Grant cut - a glimpse of things to come?

The University is to receive £13.99 million as its recurrent grant from the Government for 1985-86, £78,000 less than had been originally stated, and well below the amount required to keep pace with inflation.

The news, which ended the uncertainty surrounding the distribution of the revised recurrent grant among universities, came earlier this month in a letter from the University Grants Committee (UGC) to Vice-Chancellors.

The total grant for all universities in 1985-86 was reduced last November from the provisional allocation of £14.7 million to £13.99 million, in line with the Government's revised pay award assumption of three per cent. Not only is the grant lower than originally expected but the deficit faced by the University could be even larger, depending on the settlement in the next round of pay awards.

Spending units within the University had been warned of the likely reduction: "It's much as we expected," commented Finance Officer, Ray Howard.

* * *

A brief glimpse of some of the Government's policies for the development of higher education into the 1990s was provided earlier this month by letters from Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph to Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee (UGC) and Mr. Peter Brooke, MP, chairman of the Committee of the National Advisory Board (NAB).

The letters offer guidance in anticipation of the proposed Green Paper on Higher Education policy which has been delayed pending the review of student support arrangements.

The following extracts from the letter to Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer give an idea of with the Green Paper. The Government's response to the UGC's strategy report published last September, is likely to contain as far as universities are concerned: student numbers. "Total student numbers are projected to remain relatively stable for the rest of the decade, and it is now necessary to consider their optimum disposition between the universities and the public sector in the light of the resources available, and the nature and quality of the expected candidates for admission. I should like the UGC and the National Advisory Board [for polytechnics] to discuss this with each other and with officers of the Department."

* subject balance: "The Government would like to see a higher proportion of students studying subjects of vocational relevance and, in particular, those elements of science and engineering where there is at present an under-supply of qualified manpower. The Government expects the UGC to plan to achieve the greatest possible shift to science and technology within the resources available."

* rationalisation of small departments: "The Government welcomes the UGC's commitment to the rationalisation of small departments."

* academic staffing: "The Government's expenditure plans do not provide for further rounds of new blood appointments after those to be made in 1985-86 (although funding continues for the appointments which have been made already or for which current plans provide)."

* external funding: "The Government has not been able to provide additional money for a fund to reward institutions for increasing industrial earnings. There is nevertheless scope for all institutions to increase earnings and income from private sources. Generally, the Government expects all universities and colleges to develop in the light of their own circumstances a strategy for doing so, and the UGC to encourage this."

Gothenburg University celebrated the tenth anniversary of its courses at Sussex last week and marked the occasion with a special luncheon.

The course programme, which is organised by Director of Studies Dr. Ulf Dantanus and his secretary Jane Simmons from their office in Sussex House, is an extension of the English Department at Gothenburg University.

During the first 10 years nearly 1000 Swedish students have come to Sussex for one Sandhäll term (September-December or January-June) to take advantage of this unique link between Sandhäll and British universities.

The photograph above shows (from left) Dr. Ulf Dantanus, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Brian Graham and Dr. David Isett of Gothenburg University who was responsible for making the initial contacts between Gothenburg and Sussex in 1974.

£4 MILLION MORE FOR RESEARCH GROUPS

The Government has made available £4 million in the financial year 1985-86 so that the University Grants Committee can operate a scheme for the improvement of laboratory and equipment provision in a few carefully selected centres of research. A further £7 million will be available in each of the financial years 1986-87 and 1987-88.

The UGC intends to use the money on individual research groups - around a dozen in the first year, and about 20 in each of the two subsequent years.

The groups chosen in 1985-86 will be selected by a committee under the chairmanship of Sir Andrew Huxley, President of the Royal Society. In the first year the committee will use as their starting point information made available by the research councils. They aim to choose the recipient groups before midsummer.

