the Community Services Committee should examine the possibility of restructing the Catering Service, and the Recreational services. The dissent of the Union officers from this decision was recorded.

Failure of Heating Main

The Bursar introduced a paper which reported that in the past two months a number of leaks had occurred in the high pressure hot water mains which provided central heating and hot water for nearly all University buildings. The system had been closed down, information on the cause of failures and maintenance would be available as soon as possible. Until then it was not possible to recommend a definite line of action.

The University had no financial reserves for a contingency such as this, and the U.G.C. had been approached with a request for a special grant.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that:

(i) The Vice-Chancellor and the Council of Chairman should be authorised to take all decisions required to be a result of the matter failure;

(ii) A group representative of the main users should be set up, to advise on the effects of reduced heating on particular facilities and activities to each building.

Student Accommodation

Mr. M. L. Banks introduced a paper on the provision of suitable residential accommodation in 1974-75. Although the expected increase in student numbers to 6,500 over 1973 was within the number of University-owned units of accommodation which were in the process of completion or conversion, there was a danger that all students would not find accommodation at the beginning of the Autumn Term. There were doubts whether all the East Slope housing and all of the off-campus properties would be ready for occupation by that date, and the preliminary agreement between the housing authorities and the student housing authorities was unpromising.

The Committee agreed that:

(i) An Action Group should be set up, with members of Community Services, USTA and the Administration should

A PLACE TO STAY

Throughout Britain next session there will be accommodation problems. Cuts in public spending ordered by the Government have reduced the extra places this year from 10,000 to 4,000.

In Sussex we have almost 400 new places - one tenth of the national increase among 46 universities.

But there will be problems at the beginning of session at Sussex, as elsewhere.

Short-term difficulties will be minimised if people make early arrangements for accommodation. The Accommodation Officer will help where possible. Students with accommodation problems are urged to contact the Accommodation Office in the Refectory Building.

SCR AND WOMEN’S GROUP

A Brawny Supper will be held from 8.30pm Friday 5 July, 1974 in the Senior Common Room, Palmer House.

Tickets at £1 each may be obtained from Miss E. Busey, Room 225, Sussex House.

February 1974

Published by the Information Office Week ending 21 June 1974

Student Numbers

The Committee noted that, on present estimates, the numbers of logistic students in all categories would be close to those planned for the Autumn Term, and with the exception of Arts undergraduates where there might be under-enrolment on the intake target.

Logistic Numbers

Planned Expected
Arts undergraduates 1st, 2nd and 3rd years 810 760
Exchanges 1055 1017
Arts graduates 385 385
Education students 145 145

Continued on next page
continued from previous page

Science undergraduates 1st year undergraduate Incl. Visiting & Exchange 480 500
Other years 820 813
Science Graduates 425 425
3060 4045

Extra-logistic Numbers

Arts graduates 13
Education students 33
Science graduates 50

It was noted that the hold of logistic and extra-logistic students in Autumn 1974 was estimated at 4,113 (4,045-4,18) compared with 3,141 December 1973 actual figures of 3,765 (3,736-39).  

Building programme

(i) The Committee noted that none of the University's projects was included in the 1974-75 initial building programme for projects other than studies in the 1974-75 Autumn starting 1st July 1974. Allocations for student residence projects had yet to be announced.

(ii) The Committee agreed that, in response to the UGC's request for the University to submit its 1975-76 building programme, a reply should be made on the following lines:

(A) The University's overriding priority was to meet its residential demands, and the student capacity of the academic buildings which would be in use by October 1975 reflected the need for schemes of 300-400 units in both 1973-74 and 1974-75, and for associated site development;

(B) Beyond that, the University wanted the completion of the cancelled 1973-74 and 1974-75 programmes, though, where the planning of individual projects has not proceeded very far, it might be appropriate to switch allocations to new projects in the same category which took account of the changed rate of the University's growth; the proposed programme would therefore be:

\[ V \] 300

Av 1, 500

Social and Communal 260 (former projects for multi-purpose hall, health centre, tennis courts, etc)

Sport 94 (former projects for all-weather pitch, lake of Tanis alterations)

Site Works & Development 94;

(c) In the event of the entire programme in (b) being approved, site works should have priority, so that building work could begin on the site as it was (e.g. relief sewer, tree planting, paths) could be provided.

