UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

THE BULLETIN

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UNIVERSITY FACES THE CUTS

The serious implications of a reduction in real terms of the University's income in 1977-78 were faced by Planning Committee at its meeting on May 9th. It learnt that the UGC grant would be £6,568,000.

In introducing a paper on finances for 1977-78, the Finance Officer emphasised that there was "extreme uncertainty" surrounding the figures of income and expenditure for the year.

Nevertheless, even on the most favourable assumption of the level of pay awards under Phase Three the projected deficit was at least £300,000. That figure, though, allows for additional allocations to current year budgets: £15,000 for Centre for Contemporary European Studies and a Language Centre; £4,000 for the Library in accordance with the formula based on readers, and £2,500 for the new post of Chief Community Services Officer.

The estimated deficit is to be met by an across-the-board cut to all budgets to raise £200,000 and selective cuts in spending units' budgets of £100,000. The selective cuts proposed took account of the extent of reserves held by the units mentioned but Planning Committee noted that the total savings to be made in the year were likely to oblige some reduction in staffing levels which should be achievable through natural wastage.

TUITION FEES

The Vice-Chancellor announced at Planning Committee that he had written to Mrs Shirley Williams about the University's opposition to the increased tuition fees. The full text of his letter is as follows:

Dear Secretary of State,

I write to transmit to you this University's strong opposition to the new high levels of university student tuition fees. The Senate and academic body feel that the Government has made a serious error of policy which it should take the earliest possible occasion to reverse.

(i) We see the new high fees as, effectively, a selective encroachment upon the freedom of access to higher education of substantial and important categories of person; this is bad in principle.

(ii) The Government has said that it is raising fees to effect savings but it has not said how it reckons these savings will arise. The lack of open consultation on this matter confirms that the Government's objective is purely financial and not the result of any educational rationale. Yet the action has educational consequences, and the debating of such a rationale would have been a matter of far-reaching national importance. We regret this confusion of educational and financial policy. We also regret the rejection, without significant discussion, of the careful advice about fees proffered to the Government by the CVCP and UGC.

(iii) We particularly deplore the breach of faith constituted by the raising of fees for self-financing students already in course and the gross inadequacy of the associated "hardship fund", although these are problems subsidiary to the chief issue.

(iv) We do not believe that the case of the foreign student has been sufficiently closely analysed by the government. We believe that the long-term advantages, economic and political as well as cultural, to this country of teaching foreign students may significantly outweigh the immediate costs of training them free. We should wish to see full discussion of this matter before agreeing to any further quota or control and in any case would...
UNIVERSITY LECTURES

EDMUND BURKE CENTENARY LECTURE

In the Great Centenaries series of open lectures, Dr. Colin Brooks, Lecturer in History at Sussex, will speak on "Edmund Burke: an Adventurer in his Constitution - the Letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol 1777". The lecture will be this Thursday, May 12, at 6.30 p.m. in the Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre.

BARLOW COLLECTION

Dr. John Sweetman, Curator of the Barlow Collection of Chinese ceramics, bronzes and jades, will give a lecture on "Chinese Tea Bowls" on Tuesday, May 31, at 1.15 p.m. in the Barlow Gallery.

The Gallery is to the right of the entrance to the University Library and is open for general viewing twice weekly, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 to 4 p.m.

CANADA DAY AT SUSSEX

A one-day conference on "Ideas of Canada" is to be held at the University this Friday, May 13. The aim of the conference is to focus on some of the central themes - political, economic and cultural - in Canada's past and present, and to consider ways of extending knowledge and understanding of Canada in Britain, especially in the academic context.

The conference is organised by Trevor Price, Canadian Studies Fellow at Sussex, and Professor Marcus Cunliffe.

The Canadian High Commissioner, the Hon. Paul Martin, will be present and main speakers include the historical geographer John Warkentin; William Christian, co-author of Political Parties and Ideologies in Canada; Gary Teeple, Jean Ethier- Blais and Trevor Price.