IN THIS ISSUE:

* The future of the Gardner Centre - page 2
* The University's new £750,000 telephone system - page 5
* Do you have any photographs or illustrations from the early days of the University? - page 7
* Research grants and fellowships for which applications are invited - back page
Gardner changes underway

The scheme for an independent Gardner Centre, operating under licence from the University, is going ahead.

The decision to set up a company limited by guarantee to manage the Gardner Centre was made on January 30 at an informal meeting of the Gardner Centre Management Committee. The intention is that the company, once established, will apply for charitable status to become a trust.

Following on from the meeting East Sussex County Council and Brighton Borough Council have been invited to nominate members for the Board of Directors of the new company. The Board will be made up of four members each from the University, the other funding bodies (the two local councils and South East Arts) and independent people with an interest in the arts.

A hand-over date in April is expected, although the Management Committee has agreed to maintain the staffing at the Centre until the end of May to enable the Brighton Festival to go ahead as planned.

Nigel Stannard, Centre Administrator since 1973, announced earlier this month that he will be leaving Sussex at the end of March. He is taking up a similar post with the Nuffield Theatre in Southampton. Ironically, the Nuffield is an example of a successful transition from university-managed theatre to a charitable trust supported by local authorities.

Private funding of scientific research

The funding of scientific research by charities, industry and commerce, is to be looked at by a working party set up by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils (ABRC), chaired by Professor Peter Mathias, Chichele Professor of Economic History at Oxford.

The working party will consider what scope there might be for increasing the flow of private sector funds to the research councils and higher education. It expects to report to the ABRC towards the end of this year.

ADVANCED RESEARCH COMPUTING

The future advanced computing needs of the research councils and universities are to be investigated by a working party set up jointly by the ABRC, a University Periodic Review Committee and the Computer Board for Universities and Research Councils.

Chaired by Professor John Forty of Warwick, it will report on the scientific needs for advanced computing facilities and on the various technical options that are available or likely to become available in the years up to 1990.

SMALL ADS

UNIVERSITY GUIDES WANTED - postgraduate students are needed to act as University guides for groups of up to 20 people, during the coming season (March to October). Good rates of pay. Please apply to Pauline O'Reilly, Information Office, Sussex House (03-190).

WANTED - smokers with a wish to give up smoking. We have observed some interesting changes in certain blood proteins (inc. those associated with readiness of the blood to clot) in smokers who cease smoking. We need more smokers who would be willing to give up smoking for at least a short period and during this time to give some samples of blood. Any individual participant would be welcome to discuss our findings. For further details, contact Lisa Landrigan-Lin (PhD) or Dr. Topping (06-139) in the Biomedical Laboratory, MOLS.

WILL YOU EVER SEE AMERIC- ICA? Bunac, a non-profit, non-political, co-operative educational venture, founded in 1962, enables thousands of students to enjoy self-financing working vacations in N. America. Four types of programme are offered. If you want to find out more Paul (the president) and myself can be found outside Falmer Bar 1:30 - 2:30 pm on most Mondays - we have 90 odd members already. An orientation meeting will be held at the Debating Chamber next to the Union offices - C.Bayramoglu (MAPS).

VW VARIANT ESTATE 1970, excellent condition, MOT till Christmas and Tax '85, reliable, £400. Contact J.W. Hirschfeld on int.tel. 09-333 or Brighton 687529.

NOTICEBOARD

CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION
OPEN LECTURER
- 'Picturing Mozart'
by Jonathan Miller
Thursday, February 21, 5.30 pm
at Mid-Sussex College
- 'Micro-Economics'
by Professor Michael Sumner
Tuesday, March 12, 6.30 pm
Both the above lectures will be held in the Molecular Sciences Lecture Theatre.

OCCASIONAL PAPERS
"A very improving neighbour- hood" Burgess Hill 1804-1914, edited by Brian Short from a study by a joint WEA/ CCE evening class. An 85-page well-illustrated account of the transition from a rural to an urban society. Paper no. 23, £2.50 (plus 60p p & p).