University estimate 1973-74, and 1974-75

The Finance Officer introduced the revised estimates for the programme and the proposed estimates for 1974-75, with reference to the 1974-75 estimates, he pointed out that:

(i) The relatively small deficit, at the end of the year of £25,000 was achieved only by a surplus of £25,000 brought forward from 1973-74 and an allocation of £30,000 from reserves;

(ii) Provision had been made for salary and wages only at an average of £75 beyond threshold payments;

(iii) No supplementation for inflation or any other non-salary items had been allowed.

In the ensuing discussion, attention was drawn:

(a) Section 1 of the University's Finance Committee's report which requested that the Planning Committee allocate to the Science Allocation equivalent of one year's V.A.T. supplementation (approximate £25,000);

(b) The sharp reduction in book purchases which all-supplementation to the咻 Allocation would achieve, and the consequential effects on academic programmes of all the faculties of the University.

The Committee agreed to approve the estimates for 1973-74 and 1974-75 subject to:

(i) Additional allocations in 1974-75 to the Science Area (£15,000) and arts in general to enhance the general distribution of supplementation for non-salary items, and which would increase the estimates deficit by £20,000. The deficit could almost be covered by drafting on the £37,000 line of reserves which had been provisionally allocated to 1974-75.

(ii) The discussion of the catering and student accommodation estimates.

Palmer Hospital

Professor W. Thompson, the Vice-Chancellor introduced the report of the Palmer Hospital Group. The report was approved and, in particular, the Committee:

(i) Noted the Palmer Hospital's comprehensiveness as a planning assumption for the University that building of a new hospital in the vicinity was not to be within ten years;

(ii) Endorsed its earlier decision that the acquisition of a medical centre's site of Health, at the University should be an objective of the University's planning, although it was still a long-term objective;

(iii) Noted that there were broadly similar views in medical research in the University, that a medical centre might acquire a medical school, by a completely new foundation or by the transfer of an existing London School;

(iv) Agreed that there should be a deliberative body to enhance the chances of acquiring a medical school by preparing the ground, and that in the end, three lines of development should be investigated:

(a) The possibility of pre-clinical training in the Schools of Biological Sciences and of Cultural and Community Development, and of a 'special relationship' for the admission of Sussex graduates to clinical courses in London schools;

(b) The development of the existing fields of medical research in the University, to establish the University as a 'centre of excellence' for these fields;

(c) The development of training facilities and other services for the health services;

(d) Approved the Group's continued existence from 1974, with a group of title to the Medical Development Group, with its present membership, and the following terms of reference: "to be responsible to the Planning Committee in the co-ordination of activities in the University relating to the health services, and to consider the need for medical advice links with the Palmer Hospital".

Brighton College of Education

The Committee received and approved a report which described the problems following the Committee's decisions at its last meeting, and the progress of its decision to start the East Sussex Education Authority, concerning the future of Brighton's College of Education. The Committee noted that, with the County Council's approval in principle of merger between the College and the Brighton Polytechnic, no major developments in the discussions could be expected until the Department of Education and Science had reached a decision on the East Sussex plan, but that the Vice-Chancellor had written to the Minister of State emphasizing the University's continued wish for merger with the College.

Site Planning and Buildings Committee

The Pre-Vice-Chancellor, as Chairman of the Site Planning & Buildings Committee, reported orally from the meeting of that Committee held on 12th June 1974. The Committee:

(i) Noted that proposals by the architects for the location, elevations and landscaping of the East Slope residences stage II had been approved in principle, and that the Executive Sub-Committee would meet to discuss in detail about six months' time, prior to application for planning permission.

