AUT Pay Settled

The recent pay settlement for university teachers was greeted with bitterness by members of the Association of University Teachers at their conference in Swansea last month.

The AUT has reluctantly accepted a £312 cost-of-living increase, payable from October 1, 1976.

University teachers had hoped for an increase of about 20 per cent.

In a two-stage exercise they were awarded a rise of 22 per cent last June, with a second-stage cost-of-living increase to follow in October.

The AUT has argued that the cost-of-living payment should be an integral part of the pay-package agreed in June, but they have been forced to accept the £6-a-week limit set by the Government's new pay policy introduced in August.

The Government has acknowledged that had its new policy not intervened, the new scales would have risen to £8,950 and £8,400 for the highest-paid lecturer and senior lecturer respectively. As it is, these figures are now £6,446 and £7,742 respectively.

In the agreement reached with the Government, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr Fred Mulley, said he well appreciated the disappointment of the university side.

As he had indicated in the House of Commons, "this is a matter to which the parties will have to return when there is a different pay situation facing the nation."

The AUT Council at its Swansea meeting, however, voted for a motion under which the AUT executive will table a new salary claim at once, based on a full cost-of-living settlement for 1974-75.

It also endorsed a future programme which included intensive lobbying of Parliament, continuing meetings on the salaries issue and the possibility of more militant action.

Sussex University AUT submitted two motions critical of the Executive. One censured the President of the Association for his handling of the Emergency Council meeting. The other was critical of the salary negotiating team for its acquiescence in the delays during the salary negotiations.

Both of these censure motions, and similar ones from several other branches, were rejected.

The local Association also submitted a motion calling for the establishment of a monthly subscription. This was referred to the Executive for implementation before the next academic year. A further motion calling for increased fees for external examining was passed by acclaim.

TUC Links

Members of the AUT are to take part in a ballot on March 22 to decide whether to join the TUC.

Delegates at the Swansea conference agreed that the ballot should be decided by a simple majority. The executive had proposed affiliation only if two-thirds of those voting were in favour.

Conditions of Service of Teaching Faculty

Conditions of Service of Teaching Faculty at Sussex were approved by Council at its meeting on December 12, subject to any comments to be made by a quorate AUT General Meeting.

As the December meeting was quorate, the President of the local Association gave executive approval to the new conditions.

The conditions will be offered to existing members of the teaching faculty (subject to their right to dissent) and will be used for all new appointments.

Under the £6-a-week pay increase, the lecturer scale will run from £3,174 to £6,446 p.a.

A university lecturer at the top of the scale will receive about £30 more than a polytechnic lecturer on maximum.

A reader will be on the scale £6,234 to £7,742. While a professor will receive not less than £7,897.

Council adopted these new scales at its meeting on December 12.
SCHOOL OF EUROPEAN STUDIES

Developments in the School of European Studies are described below by its Dean, Dr. Cecil Jenkins. In a changing external situation, the School faces a time of challenge and opportunity.

The recommendations of last year’s Working Party on the Future of European Studies - which examined exhaustively the situation of the School in its larger context as well as in its immediate subject context - are now in the process of being implemented.

Along with various other steps which have been taken, they are designed to give the School a sharper academic definition and greater cohesion.

If the present is in fact a period of great opportunity for European Studies in general, it is also a challenging and uncomfortably competitive one which is likely to demand from a School which has traditionally tended towards dispersal and uneven development a strong sense of collective purpose and identity.

The most demanding activity in which the School has been engaged is certainly the elaboration of a new set of School courses to replace the existing School Prelim and Contextuals. This new overall pattern, which is to come into force in October 1977, is primarily intended to provide a fresh and clearer academic basis for the School’s activity, and to bring greater continuity to the work of the student.

However, it also satisfies a number of secondary aims. It reunites humanities and social sciences within the same contextual framework. It should lessen the strains of the Sussex teaching situation by reducing repetition and diaperal.

Also, the two-term course unit and the variety of teaching methods envisaged should mitigate the fragmentation and discontinuity at present caused by the combination of tutorial teaching, one-term unit and course proliferation - thus improving the situation of the student.

The setting up of this new programme has provided the occasion at once for greater structural concentration and for a healthy degree of academic renewal.

The School has also had to come to terms with the fact that we now clearly have a language teaching crisis in this country, mainly due to the very high degree of specialization in the British Sixth Form - indeed, we are actively considering the promoting of a conference to ventilate this problem at national or regional level.

Meanwhile, an intensive Second Language course has been introduced into the new programme, designed principally for those students who need to maintain a second language already studied up to A level. In addition, the School will as of 1977 admit a select number of otherwise duly qualified candidates who have not studied a foreign language at A level; these students will be required to take an intensive two-term language course as an alternative School Prelim.

In this general connection, it should be added that the University Grants Committee’s favourable response to a more flexible approach to language teaching and to the proposal to set up a University Language Centre is very opportune.