Poyning Churchyard Study by the Mid-Sussex Naturalists Group. A booklet based on observations made over a two-year period by members of a CCE natural history class. Paper no. 24, £1.20 (plus 25p p & p).

Available from the Centre for Continuing Education, EDB.

REVIEW OF PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
The University Library is conducting a comprehensive review of its periodical subscriptions to all academic and research faculty, and all students registered for the DPhil who hold Library cards, should have received appropriate papers.

Anyone who thinks he or she should have had papers but has not in fact done so should contact Cheryl Howell (int. tel. 04-38) in the Library.

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS: "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" by Peter Nichols in the Debating Chamber, Falmer House on Wed., Thurs. and Friday, February 27, 28 and March 1. Check noticeboards for times of performances.

INTERNATIONAL EVENING
Following the success of earlier ventures, the United Overseas Students are to hold, as part of their celebration of Food, entertainment and companionship on Thursday, February 28, in Mandela Hall, Falmer House, 6 - 10 p.m.

To make the evening a success, people are encouraged to prepare as much of their own country, for the buffet supper, or to contribute to the entertainment. The idea is not to have professional entertainment but a representation of the culture and art of many countries.

Tickets are £2.50 per student, but only £1.50 for a student who brings food (and cost of food is reimbursed) or who is involved in the entertainment, and £2.00 per family.

Further details, tickets and application forms (which must be completed by those attending) are available from the Welfare Office, Students' Union, Falmer House.
**High-tech products developed on campus**

In the past five years the Services for Industry programme at Sussex has helped more than 100 companies.

This feature looks at two companies whose high-technology products have been developed on campus. One of the products was designed and developed by a member of faculty with the help of a national company; the other has been designed and developed by a company which is based on campus with help from University staff.

**Osmoid**

Teachers could find lesson preparation less of a chore following the launch last week of 'Osmoid', a new teaching aid developed by the University for Osmoid Educational, a leading national supplier of teaching aids.

'Osmoid' is a series of programs for use on the BBC Model B microcomputer, which will speed up the design and production of worksheets for classroom use. The first two sets of programs are in mathematics and science for children in primary and middle schools.

The software for 'Osmoid' was designed and developed by Dr. Mike King, Lecturer in Science Education in the Education Area, with help and funding from Osmoid Educational, the company which are the programs commercially.

Osmoid are so impressed with Dr. King's work that they are making 'Osmoid' a major feature of their product range and have devoted large-scale resources to its promotion, including a prestigious launch at the Waldorf Hotel in London.

The subjects offered by 'Osmoid' so far include:

* in mathematics: Number Bonds and Place Values, Multiplication, Angles, Four Rules, and Fractions, Shapes, Measurement.

* in science: Electricity and Magnetism, Properties of Light and Heat (further subjects will be available later this year).

The programs are designed to be used on the BBC Model B microcomputer, with the finished designs being printed out on an Epson printer, both of which are now readily available in schools throughout the country.

Each program contains sample worksheets on various topics which can be easily altered to make the worksheet as easy or difficult as required for the individual teaching needs. The programs are ideal for mixed ability teaching concepts and ideas are dealt with at varying levels of sophistication and can be progressively developed through the five to 12 age range.

Once a worksheet has been completed on the computer screen it can be printed onto either a spirit duplicator master or onto plain paper for duplication.

As an added bonus, the science packages contain a colourful, interactive animated graphics program which can be used in the classroom to reinforce the topics covered on the worksheets.

**Model 2000**

Further advances in office automation will be possible this summer when a second high-technology product designed and developed on campus comes on to the market.

The product - a high-quality, high-speed matrix printer called Model 2000 - is aimed at the word-processing market, the work of El Printer Products, a member of the Sussex-based Eurotherm International group of companies.

El Printer Products began its life two years ago as a small research and development unit set up in Sussex House to develop links with members of faculty in the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (EAPS).

The early pioneers, Len Trevillian (now Chairman of the company) and Keith Dennis have seen the original staff of four people grow into a fully fledged company with its own factory in Lewes and the new printer to manufacture and market.