Four sessions are planned, covering the following topics: Canada - dimensions of time and space; French Canada and Quebec: Canadian national identity - internal and external pressures; and does Canada exist for the British?

The conference ends with a dinner at which it is hoped the High Commissioner will speak.

PARTY POLITICS IN FRANCE

A one-day conference entitled "Political Parties and Politics in France after the Municipal Elections" is to be held at the University on May 18.

The meeting is organised by the University Association for Contemporary European Studies and the Centre for Contemporary European Studies at Sussex. There will be speakers from both Britain and France, including Jean-Luc Parodi of the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques, Professor M. Anderson of Warwick University and Dr. R.N. Irving of Edinburgh.

Political groups to be covered are the Left and the Communist Party, the Centre Parties, Majorité (R1 and RPR) and Parti Socialiste.

The conference fee is £1.50 for UACES members and £2.40 for non-members.

Further details about the conference may be obtained from the Centre for Contemporary European Studies.

"ENGLISH IN EDUCATION" SEMINARS

The Cross-course Activities' series of open seminars on "English in Education" continues this month with a paper by Gary Watson on "Politics and the English Idiom" on Thursday, May 12, "A Creative Approach to the Media" by John Walker on May 19 and "Film and the Development of Writing" by Rod Cooper on May 26.

These seminars, which take the form of a short paper followed by discussion, are held in Room 312 in the Education Development Building from 12.15 to 2 p.m. and include a break for coffee and sandwiches.

The general intention of the series is to explore the power of English and English teaching within education and society.

TOWN AND GOWN CLUB

"What's wrong with the weather?" will be the subject of a talk by Dr. John Gribbin of the Science Policy Research Unit, to the Summer Term meeting of the Town and Gown Club on May 24.

Dr. Gribbin is a former assistant editor of 'Nature' magazine and the author of several works on astronomy and climatology. He contends that a chaotic pattern of climate will produce more frequent extremes of both drought and flood, hot summers and cold winters and the wind will become noticeably worse in a few years time.

The meeting will begin at 7.45 p.m. with a sherry reception and there will be buffet refreshments. Further information about the Town and Gown Club and its activities is available from P.A. Tear in Sussex House.
TEACHING AND LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Last December Senate approved the creation of a Teaching and Learning Support Programme; this paper provides an initial outline of its organisation and the range of activities underway or likely to be undertaken in the current academic year.

Twelve members of staff from a number of subject backgrounds have agreed to contribute a proportion of their time to the work, and they are assisted in this by informal contributions from several other staff and students who have expressed an interest in specific aspects of the Programme.

The current activities can be divided into three sections; the first relates to studies of particular courses; the second to student learning and the third to support for staff.

Courses

One of the Programme's main concerns is with the review and development of courses. These provide the natural focus for most teaching and learning activities and are important to students and staff alike.

Monitoring the progress of a new course is a particularly important exercise, but one which the lecturers concerned often find difficult to undertake because of the existing demands on their time and energy. Programme members have been called upon to assist in this task in three Schools - Engineering and Applied Sciences, European Studies and Social Sciences - by working alongside lecturers and tutors in identifying what aspects are clearly proving satisfactory and what changes, if any, are necessary.

The reviewing of courses which have been available for some years can help to enlighten their approach and update their content. Work undertaken or underway includes reviews of particular courses in Mathematical and Physical Sciences, Molecular Sciences, Engineering and Applied Sciences, in the Cognitive Studies programme in Social Sciences, and the Geography Subject Group.

In exercises of this kind there are two main ways in which the Programme can help. Firstly, it is easier for someone not directly involved in teaching a course to assist staff and students to gather information about a situation and to feed it back in a way which promotes better understanding and discussion. Secondly, there are methodological problems which those with experience of similar studies can, to some extent, foresee and overcome.