(ii) Approved the establishment of a project team for the conversion of off-campus properties to student accommodation, with the Chairman of Community Development as Chairman and nominee of the Planning Committee, Mr. B. D. Edwards, in charge of the Site Planning and Buildings Committee, and representatives of Community Services appointed by the Chairman.

Arts & Social Studies Committee

The Committee received and approved a report from the meeting of the Arts & Social Studies Committee which was held on 28th May 1974. In particular:

(i) The Committee approved the introduction, with effect from October 1975, of the Major in Urban Studies in the School of Cultural & Community Studies, subject to approval by the Arts & Social Studies Committee;

(ii) The Committee agreed that the Centre for Social Research as at present constituted, should cease to exist, and be replaced by an Arts & Social Studies research support unit.

Education Committee

The Committee received a report from the meeting of the Education Committee held on 28th May 1974. It was agreed that the Acting Chairman of Education, the Chairman of Education and the Pre-Vice-Chancellor (science) should each send representatives to a small working group which should report to the Planning Committee in the autumn term on the possibilities for incorporating the study of education in courses leading to the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees, both with and without Qualified Teacher Status.

Science Committee

The Committee received a report from the meeting of the Education Committee held on 28th May 1974. The Committee approved in principle:

(a) That a Chair of Mathematics (expected to full vacant by retirement) might be available to the holder of a prospective R.B. Life Research Fellowship in Particular Differential Equations, on the expiry of that Fellowship, on the understanding that the position of Fellow should be selected by a properly constituted Professional Appointing Committee;

(b) Approved the introduction of a Major in Mathematics with Physics & Astronomy in the School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, with the possibility of transferring it by 1973 estimates to the School;

(c) Noted the report on the progress and development of the Chemistry by Thesis Major Subject, with the clarification that the 'withdrawal' from the University or tax transfer to the Chemistry major.

(d) Approved the amendments to the Constitution of the Inter-University Institute of Engineering Control.

Working Party on Europe

The Committee received a paper, which had been taken on the major recommendations of the preliminary report of the Working Party on Europe. The Committee approved the paper:

(i) That the Working Party on Europe should be formally disbanded (and should not, therefore, produce a final report); and

(ii) That responsibility for any future initiatives and action related specifically to opportunities for the University of British entry into the European Economic Community should rest with Areas and Units

The Committee acknowledged the suggestion that the Arts and Social Studies Area should set up a group on the future of the University in the European Economic Community should rest with Areas and Units.

Students' Union Fee

The Committee received a paper on the Students' Union Fee for initial B.Ed student of the Colleges of the School of Education. The Committee noted that this was not a single fee, but a separate fee levied on grant-awarding bodies or students, but was part of a composite fee of £45 for each B.Ed student which had to be negotiated between the University and the grant-making bodies, and that this fee was the subject of a national concordat and not negotiated bilaterally by the University. Accordingly, the Committee:

(i) The Union's element in the £45 B.Ed. fee should be increased to £9 in 1975-76 and the School of Education's element should be correspondingly reduced from £36 to £26;

(ii) The Union's element in the B.Ed. fee should not in future be open to reconsideration as part of the annual review of the fee but should only be considered when the B.Ed. fee has been reviewed nationally.

Special Meeting

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Committee would not be held on 26th and 27th June 1974. It had been arranged for Saturday, 5th October 1974, on the assumption that the minutes of the UGC's review of student numbers and grants would be known by then.

Benefits

The Vice-Chancellor reported two generous benefactions, for which the Committee expressed the University's gratitude to the donors:

(a) A further sum of £17,000 from Mr. Reginald M. Phillips, of which the University Research Unit would receive the benefit over the next twenty-first century;

(b) A sum of £5,000 in memory of Mr. Lewis Levitt bequeathed by his daughter, Mrs. C. Park, whom the Committee had in mind to be involved in decisions for its use on social facilities.

