UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

THE BULLETIN

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A.U.T. – PAY PROTEST

by Jennifer Payne

Tutorials and lectures were cancelled and more than 300 members of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) packed the Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre for an extraordinary general meeting last Tuesday (May 6), as the Sussex contribution to a national day of action over university teachers’ pay.

In the afternoon, about 20 members travelled by coach to Westminster to join nearly 300 delegates from other universities in a lobby of M.P.s.

AUT members picketed the University entrances on Tuesday morning and distributed leaflets putting their case for a satisfactory pay settlement.

The mass meeting, which was filmed by BBC Television and ITN for inclusion in their main news programmes, passed overwhelmingly a motion calling on the AUT National Executive to institute immediately a feasibility study on the withholding of degree results.

It also resolved to carry out any form of action required by the National Executive in the furtherance of the salary claim.

Other motions condemned the attitude of the Department of Education and Science (DES) which, it was claimed, had kept the salaries of university teachers far below those enjoyed by all comparable professions; said the posture taken up by Government negotiators was now viewed as unjust even by the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr. Reg Prentice; and called upon Mr. Prentice, in the interests of equity and fairness, to negotiate on a more realistic and just basis.

Negotiations with the DES on the AUT claim broke down on April 29. At Planning Committee the following day, concern was expressed at the failure of the talks and the Vice-Chancellor wrote to the Secretary of State urging a speedy solution of the dispute.

Demonstrations took place at many universities throughout the country on May 6 as members of the 27,000-strong AUT protested.

In London, nearly 2,000 academics turned up to hear Mr. Laurie Baquer, General Secretary of the AUT, speak. In Manchester, about 1,000 lecturers picketed the main buildings of the University and later joined Salford University staff in a march through the city.

In Bristol, AUT members from Bristol and Bath universities held a mass meeting.

Mr. Prentice is to meet a delegation of university teachers tomorrow in an attempt to settle the dispute. There was speculation that he might make an improved pay offer to avoid sending the claim to arbitration.

In a written reply in the House of Commons on May 8, Mr. Prentice admitted it was unjust that university teachers should be paid less than those in further and higher education teaching at a comparable level.

Mr. Prentice said in the House of Commons on Tuesday that he did not rule out reference of the case to arbitration so far as it referred to a new settlement of university salaries from October 1975. But he would rule out any backdating to October 1974.

"This would be a clear breach of the 12 months' rule which is a crucial element of the social contract," he said.

Any form of militant action would be quite irrelevant and unhelpful, he said. "I do not need convincing of the need for a substantial increase but no one is going to badge me on breaching the 12 months' rule. That is out of the question."

Mr Norman S. John-Stevas, Opposition education spokesman, accused Mr. Prentice of being "complacent and obdurate in the face of an unprecedented crisis in the universities".

COMMITTEE FOR NEW VC

Senate Committee members are this week choosing five members of Senate to serve on the Committee to appoint a new Vice-Chancellor in succession to Professor Asa Briggs.

Voting papers are being circulated today, bearing the names of all candidates for the Senate places on the Appointment Committee and of their nominators. They are to be returned by 10 a.m. on May 20 and the results of the election will be announced at Senate the following day.

Council have already appointed five members to the joint Committee, which will be chaired by the Chairman of Council, Sir Sydney Caffyn.

At a special meeting on April 30, Senate agreed to appoint five members to the Appointment Committee in the following manner:

(1) the five members shall be elected from amongst the 1974-75 membership of the Senate by the 1974-75 members of the Senate Committee;

(2) each nomination of a Senate member shall be supported by at least five members of the Senate Committee, and the names of those nominators shall be made known to the electorate;

(3) each member of the Senate Committee may support the nomination of not more than two candidates;

(4) each member of the Senate Committee may vote for not more than five candidates;

(5) the five candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected (votes not being transferable);

(6) a period of one week shall be allowed for the receipt of nominations.

A list of nominations shall then be circulated and a period shall be allowed in order to enable any candidate, should he or she so wish, to withdraw his or her candidature. Voting papers shall then be circulated with a closing date which enables the returning officer to inform the Senate and Senate Committee of the result of the election at its meeting on May 21, 1975.
MUSIC AT SUSSEX

George Bernard Shaw called music "the brandy of the damned". Here John Myerscough, Chair of the Music Directorate, describes some of the five star cognacs currently being distilled in the Arts Centre:

The Gardner Centre Music Directorate has successfully continued the policies of its predecessor, the Music Union Group. With the magnificent work of our professional staff and the close co-operation of the students' Music Federation, Music Faculty and local community representatives, the Directorate supports and encourages all musical activity in the University, both for performers and listeners.