Approaches will vary but will typically include discussions with the course organiser, lecturers, tutors and others connected with running the course; group meetings between some or all of these; discussions with students taking the course; observation, where this is appropriate and acceptable, of lectures, seminars, tutorials, laboratory work; and the use of questionnaires when the numbers involved and the type of information required lends itself to this form of enquiry.

Reporting back the results of a study can take various forms. The report may be verbal and call for discussions with those concerned, perhaps on several occasions over a period of time; or it may involve a short or long document, depending upon its purpose. Reports will normally be made available only to those who originally requested the study; exceptions to this rule are not made without the full consent of the staff responsible for the course concerned.

If the study identifies areas in which the effectiveness of a course might be improved Programme members are likely to be involved in discussing and possibly in helping to implement alternative procedures. For instance, following the review of an Engineering and Applied Sciences course, adjustments were made to the content, the order in which lectures were presented and the kind and amount of work submitted by students for marking. The effect of these changes will also be monitored.

In other instances it was decided that specially prepared learning materials would be the most appropriate means of helping students understand particular parts of the course and preliminary work on this will begin this term.

Student Learning

There is already evidence to suggest that the perceptions and expectations of students often do not coincide with those of their teachers. Sometimes this is due to lack of information, sometimes to poor communication - the teacher's requirements may not have been explained or discussed in sufficient depth. In other cases, a lecturer providing one course may be unaware of the demands made on students by other courses - often the student is the only one who has the full picture.

Again, there may be a more fundamental difference of values between students and staff - activities such as tutorials and seminars are regarded by most staff as important learning experiences, but students often find them perplexing, hard to cope with, and academically unrewarding.

Students can be helped to become more aware of the nature of their problems; staff can be encouraged to find ways round some of the difficulties which their students commonly encounter.

Programme members are involved in several studies directed towards generating the necessary understanding; these include studies of seminar teaching in English and American Studies; students' learning difficulties in Molecular Sciences and Mathematical and Physical Sciences; subject and personal tutorials in Engineering and Applied Sciences; the effects of learning by Project in the third year in Molecular Sciences; students' views on teaching and learning in courses in Geography, and preliminary statistics for Social Sciences students.

Another, and more direct, form of support relates to 'Study Skills' - which include such topics as the organisation of study, the effectiveness of reading, note taking, approaches to problem solving, essay and report writing, and associative thinking. A Study Skills course has been available at Sussex for some time now. Some members of the Programme have volunteered to help in reviewing, modifying and extending this in the light of research findings and developments taking place at Sussex and elsewhere.

Of particular concern at present is the need for help for those students who find it necessary to improve their approach to problem solving, elementary statistics and essay writing. Programme members are engaged in developments in all of these areas, and also in conjunction with Counselling Services they are looking at the requirements of specific groups of students who may have learning problems which have, so far, not been properly identified.

A survey has been carried out of the use and usefulness of the booklet "A Guide to Study" which is provided to all students when starting at Sussex.

Staff

In some sense all the work done to review or develop courses is helpful to staff. Information about the courses for which they are responsible can be very useful; the act of talking in detail about what they are doing can be of

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valuable itself. But there is also a more
direct form of staff support for which
the University now has some respon-
sibility (*): namely, the provision for
helping new members of faculty.

Most universities lay on some kind of
introductory event, but very few offer
anything in the way of a carefully-
planned continuation programme.

As a first step towards developing
follow-up activities, two members of
the Programme undertook a survey of
the opinions of those who had started
teaching at Sussex over the past two
years, and on the basis of this report
an experimental scheme was tried this
year.

Groups of three or four new members
of staff met with a more experienced
teacher, in order to explore inform-
ally matters of concern to them.

Several of these groups met regularly
over the first term and were acknow-
ledged by those who took part as useful
and enjoyable. From those meetings it
became clear that workshops or seminars
related to particular areas of interest
or concern would be welcomed. The

(*) Under the terms of the UAP/AUT
Agreement on Probation

first such event took place at the end
of the Spring term and dealt with
marking essays, assessment, writing
termly reports and publishing.