The printer was first revealed to the computing world at November at the 'Compec' Computer Show at Olympia in London, and since then work has continued to get it ready for launch.

El Printer Products have found that being on campus has been very important in developing some of the unique features of Model 2000. Members of EAPS who have provided expertise include Professor Dick Grimsdale, who has helped in producing software to digitise the text, Dr. Roy Holmes (who has since moved on to a Chair in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Southampton) who helped with various design components, Dr. Jack Ellis who has provided valuable expertise in paper-handling, and the School's workshop, which has been responsible for the building of models to specific design.

The result of two years' work is a printer which can operate from up to five word processors, with the following features:

* an integrated paper handing system with storage trays for two lots of paper (e.g. headed and continuation sheet) and envelopes;

* three different qualities of print type - Draft quality (300 characters per second), Near Letter quality (125 characters per second) and Top quality (60 characters per second);

* various print options (emboldened, italic, extended) and four different print colours;

* a text rotation feature, unique in impact matrix printers, which enables the printer to print along the length of the paper rather than across its width - especially useful for large tables and charts and for printing envelopes.

The company has now outgrown its current space in Sussex House and will be moving in April 1983 to bigger premises in Hove. However Len Trevillian and the research team will be moving to other space rented by Eurotherm in the Mantell Building and, in due course, they will join their colleagues from other divisions in the planned Eurotherm research and development building on campus.
A supercool agony aunt?

What's it like to be a Residential Adviser? John Graney, an undergraduate in EngAm, tells all...

Do you remember your first day at Sussex? Were you switched on, supercool, un-packed in 30 seconds and in the bar in 35? You may be, then perhaps you are just the person we are looking for, or perhaps not. More likely, you were a little confused or had flown in from overseas and were jet lagged. By now, you have probably realised that we need people to give out a few survival tips, help everyone settle in and stay around for the rest of the year. Act as a sort of go-between/agony aunt in your fount of knowledge of campus life and so on, and it could be YOU.

On that eventful first day you will have noticed several demented looking people dashing around here and there, directing traffic, driving mini-buses, carrying luggage, dispensing coffee and giving directions. About room inventories, standing between bustle and various posters inviting you to blow up the current government and generally trying not to trip over their bootlaces in the process. You may even have had one of them living in your house or corridor acting as a "first resource" in those little crises which crop up. I speak of course of your friendly neighbourhood RA or Residential Adviser.

During this term all first years will receive a letter inviting them to apply to be an RA for next academic year. Being an RA is not all the bed of roses, nor is it particularly arduous. The busiest day of the year is likely to be the first Sunday before the Autumn Term, when new students arrive to take up residence on the University campus. All RAs attend a series of training sessions, once a week for five weeks, until they have been selected by a panel made up of current RAs, the RA coordinator and the SU Welfare Officer. The phrase I have used earlier of "first resource" means that the RA is most likely to be "on the spot" to help a new student. In case of an accident or crisis those people will have someone to talk to who will be able to settle minor problems or pass on the bigger problems of a right direction. Two important areas in which RAs are active are to assist overseas students and families, and more family RAs as well as single RAs.

The RA is thus many things but not a prefect or a monitor, still less any sort of policeman. Decisions are taken collectively, and apart from an RA representative being a member of the University Accommodation Committee, RAs do not have any official position. There are, however, two advantages enjoyed by RAs firstly you get to live on campus and secondly if you do become an RA it is a useful bit of experience to add to your c.v. or any job application.

In conclusion, I can only say that I have been an RA for two years and have personally gained much from the experience. I hope that many students (not only first years) will give serious thought to taking up some of the vacancies arising in the RA scheme this year.

The application period for the RA Scheme is from February 27 to March 5. Application forms and general enquiries: see Nigel Douglas, Room 2, Meeting House or Ann Ellis, Welfare Office, Students' Union, Falmer House, or talk to your RA if you live on campus. In addition, Family RAs, resident in the family flats on East Slope or Park Village, will be required. Anyone interested should talk to Ann in the Welfare Office.