The Director of Music, Laszlo Helay and his assistant, Helen McMurray, provide musical advice, coaching and conducting, and administrative assistance to the many musical societies in the University. There is effective collaboration between all groups concerned with the provision and use of musical facilities. In this way it is possible to co-ordinate the wide range of musical activity across the campus.

The Directorate also organises an important programme of exciting concerts at the Gardner Centre. The concerts are planned to interest audiences from both the University and the local community. The programmes range from the classical standard masterpieces to old and new music, and include ethnic, jazz and folk concerts. In the coming month there will be a guitar recital by John Williams, a piano recital by Clifford Curzon, orchestral programmes by the London Sinfonietta and the Skilman Orchestra, and a concert-performance of Peter Grimes by the Chelsea Opera Group.

In addition to the professional concerts, the Gardner Centre presents concerts each term by the various University musical groups, including the Choir, Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and New Music Group.

The lunchtime recitals are an expanding part of the work. The Friday series of organ and harpsichord recitals is well established in the Meeting House and a Tuesday series in the Gardner Centre offers opportunities to young pianists, singers and instrumentalists. Admission to all lunchtime recitals is free, and the occasions are quite informal. This term, further concerts will be given in the Arts Centre Gallery on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes by a madrigal group, a brass quartet, a jazz ensemble and a contemporary music group.

Student music-making will take over the Centre during the week of June 8 - 14, when Midsummer Music will present concerts, including Walton's Facade by the Chamber Orchestra, Elgar's Enigma Variations by the University Orchestra, a Mozart piano concerto played by a music student at Sussex, and the University Choir will sing Handel's Dixit Dominus, conducted by Laszlo Helay.

Musicians in residence have been part of our programme from the beginning and soon a young Quartet-in-Residence will be appointed to be with us from September. The Quartet will give concerts at the Gardner Centre and also take part in the lunchtime recital programme as well as giving open work-shop sessions.

They will play in the appropriate sections of University music groups and may also do some coaching. We hope that they will be a valuable stimulus for music-making not only in the University but also in schools and local organisations with whom collaborative ventures involving the Quartet are planned.

As a result of the work of the Director of Music and the support of everybody involved in the Directorate, the musical side of the University's social life has grown remarkably during recent years.

It is now estimated that maybe a thousand people are involved in music-making on the campus. This includes orchestras, choirs, ensembles, groups, clubs, as well as individual pianists and instrumentalists. The figure does not include the large audiences for musical events and the huge gathering for the annual mass Messiah sing-in - an event which perhaps says more about the importance of musical activity on the campus than any other.

PRIZE WON FOR THIRD TIME

Dr. Peter Lloyd, Reader in Social Anthropology, has been awarded the 1974 Amnesty International Prize for his book 'Power and Independence: Urban African's perceptions of social inequality'.

It is the third time he has won the prize which is given for "the most valuable of the works of anthropological research" published during the year about Nigeria or other parts of Africa.

Dr. Lloyd's previous successes were in 1962 for 'Yoruba Land Law' and in 1967 for 'Africa in Social Change', published by Penguin.

SUMMER GRADUATION CEREMONY

Members of faculty who wish to invite guests to the Ceremony at the Dome on July 15, 1975 are reminded that they should inform Mr. P.A. Tear by May 31, 1975 of the number of guest tickets they require. After that date requests for guest tickets cannot be met.

REFERENDUM DEBATE

Shirley Williams and Roger Moate will be speaking in a Referendum debate at the Gardner Centre tomorrow, May 14.

The all-day teach-in, organised by the Centre for Contemporary European Studies, starts at 10.30am under the chairmanship of Alastair Buchan, and includes a panel of six experts.

Admission: 20p per morning and afternoon session. Students: 10p per session on the day, free if tickets are obtained in advance.

SOMERSET MAUGHAM AWARD

Gabriel Josipovici, Reader in English in the School of European Studies, has won the Somerset Maugham Award and a £500 prize for his latest book, 'Mobius the Stripper', a collection of short stories and plays.

The prize is awarded by the Society of Authors "on the strength of the promise of a published work".

Previous winners have included Kingsley Amis and John le Carre.

'Mobius the Stripper' is published by Gollancz, price £2.80.

Helicopter Landing

A helicopter of the Queen's Flight landed at the University on Friday.

This was a practice landing in preparation for the visit by Princess Margaret to the Girl Guides' conference here on June 23.
PLANNING COMMITTEE

The University Grants Committee has resumed planning for the 1977-78 quinquennium by requesting the University to give its preliminary views on student numbers for 1981-82, the Vice-Chancellor told Planning Committee on April 30.

Tuition fees

The Department of Education and Science (D.E.S,) has recommended to local education authorities that from 1975-76 fees for full-time advanced courses in further education should be increased by approximately £70, the Committee heard. Corresponding increases by universities have been assumed in their recurrent grant for 1975-76.