Further workshops are planned for the
Summer term and for next year it is
hoped to negotiate with Deans and
Subject Chairmen a series of dates
when new members of faculty can be
released from other duties in order
to take part in the programme
arranged for them.

Discussions and working groups,
however, should not be limited to new
members of faculty only and it is the
intention of the Programme to identify
areas of interest which have an appeal
to a wider audience. As a first step
in this direction a workshop on student
feedback - how this is most effectively
obtained and how the results can
be interpreted and used - was held at the
end of the Easter vacation for a group
of 30 staff and students.

More of these events are planned for
next year.

The Future

The notion of support for teaching and
learning in a university seems sensible
enough. Any activity, educational or
otherwise, should benefit if its prime
purpose can be identified and promoted
by a supportive framework of some
kind. Particularly in the existing
climate of steadily tightening financial
constraints, deteriorating staff/student
ratios and pressures on library and
other learning resources, there is an
even greater incentive to look at ways
in which modes of teaching and learning
are presently organised.

Already a number of Schools are consid-
ering the methods of teaching which they
employ and questioning the way in which
time is allocated between them. Staff
and students are equally concerned to
establish patterns of work which will
enable them to make the best use of
their time. There are a number of
alternative patterns which might be
adopted but these are not always imme-
diately apparent and in any case the effect
of potential change normally cannot
easily be predicted. By engaging in a
range of activities relating to all aspects
of teaching and learning the Programme
will endeavour to extend and improve
the information available to staff and
students in considering and making
these changes.

Eric Hewton
Programme Convener

Housing Scheme

The housing association with which the
University is co-operating in the develop-
ment of further student accommodation on
campus has changed its name from the
New Colebrooke Housing Association to
the Kelsey Housing Association. This
follows an internal re-organisation of the
Colebrooke Housing Group.

Sketch designs for the housing scheme
have been prepared by the architects and
agreed by the University and Brighton
Borough Council, and outline planning
permission has already been obtained.

A number of outstanding questions con-
cerning the leasing of a piece of land by
the University to the Kelsey Housing
Association have yet to be resolved. The
University Grants Committee has approved
the granting of a sub-lease.

The money with which the scheme is to
be financed will be provided by Brighton
Borough Council, which will in turn receive
the money from the Department of the
Environment; under normal mortgage
procedures. The negotiation of the mort-
gage only concerns the Housing Association
and Brighton Borough Council, but the Un-
iversity is putting maximum pressure on
both parties to proceed with this as fast
as possible.

RITES OF SPRING

The University of Sussex Morris Men, with one 'undress' member, dancing
outside Falmer House.

Photograph: Keith Hunt, Media Service Unit.
STRUCTURING OF PLAY IN THE INFANT/FIRST SCHOOL

The Schools Council Project on the Structuring of Play in the Infant/First School has now entered its dissemination phase. A set of six video-tapes, each running for approximately 30 minutes, and a book "Structuring Play in the Early Years at School" have been published.

The objective of the book in conjunction with the video-tapes, is to focus teachers' attention on the play opportunities they are providing in their own classrooms, and to make suggestions on the ways play can be developed. It shows that if teachers take the cues from the children, play can motivate much of the learning and development in an infant class. The book can be used by teachers whether they provide for play throughout the day, for half a day, or for set periods once or twice a week.

The book contains descriptions of play which show teachers the kind of play that can be developed using the materials normally available in an infant class. These descriptions are analysed for the motivation, learning and development that can arise from play, and show how play is structured by the teacher's observation, provision and involvement.

The Project, which is under the direction of Miss Kathleen Manning and Mrs. Ann Sharp, and is based in the Education Area of the University, is running three-day workshops throughout England and Wales to train teachers, advisers, college tutors and others in the running of courses for infant teachers within their own LEA using the project's materials.