Interviews to select RAs will take place at the beginning of the Summer Term. The closing date for ALL applications will be March 5.

ICIS - Institute of Cognitive and Information Sciences

As announced in the Bulletin of January 8, the Institute approved by Senate at its June 1984 meeting has now come into being. Professor H.G. Longuet-Higgins, the Director, writes:

The main purpose of the Institute is to encourage research collaboration on what could be described as the mechanisms of thought. Professor J.N. Murrell, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Science, has been appointed Chairman of the Institute's Committee, whose members include Professor M.A. Boden, Professor A.D. Chalmers, Professor R.L. Grimsdale, Professor A. Sloman, Professor N.S. Sutherland, Dr. J.B.H. du Boulay, Dr. G. Gazdar, Dr. D.C. Hogg, Dr. J.R.W. Hunter, Professor H.R. Scraton and Dr. G. Wraith.

As a first step a University-wide directory of current research activities is in preparation. An initial list of likely entries has been drafted and many members of teaching and research faculty will be approached with a request to supply details of their work. There are, however, to be some researchers working on relevant topics who are as yet unknown to Committee members and it would be very much appreciated if anyone who thinks that their work might be appropriate for inclusion in the proposed directory, but who does not receive a direct enquiry in the next week or two, would get in touch with either myself [int. tel. 07-197] or with Dr. J. Hunter (int. tel. 07-203) who is undertaking the editorship of the project.

A number of seminars in the Tuesday Language and Cognitive Studies series have been designated as special ICIS occasions when the invited speaker will be available for discussion for more than just the afternoon.

All members of the University are welcome to attend the seminars and anyone who would especially like to meet the guest is asked to make this known to Dr. Scott or Dr. du Boulay, the seminar organisers. (See Diary of Events for details, or telephone one of the following numbers for a guide to the circulation lists: Tuesday Language seminars 07-268; Cognitive Studies seminars 03-327.)

The Institute has offered to host the Alvey Computer Vision and Image Interpretation meeting at Sussex this September. Further details will be added to the European Conference on Artificial Intelligence to be held in Brighton in 1986. Watch this space for further details!
THE BIG SWITCH

The biggest alterations project ever undertaken by the University gets underway next month when work begins on the installation of a new University telephone system.

The new system, provided by Plessey Communications Systems Ltd. at a cost in excess of £750,000, should be installed and operational by the end of October 1985.

The decision to purchase the new system was taken by the University Council last December in view of the expiry of the contract for the existing internal system at the end of 1985, and the antiquated nature of both the internal and external systems.

The replacement system, the Plessey IDX Private Automatic Branch Exchange (PABX), which combines internal and external telephones in a single instrument, should save the University almost £47,000 per year on what it is paying for telephones at present.

The rental of the existing internal system had not been increased since the contract was drawn up in 1971, although even with such deflated charges the new system represents a substantial saving. To renew the contract at today’s rental charges would be extremely expensive and would result in the University paying tens of thousands of pounds more for the existing out-of-date equipment and facilities.

The Plessey system, which is being adopted by a number of other universities and institutions throughout the country, should pay for itself within ten years. It was selected from five alternatives by the Telephone Services Group of the Buildings Committee after 12 months of consultation with British Telecom’s Consultancy Service and the University’s quantity surveyors, Reynolds and Young.

One aim of the Telephone Services Group was to provide a system which would be as large and flexible as the University could afford, to minimise future alterations work. The Plessey IDX will support a total of 2,500 extensions as the number of telephone socket outlets planned throughout the University will use nearly all of this capacity.

Initially around 1,500 working extensions will be provided.

The most obvious difference between the old and new systems will be the replacement of the existing internal and external handsets by a single push-button instrument for both internal and external calls. A whole range of new as well as existing facilities will be available on the new system. The new features will include:

* Direct Dialing In (DDI) - about 500 extensions will have the DDI facility which will enable outside callers to dial Brighton 678 then the extension number to reach that extension without the need for the call to pass through the University operators.

