TEACHER TRAINING CUTS

Proposals for a further reduction in the number of teacher training places outside the universities to 45,000 by 1981 were announced by the Rt. Hon. Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, on January 24.

They include a decision to cease initial teacher training by 1981 at the newly created East Sussex College of Higher Education at Eastbourne, except for the provision of 400 places for training physical education teachers available at the former Chelsea College of Physical Education.

These places are to be transferred to the Palmer site of Brighton Polytechnic, where the total provision will increase from 600 to 1,000 places.

Commenting on the proposals to The Bulletin, Mr. G.R. Tyler, Director of the East Sussex College of Higher Education, said: "The Academic Board and the College Council will be considering a number of alternatives to the proposals made by the Secretary of State."

"They will include retaining the responsibility for teacher training at Eastbourne alongside the considerable programme of diversification in courses now developed at the College."

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Catering Advisory Group is to meet to finalise details of the service and opening hours of the new Refectory Restaurant, which will open later this term. Community Services Committee agreed at its meeting on January 26.

Current proposals for the restaurant which is still seeking a name, include opening times from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, as well as a lunchtime service on weekdays.

Isle of Thorns

The Committee also agreed that proposals for improving safety at the Isle of Thorns swimming pool should be discussed by the Sport and Recreation Committee.

Housing Society Scheme

Planning of the New Colebrooke Housing Society scheme and the East Slope Social Centre is still making satisfactory progress, it was reported.

Children's facilities

The Children's Facilities Advisory Group is to present recommendations on policy for children's facilities at the University to include plans for the transfer of the nursery school from the Education Area to Community Services.

Accommodation

The Accommodation Advisory Group will be looking at problems of heating levels in residential accommodation and other difficulties reported by USTA.

Full details of the allocation, priorities and booking arrangements for residential accommodation in 1977-78 were approved by the Committee.

Details are given on page 2.

SUSSEX BY THE SEA

During the coming summer the University of Sussex will again be offering 'family' flats on the East Slope and a few smaller ones in Brighton and Hove for letting to holiday visitors as self-catering flats.

The East Slope flats are mostly six-person units, i.e. they have six single study bedrooms plus a kitchen and a communal dining/lounge area.

They will be available during most of the summer vacation on a weekly basis from Saturday to Saturday at a price of £60 a week plus VAT for a six-person flat in July and August, reduced to £50 a week plus VAT in September.

If any member of the University is interested in considering a booking for themselves or their friends full details can be obtained from Mary Cunningham in the Holiday Lettings Section of the Conference Office, internal telephone 06-151.
ACCOMMODATION

Plans for the allocation of University residential accommodation for next session are now underway.

The Accommodation Advisory Sub-Group, set up last session under the chairmanship of the Accommodation Manager, Mr. Brian Reynolds, to provide a continuing source of information and advice on the accommodation situation, has drawn up proposals for the allocation order of priorities and booking procedure of University accommodation in 1977-78.

These proposals were approved by the Community Services Committee last week.

The University undertakes to find University-owned accommodation for all first year students and it is existing policy approved by Community Services Committee and USTA as far as is possible to integrate students from different years within University accommodation.

The following order of priorities will be used by the Accommodation Office in the allocation of accommodation next year:

First years:
According to students preference where possible, but otherwise random selection.

Returning students:
First priority will be given to students with medical, welfare or academic reasons requiring them to live in University accommodation.

Second priority to finalists who have never lived in University-owned accommodation.

Third priority to those who have only had one year in University-owned accommodation:
(a) to finalists in groups or doubles
(b) to finalists individually
(c) to second years in groups, only where places are left.

Graduates:
First priority for medical, welfare or academic reasons.

Second priority to new overseas graduates.

Third priority to new U.K. graduates (20 places allocated on campus).

Some graduate rooms must be held back for those students who do not apply until late in the summer.

The Committee asked for the views of the graduate community on the competing claims for the limited number of graduate places (220) particularly between priorities for new overseas postgraduates and graduates whose academic commitments and study hours justified accommodation on campus.

Family flats:
First priority to couples with children who have never lived on campus.

Only couples with children will be allowed to renew tenancies.

An Appeals Committee will be established to consider cases outside the above priorities.

In the light of previous experience off-campus double rooms and flats will be excluded from the priority rules. They will be let to pairs and groups of students irrespective of previous time spent in University accommodation.

As in previous years, the booking period will be three weeks during February and March. Students will shortly be given details.

Most of those students at present living on campus will be expected to find other accommodation in 1977-78. Help will be available from the Accommodation Office, which will be updating its register of available houses, flats, bedsitting rooms and private lodgings from the Easter vacation onwards, as vacancies are notified by landlords.