To date 46 LEAs are involved and the project's timetable is almost full to August 1976.

ELECTION TIME

Polling for the four Students' Union sabbatical posts takes place next week on May 18 to 20. The results are likely to be known early on the Friday evening.

Nominations for the four posts - of President and Vice-Presidents (Finance), (Communications) and (Social Services) closed last Friday.

Another election which normally takes place at this time of year but which has had to be postponed is that of non-professorial members of the Senate and Senate Committee. Nominations for the election closed on May 6, but one part of the electoral procedure has been challenged, and the subsequent stages of the procedure have therefore been postponed. Senate will consider the point on which the procedure has been challenged at its meeting on May 25.

CATHY WINS NATIONAL SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP

Cathy Foster, a final year student in the School of European Studies, won the Women's National Sailing Championships in the 420 class in races held at Hayling Island at the beginning of this month.

Cathy, who sails for the University Sailing Club, is now more than likely to be chosen as a member of the British team for the first World Women's Sailing Championships to be held on the same waters in July.

In 1975, with her crew Wendy Hilder, Cathy won the European Open Ladies Championships in Spain. Earlier that year she sailed a Laser into second place in the Royal Yachting Association's National Youth Championships. She was the only girl among 84 entries.

SPRU ANNUAL REPORT

The Science Policy Research Unit annual report for 1976 is now available. Copies may be obtained from SPRU General Office, Mansell Building.

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES AND OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

A working group is looking at the future contribution of British universities to the development of Third World countries, especially through contacts with the universities of those countries.

Members of the University, particularly those with experience of such universities, who would like to contribute to the group's deliberations are invited to contact Penny Spelling, Secretary's Office, Sussex House (05-197).

THE CALCULATOR'S GRAVEYARD

If you have a faulty or obsolete desk or hand calculator and are considering throwing it away, STOP!

Faulty or obsolete calculators can provide useful components for electronic projects. Mr. J.E.F. Black, Principal Technician in Engineering, 2nd Applied Sciences building, stage 2, would be most grateful to receive them.

DO YOU BELIEVE IN REINCARNATION?

Faculty Involvement

The officers responsible for the activities or services listed below hope to maintain registers of members of the University who might be interested in attending discussions on the activities or assisting in the service. If you have an interest you would be pleased to write to the person listed.

Accommodation - Accommodation Manager, Refectory.
Bookshop - Bookshop Manager, Refectory.
Catering - Business Manager, Refectory.
Ceremonials - Registrar & Secretary, Sussex House.
Community Services - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Continuing Education - Director of the Centre for Continuing Education, EDB. Creche - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Gardener Arts Centre - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Graduate Admissions - Assistant Secretary (Senate), Sussex House.
Lecturing to Local Groups, etc. - Assistant Secretary (Senate), Sussex House.
Library - The Librarian, Library.
Media Services - The Librarian, Library.
Occupational Advisory Service - Head of O.A.S., Refectory Terrapin.
Official Publications - Acting Information Officer, Sussex House.
Overseas Relations - Overseas Relations Officer, Sussex House.
Registration Week - Assistant Secretary (Senate), Sussex House.
Representing University on School and College Governing Bodies - Assistant Secretary (Senate), Sussex House.
Safety and Environmental Health - Safety Officer, Estates and Maintenance Building.
Site Amenities - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Sport and Recreation - Secretary of Community Services, Refectory.
Undergraduate Admissions - Admissions Officer, Sussex House.
University Health Service - Director, Health Service, Refectory Terrapin.
University Lectures - Professor L.D. Lerner, Arts.
GARDNER CENTRE

* Opening tonight at the Gardner Centre is Henrik Ibsen's "Ghost", starring Maxine Audley. This is one of the big attractions of the Centre's summer programme and members of the University will, if they hurry, be able to benefit from a special concession of two tickets for the price of one for tomorrow (Wednesday) night's performance (see voucher).