* Call logging - this will enable call units to be recharged on a basis by extension basis, and remove the need for all outgoing calls to be operator dialled.

* Class of service - individual extensions can be classified according to their usage, e.g. internal only, external with external only during specified time periods, local external only, etc.

The new telephone system will require a complete rewiring of the site and buildings, not least because of the age and nature of the existing cabling, but also because of the need to maintain existing services whilst the new system is being installed. The rewiring will inevitably involve some disruption of both the site and buildings, although every effort is being made to programme as much as possible of the rewiring of academic buildings into the summer vacation. However, because of the extent of the work involved, this will not be possible in all cases.

Work is expected to begin in March and because a lot of the site cabling work will be within the heating duct system, it will be necessary this year to shut down the Boiler House as soon as possible, subject to weather, after the normal end of the heating season on May 1, 1985.

Such a large project inevitably requires the main contractor to set up a base on campus, because of the need for ready access to the duct system, this will be on the Boiler House carpark. Members and staff of the University need to note therefore, that a large part of this carpark will not be available from March to November 1985.

A detailed programme for the installation of the new telephone system is being prepared and will be widely circulated in Bulletin and elsewhere in due course. If all goes according to plan, the system should be operation-
A GLOSSARY OF EDUCATIONAL

Council and the City
Guards of the London Insti-
tute, at the request of the
Secretaries of State. The
existing GCE and CSE
boards have not been
minimum representation
on the Joint Board, and
the Secondary Examinations
Council has not been given
the remit for 17+ examining
as it has been for 16+
and 18+.

The Consultative Document
for 17+ indicates that
an acceptable CPVE programme
should incorporate the
following features:
- A balance of core, voca-
tional, and additional stud-
ies.
- Learning through practical
experience.
- Planned work experience.
- Provision for career
education, guidance and
support.
- Achievement of students
in the planning, organisa-
tion and assessment of the
learning - leading to
identification of suitable
vocational profiles and
records of achievement.
- Integration of those
principal factors to
form a coherent whole.

Developments within this
framework are currently
taking place. The final
Policy Document was due
last month, and an
evaluation report based
on 15 official pilot schemes
is due to be published
this year. The end of 1985
will see the introduction
in the Education
Area at the University of
Sussex, is due to report
its research into the
implementation of the
CPVE based on CEE modules
in another six pilot schools.

Comment:
I welcome the proposals
as a possible means of
clearing up the present
chaos of vocational awards in
the field. The new Certificate
could certainly serve
that purpose if it proves
acceptable to employers,
parents and students.
However, at the moment
it is by no means clear
what the currency will
be, especially in institu-
tions and areas where
the possibility of 'O' level
representation and CCEs are held
in esteem, as well as stepping stones to 'A' level courses.

In addition, it is not beyond the bounds of possibil-

ility to see it as a means of bringing cohesion into
the whole 14 - 19 curriculum and pre-vocational area.
If it can be linked with TVE and YTS schemes, and
its relationship to GCE and 'AS' level develop-
ments can be clarified.

However, not much is going on here at present.

Finally, I am worried by a number of untested
assumptions:
- that the resources will
be available in schools
and colleges to give the
new courses a reasonable
chance.
- The competition for such resources is severe, and
will increase if 'AS' levels are intro-
duced.
- that sufficient work
experience place
will be available, in light
of the competing demands
from YTS and TVE courses.
- that students will be
motivated to regard the
courses with esteem,
especially in situations
where it seems unlikely that
employment will be available
at the end.
- that teachers have the
required skills or can
acquire them through in-
service education and
staff development pro-
amres, or alternatively
that resources will be
made available for
new appointments that
may be necessary.