The Committee regretted that the increases were being forced on universities when a joint University Grants Committee/Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals' working party was reviewing the fee structure in universities with the aim of introducing new arrangements in October 1976.

It also expressed regret that the increases continued the discrimination against overseas students and would in practice be more severe for students from poor developing countries, but it noted that the UGC would indicate to each university a sum within which the fee increases might be waived in cases of hardship.

The Committee approved the revised fees to take effect from September 29, 1975.

Higher education in the Brighton area

A report on matters relating to the Prospective amalgamation of Brighton College of Education with Brighton Polytechnic was received and approved by Planning Committee.

* East Sussex County Council's Further Education Sub-Committee has established a Merging Committee, to which the Vice-Chancellor has nominated the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Director of the School of Education as representatives of the University and the Area Training Organisation. The Merging Committee met for the first time on April 30 and intends to submit revised articles of government in July and a final report in October.

* The College's Academic Board has resolved that it wishes its teacher education courses to continue to be validated by the University, and has invited the University to consider validation of prospective diploma and degree courses in areas in which the College at present works.

* In the light of this, and of the Polytechnic's view expressed to the Minister of State in February that the University should validate in an enlarged institution, proposals for a new structure to replace the Area Training Organization (in its validating role) and the Colleges Advisory Board (C.A.B.) will be submitted to the C.A.B., for discussion on May 14. They will come to the Planning Committee at its June meeting.

UGC working party on libraries

The Vice-Chancellor is a member of a working party on libraries established by the University Grants Committee under the chairmanship of Professor R.J.C. Atkinson, Planning Committee was told. The working party will make an urgent study of the minimum essential capital requirements of university libraries (excluding copyright libraries) for reader places and storage, in the light of current and probable future pressures on UGC capital resources.

Brighton Borough Planning Committee

Plans for developing the University site over the next five years were discussed when the Borough of Brighton Planning Committee visited the University on April 18 and met members of the Site Planning and Buildings Committee. Both Committees indicated that they would like similar meetings annually, the Vice-Chancellor said.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

Under the new Health and Safety at Work Act which came into force on April 1, all staff have the duty to take reasonable care for everyone's safety. In general terms the Act increases the responsibilities of employers and of employees.

The effect of the Act on the liability of University staff is described in a provisional assessment which has been prepared.

Staff liability, broadly speaking, arises in two ways, the document says:

(a) The common law duty to take reasonable care to ensure that any person who is foreseeably likely to be affected by one's action is not injured thereby.

An injured person could claim damages against the member of staff and/or the University. The University, as employer, has an insurance policy under which an employee is indemnified against his legal liability to pay compensation (and costs) for injury or damage caused by his negligence whilst acting within the scope of his employment, provided that the University would have been legally liable had it been sued.

(b) The duty to observe statutory rules (Acts of Parliament, regulations, etc.) of safety. The sanctions such as fines and imprisonment are stated in the Acts, regulations, etc., but the payment of compensation is also a sanction even when the Act does not mention it.

Students are "persons other than employees" and, like everyone else, have the common law duty to take reasonable care and the duty to observe statutory rules. Students are not indemnified under the University's insurances, except while undertaking paid duties for the University when they are treated as employees.

Visitors are also "persons other than employees" and are not indemnified under the University's insurances.

Further details of the effects of the Act are given in the document, copies of which are available from Mr. J.G. Davies, Establishment Officer.

From the Morning Star, May 3, 1975

HOMES RAIDED

The homes of two Iranian students who have been remanded in custody following a sit-in at the Iranian embassy in London were raided by police - not razed, as was inadvertently printed in yesterday's Morning Star.

UGURNT

OVER THE WEEKEND OF THE
26 AND 27 APRIL THE CASH BOX
WAS STOLEN FROM THE CRECHE,
ALSO A NUMBER OF RECEIPTS.
IF ANYONE PAID BY CHEQUE FOR
THE "SPONSORED WALK" OR "FOOD
AND NAPPY SALES" ANYTIME
FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE
EASTER VACATION, WOULD THEY
PLEASE CONFIRM WITH THEIR BANK
WHETHER THE CHEQUE HAS BEEN
PASSED FOR PAYMENT. IF NOT,
WOULD THEY KINDLY CANCEL IT
AND SEND A REPLACEMENT
CHEQUE TO BRIAN REYNOLDS,
ACCOUNTANT, COMMUNITY
SERVICES, REPERTORY.
1975-76 GRANT

The University Grants Committee (UGC) has told the University that its grant for 1975-76 will be £6,103,000. No additions will be made to this figure to cover any price increases other than academic salary awards.

The grant is calculated on the assumption that additional income will arise from increased tuition fees (see Planning Committee report, page 3). The UGC grant will account for about 89 per cent of the University's income in 1975-76 (apart from research grants, etc.). That income is estimated to be about 4½ per cent less in real terms than expenditure in the current year.