Local Authority Donations

The Vice-Chancellor reported that the total of donations by the local authorities out of the sum of £45,000 which would be £29,500. The new East Sussex County Council had approved £20,000 of the £30,000 grants from the authorities within its boundaries (£28,500 £4,000 continued on next page
expected to complete all work by the end of the summer vacation. However, the Architect's statement indicated that, in their view, whereas part of the accommodation rent was due from the students on 1 July, blocks 4 and 5 might not be available until early August, therefore, a delay was anticipated.

The meeting expressed very strong concern regarding the information and its timing, noting that up to this point no indication had been received from the Architects that any part of the accommodation might be delayed, and requested:

a) the Building Manager to arrange a meeting with the Architects, contractors and representatives of Community Services, U.T.A. and the Union, so that it can be determined whether everything will be ready in time.

b) an alternative motion was then proposed and seconded that: "in the light of the budgetary constraints within which Community Services Committee has to operate, and the need to meet the students every week without reducing catering standards, we recommend that catering prices be increased by 15%".

A motion was put that: "this Committee, recognising that the real value of the student grant has dropped since 1962, recommends a total increase in the cost of the Catering Services with a view to avoiding the need for price increases".

The motion was defeated by 11 votes to 9.

An alternative motion was then proposed and seconded that: "in the light of the budgetary constraints within which Community Services Committee has to operate, and the need to meet the students every week without reducing catering standards, we recommend that catering prices be increased by 15%".

A motion was passed to increase the budgets with the proviso that no commitment had been made in relation to the Accommodation Account with regard to the level of student rent, and the motion to increase catering prices by 15% had been defeated.

The Admissions and Counselling Services Committee had also been approached to consider the possible need to take that action, but satisfactorily the English language requirement for overseas students.

The Admissions Committee should be reminded to restrict the qualifications accepted as equivalent to an "A" level pass in English language in accordance with a recent guideline from the Admissions Office.

The Admissions Committee should be reminded to consider the adaptation of the English language requirement for overseas students.

The Admissions Committee should be reminded to re-direct the qualifications accepted as equivalent to an "A" level pass in English language in accordance with a recent guideline from the Admissions Office.

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should familiarise themselves with problems affecting overseas students in order to assist overseas students, tutors and sub-Dean.

Media Services Unit
The Committee noted the items of the minutes of the Planning Committee concerning the Media Services Unit. The interpretation of the minutes had been agreed by the Registrar, Chairman of the Committee and the Director of the Media Services Unit. The minutes are to be submitted to the Committee for approval.

(6) Familiarise itself with the history and work of MSU

(7) Receive reports from MSU on all of the Unit's activities.

(8) Review the function of MSU and its relationships with all other units and activities academic and non-academic, service and development etc.

To make recommendations to the Planning Committee in the Spring Term 1975 arising from that review including a recommendation on the Unit's organisational location.

In view of the implication of the above interpretation it was agreed that:

(a) Consideration of the review of publicity for the Media Services Unit and Proposed Estimates 1974-75 from the Director of MSU would be deferred to the Autumn Term 1974, but that the proposed Estimates should be approved subject to the outcome of the review of the MSU.

(b) Details of the Counselling Services review body into the function of the MSU would be presented to the Committee by the Chairman in the Autumn Term 1974.

Appointments Advisory Service
Mr. K. Forrest, the Appointments Officer reported that, following the resignation of an Assistant Appointments Officer from 1st May 1974, it had been agreed not to fill the vacant post but to upgrade the post of Information Assistant to include some request interview work.

Mr. K. Forrest expressed his pleasure at the Senate's approval of the change of name of the Unit to Commissions Advisory Service.

Arts and Social Studies Committee
The meeting was held on 29 May Proposed Major in Urban Studies.