"Ghost" is one of the great masterpieces of the theatre. This production is directed by Colin Fisher and will run until May 21.

* The Hungarian-born pianist Tamas Vassy will give a recital at the Gardner Centre on Wednesday, May 25. His programme will include Schubert's Wanderer Fantasy and Liszt's Dante Sonata and Consolations.

Vassy made his first public appearance at the age of 8. He gained his diploma at the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest at the age of 20 and in the same year he was made Assistant Professor to Kodaly. In 1956 he left Hungary to settle first in Belgium and then in Switzerland. He has played in every continent and appeared in many major festivals.

* An exhibition of paintings, drawings and photographs of the poet Edith Sitwell can be seen in the Gardner Centre from tomorrow until June 1. In the foyer there is an exhibition of work by History of Art Students at Sussex, to be followed on May 23 by Kevin O'Connor's paintings. The Gallery is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and during performances. Admission is free. It is closed on Sundays and, together with the rest of the Gardner Centre, will be closed on June 6 and 7.

* An Open Day was held at the Gardner Centre on April 34. Jonquill Simon, the Centre's Public Relations Officer, writes:

The Open Day was an enormous success attended by more than 550 people of all ages - regular customers and some who had never been to the Gardner Centre before.

After seeing the University of Sussex Morris Men dancing outside the Centre and listening to guitarist, Eddie Simon, in the Gallery, those that could crammed into the auditorium at 2 p.m. where the Centre's Associate Director, Colin Fisher, with the expert aid of the Theatre's Lighting Electrician John Ravnikilde, showed the visitors some of the "tricks of the trade" and some "showbiz technical wizardry".

After a tea-break Brighton Actors Workshop entertained with a revue called "An Exhibition of Confident Blushing".

Throughout the Open Day Gardner Centre staff answered questions from the visitors. There was the gentleman who wanted to know about access for wheelchairs, the elderly lady who wanted to ask about the possibilities of 2.30 p.m. matinees, and then there was the little girl who asked if Colin Fisher was really that nice!

Lunchtime concerts in the Gardner Centre continue this term with Linda Parker (soprano) and Peggy Grummit (piano) on Thursday, May 12, and a piano recital by Bea Veselicova on Tuesday, May 17.

Friday lunchtime recitals in the Meeting House will be given by Carol Chambers and Michael Weir (violin) and Marc Gregory (harpist) on May 13, and by the University organist, John Birch, on May 20.

All these concerts are free and begin at 1.15 p.m.

CHANCE TO CONDUCT

An opportunity to conduct the University Choir and Orchestra is being offered to anyone who is interested in gaining experience in conducting. Rehearsals are being held this week and next and those interested are asked to contact Laszlo Heltay in the Gardner Centre.

Choir: choice of one chorus from the Messiah.

Orchestra: choice of one movement from Schubert Symphony No 3 or Mozart Symphony No 36.

Choir rehearsals are to be held in the Biology Lecture Theatre from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. (May 11) and the following Wednesday (May 18). Orchestra rehearsals will take place in the Old Refectory from 7.00 to 9.30 p.m. on Thursday May 19.

POET JIM BURNS VISITS THE UNIVERSITY

The Poet Jim Burns is visiting the University this week. While here he will be meeting undergraduate writers to discuss their work with them.

This afternoon Mr. Burns gives a lecture on the "Beat" writers and on Thursday, May 12, he will give a public reading of his own work in the Gardner Centre Theatre at 5.45 p.m.

The visit has been arranged by the English Subject Group and Mr. Burns can be contacted via Arts B229. The visit ends on Friday.

Jim Burns' two collections of poems are A Single Flower (Audium Press 1971), and The Goldfish Speaks from Beyond the Grave (The Salamander Imprint 1976), a Poetry Book Society recommendation.