With a view to creating a more corporate intellectual life, the School is now organizing regular lecture series and conferences designed to bring together internal and external speakers in the exploration of European themes and problems.

A series on The Idea of Europe in the Autumn term involved a number of Sussex faculty, including the Vice-Chancellor, and such visitors as Jack Lively, Norman Hampson, Victor Kiernan and Michel Crosier. A two-day conference in March on the current crisis in economic planning, organized by Dr Stuart Holland, will involve Judith Hart and a variety of speakers from Germany, France and Italy. Individual visits by Michael Mann and others have already taken place or are scheduled, while further regular events are now being planned by a standing sub-committee.

These activities should also improve the general social cohesion of the School, which has been enhanced by the concentration within Arts A, the improved Common Room facilities, and the appearance of a termly newsletter.

It is clear, however, that the general situation in which the School finds itself will continue to be both challenging and mobile, and that much remains to be done. While the working link with the Centre for Contemporary European Studies and other relevant units has been strengthened in various ways - one result being the recasting of the syllabus of the MA in Contemporary European Studies - the larger problem of the promotion and coordination of research has yet to be examined fully.

Again, while important steps have been taken in relation to the Year Abroad - a new committee has been set up and a separate fund established to facilitate exchange visits of faculty - the proper academic integration of this year will pose complex problems for a long time to come.

Here, as elsewhere, one thing seems quite clear: that if the School is to be a significant, lively and successful place in the new situation opening up before us it will have to see itself firmly as a European School of European Studies.

OVERSEAS RELATIONS OFFICE

An Overseas Relations Office was established in Sussex House on January 1.

It will deal primarily with the series of short courses for students from overseas which Planning Committee agreed should become part of the University’s regular activities.

The courses will be run mainly in the summer vacations, and the programme is expected to get under way on a substantial basis in the summer of 1977. Members of faculty with an interest in summer school activity of this kind should contact Mr. E.H. Cox, the Overseas Relations Officer.

In addition, the Office will take over some of the functions previously undertaken by other parts of the Administration, in particular the administration of the University’s involvement with one-year non-graduating students from overseas (exchange and visiting students).

The Office is also intended to act as a clearing house for proposals concerning relationships between the University and overseas institutions and students. It would be very beneficial if the Overseas Relations Officer could be brought into any such negotiations at the earliest possible time.

Mr. Cox’s internal telephone extension is 05-153 (Room 308) and his secretary is Miss P.J. Osborne, ext. 05-124 (Room 310).
IN BRIEF

PITMS ON CAMPUS
File Bulletins, giving information on films to be shown on campus during the Spring term, are available from Jon Collinge, Media Service Unit, E2B, room 104 (Internal tel. 05-116).

LIFE PEERAGE
Donald Chapman, Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Contemporary European Studies, has been made a life peer.
He was one of nine new life peers named in a list issued by 10 Downing Street on December 17.
He has been Chairman of the Development Commission since 1974 and was Labour MP for Birmingham (Northfield) from 1951 to 1970.
He was General Secretary of the Fabian Society from 1949 to 1953.

SIR RICHARD
Richard Attenborough, the University's Pro-Chancellor, received a knighthood in the New Year Honours list.
Sir Richard, the actor-producer-director, was made a CBE in 1987.

TOWN & GOWN CLUB
More than 130 members and guests of the Town and Gown Club met at the University on December 11. After a buffet in the Refectory, they attended a performance of the one-man show 'Max' at the Gardner Centre.
The next two meetings of the Club will be held on Wednesday, February 11 and Tuesday, May 18. Further information about the Club's activities is available from Mr. P.A. Tear in Sussex House.

ELECTIONS
Mr. R.O. Eduardus-Jones was re-elected Treasurer of the University, for a period of three years, at the meeting of Court on December 12.
The Rt. Hon. Frank Cousins was re-elected to serve on Council for one year until the next meeting of Court in December 1976. He takes the place of Mr. T. Jackson, who has resigned his membership of Council.

FIRST AID
Campus safety can be improved if more people are prepared to become qualified in First Aid. Molecular Sciences, Applied Sciences and Sussex House each have between eight and twenty qualified First Aiders, but more are needed from other buildings.
The University pays a bonus to qualified First Aid personnel, as follows:
* Faculty and postgraduates who have qualified or who have re-qualified on expiry of a previous certificate, or who have joined the University since January 1, 1975, and who possess a valid First Aid certificate on January 1, 1976, receive a single payment of £15 for expenses.
* Non-faculty staff who possess a valid First Aid certificate on January 1, 1976, receive a payment of £10, half of which is for expenses.
These payments are being made this month. Anyone who wishes to claim an allowance should write to Dr. P. Ballance in Estates Building, enclosing evidence of their qualification and the period for which it is valid.
The next course leading to a First Aid certificate will be held soon after Easter 1976. Anyone wishing to enrol should contact Mr. Peter Gilliver in Molecular Sciences, who is organising the course.
Preference on this particular course will be given to people from buildings other than Molecular Sciences, Applied Sciences and Sussex House.
A "crash course" is to be held early this term for those who wish to learn basic first aid without a formal qualification. Details are available from Mr. Gilliver.
COUNCIL

Plans for the development of student accommodation in co-operation with the New Colebrooke Housing Society took a step forward at the meeting of Council on December 12.