The problem of obtaining a feedback from students seeking accommodation during the summer term and vacation was discussed by the Accommodation Advisory Sub-Group. It has been agreed that an experiment some pre-stamped cards will be issued to be returned by students to the University when they have found accommodation. These cards will be marked in such a way that the response from them can be compared with the response from unstamped cards.

It has also been decided that the questionnaire to students in University accommodation this year should be continued so that an idea can be obtained as to how many of them have found accommodation at the end of the summer term.

The facility of offering single-sex corridors and a quiet house is to be continued.

ACADEMIC EXCHANGES

As in previous years, the British Council is once again asking United Kingdom universities to nominate staff from European universities or equivalent institutions whom they wish to receive for short visits in the calendar year 1978.

Countries included in the scheme are: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, West Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Yugoslavia.

An equal number of visits will be arranged for British university and polytechnic staff at the invitation of academic institutions in these countries.

Each university or polytechnic may submit up to ten nominations and may hope to be allocated between one and four visits according to the size of the institution. For 1977 a total of 119 visits each way has been agreed, and a similar number is expected for 1978.

The purpose of the Academic Interchange with Europe Scheme is to enable visiting scholars to make or renew academic contacts, to lecture and to meet in informal seminars younger workers in their own fields of study. Visits normally last from one to three weeks.

Details of the scheme are available in Arts & Social Studies and Science Offices. The University would be expected to provide hospitality for the visitors, the cost falling on the area or unit making the nomination.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

In The Bulletin dated November 30, 1976 an article by Dr. B.L. Smith appeared and this treated the subject of students’ accommodation. While I would not care to dispute the facts presented, I think that someone should make a mild protest at the use of loaded language to describe a system of finance which the author dislikes personally.

The University Grants Committee certainly assisted the University to build student accommodation by means of a loan-finance scheme. However, the adjective ‘notorious’ is an element of propaganda, not of information; could we substitute ‘well known’?

Under this scheme the University received completely ‘free’ money from the UGC as a contribution to the costs of providing residential places for students. In recent years the grant has been close to 50%; the University has raised the balance of the money needed on mortgage like any would-be house owner.

For East Slope Stages I and II the total UGC contribution, free of all cost to the University, was £537,629 for around 580 places. Was this such a bad bargain? At all events, without this subsidy it would have cost at least an extra £2.30 a week per student-place.

The article also said that loan-finance had ‘collapsed’. Yet at this moment other universities have lodged applications with the UGC for a total of £2 million; clearly the scheme will not collapse for lack of demand.

The housing association approach that Sussex University is pioneering for on-campus student accommodation has its own problems and experience will reveal whether it is a ‘better’ scheme than loan-finance. The amount charged in weekly rent to students may be lower, but this need not cause us to regret that we, with Lancaster University, also pioneered loan-finance when 100% UGC grants ceased. Indeed, it may well be that in the future loan-finance will have to be used again for on-campus accommodation, as it still is for off-campus accommodation.

Yours faithfully,

D.R. Bowman
(Assistant Bursar
Sussex House)

SPECIAL LECTURES

Professor J.F.C. Harrison, Professor of History at Sussex, will speak on “William Lovett and the Chartist Movement” in the Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday, February 10.

This is the 23rd lecture in the Great Centenaries lecture series organised by the Centre for Continuing Education. Admission is free and open to all.

“Britain, America and the Bomb” is the title of a lecture by Professor Margaret Gowing, Professor of the History of Science at the University of Oxford, to be given on Thursday, February 17, at 5.30 p.m. in Arts Lecture Theatre A1. This is a special lecture organised by the Centre for Continuing Education and is also open to the public.

DEVIL-WORSHIP

Professor Norman Cohn, Director of the Columbus Centre and author of “Europe’s Inner Demons” is to give a series of five lectures this term on “Devil-Worship in Mediaeval Europe: Fantasy and Fact.”

The first lecture, entitled “Did mediaeval heretics worship the Devil?”, will be on Monday, February 7 at 5.15 p.m. in Arts Lecture Theatre C13. The series is presented by the Columbus Centre and the Centre for Continuing Education in association with Arts and Social Studies and will continue for the following four Mondays. Admission is free and open to all.

DIARY OF EVENTS

The Information Office welcomes items for The Bulletin and Diary of Events.

The Bulletin is published every alternate Tuesday and the Diary of Events every Thursday during term-time.

Anyone with news items, contributions, information or anything they would like to see appear in The Bulletin, should contact Jennifer Payne, Information Office, Sussex House (int. tel. 05-123).