The Committee considered a revised description of the proposed Major in Urban Studies which had been endorsed by the School of Cultural and Community Studies. The School had also approved plans, in conjunction with the proposed Major, for a two- term Contextual Course on "Population Analysis & Policy". The Dean of the School wished to recommend a contextual re-definition of the special places for the second logical post should be approved, subject to agreement of the final wording by the Acting Chairman.

The Centre for Social Research
The Committee considered a report and recommendations on the future of the Centre for Social Research. After the discussion of the responses (see Acting Chairman of the C.S.R. Management Committee in the leave of absence of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Arts & Social Studies)) had amplified aspects of the recommendations and had answered questions, the Committee agreed as follows:

(i) The recommendations contained in the report should be approved and, in particular, the Centre as itself previously recommended should cease to exist.

(ii) It should be replaced by an Arts & Social Studies research support unit.

(iii) Detailed implementation of the report should be carried out by the C.S.R. Management Committee, which should also be present to the next meeting and its own terms of reference and membership, together with a suggested title for the unit.

Science Committee
The meeting was held on 28 May. Budget: 1974-75

The Committee endorsed the Science Dean's Committee's recommendation that Planning Committee be asked to provide the number of vacancies for new students at £250,000 - to cover the additional unavoidable costs the Area will have to bear.

New Course
The Committee agreed to propose a new course in the School of Mathematics and Physical Sciences for a new course with 60 students. The course is to be taught in the Autumn Term 1975 for current students wishing to transfer to it.

Education Committee
The meeting was held on 28 May. Undergraduate Courses in Education

The Committee considered a

TUESDAY 18 JUNE

DIARY OF EVENTS

History & Social Studies of Science Seminar: History & Social Studies of Science Working Party "Perspectives on the Teaching & Social Studies of Science & Technology" 3-4pm Room F205A Physics Building.

Cinema French, "Quatre Cerisiers" 4:45pm minutes A2 Arts Building.

Materials Science Colloquium: Professor A. Jenkins (Sussex) "Trends in Polymer Research" 4.15pm Lecture Theatre Applied Sciences 2.

Questions Conclusions & Assurances: Robert Darmoumi

"Two are not better to verify, instruct yourself, or in form" curiosity 5.30pm Meeting House Chapel.

THURSDAY 20 JUNE


FRIDAY 21 JUNE


Graduate Division of Biomedical Engineering Lecture: Dr. Douglas Catlett "Permeability and Circulation" 3.15pm Lecture Theatre ALS.

WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE

School of Applied Sciences Mechanical & Structural Engineering Subject Group Research Seminar: Professor B. Greil (Tata University, Medford, U.S.A.) "Constrained Bead Welding", 2.15pm Room G105 Applied Sciences B1.

THURSDAY 27 JUNE

History and Social Studies of Science Seminar: Dr. O.H. Oke (University of Ile, Nigeria) "Science Education in Developing Countries" 3.15pm Nexus House Committee Room.


FRIDAY 28 JUNE

Science Policy Research Unit Seminar: Mr. Eric West (Director of Government Funded R & D, Dept. 2.15pm Room Z39 Mastell Building.

A group of university students and young school-teachers from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland will be taking part in the Seminar in Social Change and Literature at the University from 28 July to 21 September.

The group of about 20 students aged between 20 and 25 speak fluent English and are keen to improve it during their stay. They are eager to meet English people to find out about life in this country. It is hoped that members of the University will be interested in meeting some of them informally. Groups of two or three students would probably enjoy an evening at a member's house, a walk round Brighton, a drink in a pub, or a drive to the country. At the end of the course there will be a party for the University for the students and their local friends and hosts.

If you would like to help please contact Dr. Eric West, Arts A117 (Tel. 40149) or Mrs. Brugger, Arts A61 (Tel. 4211).

An exhibition of paintings - Five in the Middle by Sheila Anne Smith will be on show in the EDB Concours until 21 June.

They were painted while she was a patient in the Lady Chichester Hospital, Hope, where she was to show after she had been discharged from hospital.

Sheila Anne Smith will attend the last day of the exhibition in the same week.