The Vice-Chancellor reported on the discussions of Planning Committee and Senate, and, after further discussion, Council agreed that Planning Committee should establish a project team, whose membership would be the Chairman of Community Services, a nominee of the Site Planning and Buildings Committee (Mr. R.H. Bryant) and the President of the Students' Union or his nominee, and which would work with the Housing Society and Brighton Borough Council.

It also agreed to the appointment of an architect by the Housing Society in consultation with the University.

The Chairman of Community Services is to continue discussions with the Society particularly in respect of rent collection responsibilities and liabilities, and rent differentials.

A University discussion is to be organised at an appropriate time during the negotiations.

Chair of Philosophy

Council approved the recommendation, previously approved by Senate, that the Chair of Philosophy should be offered to Professor I. Meszaros.

Professor Meszaros was formerly a lecturer in Philosophy at the University and since 1972 has been Professor of Philosophy and Social Science at York University, Toronto.

Tributes

Council congratulated Dr. H.J.O. Pogge von Strandmann on the award to him of a personal research grant by the Volkswagen Foundation for 18 months from October 1975.

It also congratulated Professor B.E. Supple on his appointment as Chairman of the Assessment of Performance Unit working with the Educational Disadvantage Unit in the Department of Education and Science.

Mr. D. Tyerman

Mr. D. Tyerman has resigned his membership of Council because of illness. Council expressed a formal tribute to Mr. Tyerman for his many services to the University since his first co-option to Council in 1962.

Visiting Professors

Council approved recommendations of the Vice-Chancellor, previously approved by Senate, that the title of Visiting Professor should be conferred on Dr. J.R. Lawrence, formerly Director of the Institute of Manpower Studies; Professor J.J. R. Naja, from January 1 to June 30, 1976, during his exchange with Professor Z. Barbu; and Professor F.J. Reithel, for the academic year 1975-76, while he was associated with the ARC Unit of Nitrogen Fixation.

Committee on Terms and Conditions of Employment

The Rt. Hon. Frank Cousins has been appointed as an additional member of the Committee for the session 1975-76.

SPECIAL LECTURES

RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF SUSSEX

The Bishop of Chichester, Dr. Eric Evesham, visits the campus this evening, January 13, to give the first lecture of a series on the religious history of Sussex. Dr. Evesham will be speaking in the Meeting House at 7.30pm. He has taken as his subject "The mediaeval Bishops of Chichester."

OPEN SEMINAR

THE BRITISH & AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRIES

Professor Howard Moon, Illinois Department of Transportation (USA), will speak on comparative aspects of the American and British automobile industries (including design, innovation, production techniques, social psychology) at 4.45pm, on Thursday, January 15, in Arts C337.

All are invited to come and participate. For further information, contact Michael Dunne Arts 8134.

SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

The Centre for Continuing Education is to hold a weekend school on "Spain, Portugal and the Future of Europe", at the White House, Chelwood Gate, from January 30 to February 1, 1976. Recent political turbulence in southern Europe and its impact on the wider European scene will be analysed by the weekend school.

Speakers include Professor Francois Duchêne, Mr. David Rudnick of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Dr. Michael Leigh, and Dr. David Hine, Worcester College, Oxford.

The closing date for applications for this course is January 19.

REFECTORY ALTERATIONS

Construction works on the mezzanine floor of the Refectory have led to a number of alterations in catering services this term. The Scramble has moved to Level 1, operating from the north end while kitchen alterations are in progress.

The Snack service which normally operates on Level 1, has moved to the Level 1 Lounge, while the Salad Bowl will be operating from Level 2.

Additional seating has been provided in the Level 2 Bar, wine and cheese service.

Moves in Admin

A number of changes in the Administration have taken place this month. Mr. Ed Prosser, Assistant Secretary (Senate), has also taken on the duties of Personal Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor. Mr. Prosser's office will be room 320 in Sussex House, tel. no. 65-162.

Mr. Geoff Ivey, Personal Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor and Acting Information Officer, became Secretary of Education at the beginning of the year in succession to Mr. Ted Cox.

Mr. Cox has moved back to Sussex House following his appointment as Overseas Relations Officer. He will be responsible for launching short courses for overseas students.

Mr. Pat Tear, Assistant Secretary (Council), has taken on the duties of Acting Information Officer.

ROAD CLOSURE ON JANUARY 19

A section of the University road system will be closed on Monday, January 19, because a mobile crane will be in use on the eastern side of the Refectory that day. The north-south road from the south-west corner of the Boiler House car park to the north end of the Refectory will be closed for the whole day.

An alternative route giving access to the area north of the Refectory is to be provided through the Boiler House and East Slope car parks.