The Diary of Events runs from Friday to Thursday each week. Items should reach Vera McPhillips (05-116) or Ann Fyles (05-244) in the Information Office, Sussex House, by not later than the Monday afternoon prior to publication.
ARTS CENTRE

The Gardener Centre's Spring programme offers a variety of entertainment including the Oxford Playhouse Company with Alan Ayckbourn's "The Norman Conquest," Peter Pears, Cecil Aronowitz, classical Indian music from Imrat Khan, The Monstrous Regiment, and a bumper offering from the University of Sussex Arts Federation.

* The Birmingham Arts Lab Performance Group presents tonight (February 1) and tomorrow "Threnody for Edward II," freely adapted from Marlowe's chronicle of Edward II's career. It centres around the central character through an overwhelming passion and love which is eventually obliterated by the society which surrounds him.

This is the first visit to the Gardener Centre Theatre by the Performance Group. Their production of "Threnody for Edward II" is set in the 1930's and combines acting, dancing, film, design, music and the spoken word. It is directed by Neil Murray.

* Later in the week the University of Sussex Theatre Club presents Joe Orton's "Nuffian on the Stair" and "Lord Byron's Love Letter" by Tennessee Williams. This double bill will be performed on February 4 and 5.

* Next week marks the visit to the Gardener Centre of The Monstrous Regiment, a company set up in 1975 by a group of actresses who were dissatisfied with the opportunities for women in the more traditional theatres.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, February 8, 9 and 12, they will be presenting their first production "Scum - Death Destruction and Dirty Washing". Described by Time Out as "funny, conscientiously researched and with superb music," it is a group of laundry washers in the Paris Commune in 1871.

The Monstrous Regiment will be taking their latest production "Vinegretta" on Thursday and Friday, February 10 and 11. This was commissioned by the Arts Council and sees with persecution in the 17th century against the background of the aspirations of ignorant people.

* The Oxford Playhouse Company, which was a great success at the Gardener Centre last autumn, returns on February 14 for two weeks with Alan Ayckbourn's scintillating trio of plays "Table Manners", "Living Together" and "Round and Round the Garden". Each play is complete in itself, but an extra dimension is added by seeing all three in the appropriate order. Each play offers an hilarious and rewarding evening. A considerable saving is available to those who wish to see all three plays.

* The tenor Peter Pears and harpist Ossian Ellis will be at the Meethen House this Friday evening, February 4, with a programme of music for voice and harp, including songs by Purcell, Schubert, Poullenc, Ravel and Britten, and harp pieces by Britten and Parry.

* Tuesday lunchtime concerts, all of which are free and begin at 1.15 p.m., in the Gardener Centre continue this term. On February 15 Valerie and Jonquil Simons present a programme of music for soprano and guitar.

* Pages and Fuses and other prints by Robert Rauschenberg, an Arts Council touring Exhibition, continues in the Gardener Centre Gallery until Friday.

* This is followed by Dick Whall's "The Education Machine and its Appendages Also", an artist's view of educational processes, which will be in the Gallery from February 8 to 26. Dick Whall will give an informal lecture in the Gallery on Thursday, February 17 at 3 p.m. Anybody involved in the "Education Machine" should enjoy this artist's view and his witty and thought-provoking exhibition.

* On the Gardener Centre stairs, there is an exhibition this month of Cuban film posters.

* In the Senior Common Room, there is currently an exhibition of eleven drawings by Ian Potts of the marble quarries at Carrara, Italy.

* Derek Smith has had his period as artist-in-residence extended for another term and although he will be busy preparing for his exhibition in March, he would still like to meet anyone interested in photography and he has an interesting collection of material in his studio. He can be contacted via the Box Office.

The Theatre Directorate of the Gardener Centre has recently agreed to allocate special funds for the appointment of a Public Relations Officer to help promote ticket sales and general public interest in the Centre's activities. Jonquil Simons has been appointed to the post.

Jonquil has worked in publicity and public relations for more than five years, two of which were spent with a London publisher and the past three in the Public Relations Department of Sussex Police.

She says of her new job, "I hope to break down the invisible barrier that seems to run down the A27 and make the Gardener Centre widely known as a prestige professional home for the performing arts. I understand the general level of support from off campus has increased dramatically over the last two or three years, but there is still a great deal to do."

Projects already in hand are an open day at the Theatre on April 24 when members of the public and press will be invited in to find out more about the theatre; and it is planned to take stand space at the South of England Show in June.

Jonquil will also be approaching local firms and clubs to promote further interest in this area.

POST-WAR EUROPEAN MUSIC

A series of open lectures "An introduction to post-war European music" starts this week. The series is given by the Music Subject Group and will be held on Thursdays from 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. in Arts 1 Lecture Theatre.

The first lecture "Musical Developments in England" is on February 3 and the final lecture on March 17.