The full text of the UGC letter to the Vice-Chancellor is as follows:

Further to my letter of 25 March I write to inform you that the Committee have now made the revised allocation of recurrent grant for 1975-76 and that the grant for your university is £6,103,000. In relation to expenditure other than salaries of academic and related staff the grants are at a notional price level at January 1976 and no further grant in respect of inflation of these costs during the year is to be expected.

The grants embody provision for academic and related staff salaries at the 1974 level plus all authorised "threshold" payments.

2. The grant is set at the estimated additional revenue arising from the increase of £70 in tuition fees on the assumption that this applies to all full-time students. However the Committee have kept a special reserve and will accept claims from your university for supplementary grant towards the cost of meeting waivers of the increase in cases of hardship. We shall be in touch with your Finance Officer separately about the maximum sum within which claims will be accepted and the machinery for making them.

3. Any earmarked grants for 1975-76, including those for social work training courses, are included in the total grant quoted above and should be regarded as increased to be consistent with the price basis now established. Universities will wish to review the indicated amounts for vacation study and field course expenses in the light of current costs. The separate payments for the cost of pensions increases for retired members of academic and related staff are not included in the grant.

4. The Committee greatly regret that it has not yet been possible to announce grants for 1976-77 and wish to emphasise, as I said in my earlier letter, that they intend to revert to normal longer term procedures as soon as possible. Indeed I am writing to you concurrently about student numbers in 1981-82 as a preliminary to a reversion to quinquennial planning. I am sorry that notice be said about furniture and equipment grants in 1975-76 but it is hoped to make a revised allocation by the end of May.

5. The value of the grant must depend on the course of inflationary pressure in 1975. If, as must be hoped, it moderates to a figure below the 28.2 per cent recorded in the Brown index for January 1974 to January 1975 there will to that extent be a real improvement in the value of the grant over the grant for the previous year. But if inflation continues in 1975 at the rate experienced in 1974 the total grant will represent in real terms only a minimal increase over that for 1974-75 and it will be inevitable that most of the economies instituted in that year will have to continue.

In order to take some account of the increased cost of existing commitments the Committee have attempted to assure that in real terms every university would have a minimal increase in resources over 1974-75 if the rate of inflation moderates slightly. This means however that only small provision has been made for increased student numbers, and the extent to which the University wishes to proceed towards the revised undergraduate student number objective for 1976-77 suggested following my letter of 8 July 1974 is for the University to decide. The Committee realise of course that universities are already heavily committed in respect of the entry of 1975. This inevitably means that costs per student will be reduced in expanding universities unless the rate of inflation is very much less than it was last year. The Committee will hope to rectify disparities arising from different rates of growth in future years.

Since the grant for 1976-77 has yet to be settled, it is not possible at present to foresee either the level from which the next quinquennial settlement will start or the economic circumstances which will be the background to that settlement. The Committee will do their utmost to ensure that the total resources available to the universities are adequate for their future tasks. Looking, as one is bound to do at present, at a situation where resources are extremely short, such rectification could, I am afraid, imply reduction of commitments and/or some further pressure on the level of grant it is possible to make to those universities which have the slowest rate of expansion.

So Who Needs Marriage?

If you like your musicals bittersweet with a tinge of irony, "So Who Needs Marriage?" at the Arts Centre till May 24 as part of Brighton Festival, is for you.

Set in a divorce court where the breakdown of a marriage is being dissected, Monty Norman's new musical is largely a vehicle for the charm and singing ability of his wife Diana Coupland and for the comic mimicry of Jon Pertwee.

The audience last Thursday's premiere were kept entertained as Mr Pertwee slipped from presiding judge through a range of accents and characters as varied as a matronly German gynaecologist, a Yorkshire business tycoon and a seedy private detective.

But they were left with a slightly bitter taste in their mouths at the final curtain as Mr Norman hammered home his underlying serious theme: Who really needs the trauma of divorce?

The talented cast of six flung themselves into their parts - and into Irving Davies' stagings of the musical numbers - with gusto. June Ritchie was particularly energetic as the bitchy Kate and she raised some of the biggest laughs of the evening in a cameo role as a drunken American wife.

Eric Flynn conveyed a nice blend of blueness and bewilderment as a husband immersed in his work on "transistorised whatsis" and no longer able to make contact with his wife, while John Gower and Elizabeth Power, doubling as the other man and woman and as the opposing lawyers, were suitably partisan and sparkled in the musical numbers.

Some of the songs were catchy and bouncy - notably "Picking Holes" full of malicious after-party gossip and the title tune - but there were no real show-stopping numbers.

When the show moves on to London, Mr. Norman may find it will be a much smaller hit then his previous successes like "Expresso Bongo" and "Irma la Douce".