COMMON CORE

Since the introduction of
comprehensive education in
the 1960s - 70s there
has been a tendency in
most schools to offer
a common curriculum in
years one to three, some-
times in the context of
mixed ability groupings and
even mixed ability
- teaching, with options
in years four and five.

These options have
usually been defended
on the grounds that pupils
could select or be advised
into a programme which
reflected their interests
and abilities.

However, during the last
decade, the period since
James Callaghan's Ruskin
speech and the Great Debate,
there has been increasing
emphasis within government
statements that the option
system has not assured a balanced curriculum
for each individual student, and that students
should not drop potentially valu-
able subjects simply because
they have mastered their basic
ideas and skills, and
are aware of their import-
ance. It has been
that every student up
to 16 should sustain a
broad common curriculum,
within which the right
content and emphasis of the
work should be related
to individual abilities.

This view has recently
been reinforced in the
DES statement on "The
Organisation and Content
of the Curriculum" which
argues that "all pupils need a broad curricu-
num. No form of education can offer form
what depends on his capacity to receive and
absorb it. In some cases this involves different
subjects being offered to different pupils. But
differentiation between pupils should go far as
possible take place within, rather than between, the
subjects they study" (p. 93).

The paper goes on to argue
that the 11 - 16 curriculum
for all pupils should
include religious education, English (including English
Literature), mathematics, science, "a worthwhile
offering of the humanities", aesthetic, practical,
technical subjects, physical
education, and a foreign
language for most pupils.

There is no mention
of options or choice,
or "the pattern of permissible
choices should not allow pupils to undergo a programme
that is insufficiently broad or balanced" (para. 11).

The argument for a common
curriculum has also been
put forward vigorously
in the recent Hargreaves
Report on ILEA schools
(Improving London's Schools). Here it is argued
that it is the best means
for all pupils to keep
fully open their options
and opportunities, by
preventing them from making
irrevocable choices at
any early stage.

Comment:
I am broadly in sympathy
with these arguments.
However, I feel we have not addressed ourselves
CHANGE

sufficiently In the discussions to the crucial question of how the curriculum is taught and learned, as well as what it should contain. Nor has the relationship between the demands for the common curriculum and the effects of the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative been sufficiently addressed. It will really turn on whether TVEI will come to apply a technical stream following a narrowly vocational curriculum or the opening up of opportunities in the technical/technological field for students of all abilities.

PEOPLE

MORE MONEY FOR DR. LES ALLEN'S WORK ON MULTI-PHOTON PROCESSES

Sussex scientist Dr. Les Allen has been awarded £46,390 to continue his research into multi-photon processes. Dr. Allen, Reader in Experimental Physics in the School of Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MAPS), received the two-year grant from the Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) to study the dynamics of two photon resonant, three photon ionisation.

The award brings the total external support Dr. Allen has received for his work to date to more than £153,000 since the late 1970s. During this time Dr. Allen has collaborated with a group of physicists at the University of Rochester in the United States who are also interested in three photon processes. He has also given invited papers at national conferences in France, Poland, the USSR, the USA and in the UK in the last five years.

SCHOOLS EXAMINATIONS

COUNCIL (SEC) AND SCHOOLS

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

COUNCIL (SCDC)

In April 1982 Sir Keith Joseph announced the abolition of the Schools Council and its replacement by two government-appointed bodies. This was against the advice given him in the Trenaman Report on the Schools Council.

The function of the SEC, under the chairmanship of Sir William Cockcroft, is primarily to co-ordinate and supervise the conduct of the 16+ and 18+ examinations. It will monitor GCSE syllabuses, assessment and grading procedures, and will advise on the need to develop or radically change the national criteria.

The SCDC, under the chairmanship of Professor Roger Blin-Stytle, will play an advisory role in relation to the curriculum, with the relatively limited task of identifying gaps and suggesting ways in which they might be filled.

Comment:

This is another example of the increasingly interventionist stance of the Secretary of State. But apart from that my major reservation is that it is presumed that developments in examinations and curriculum can be logically and even practically separated. The discussions about the SEC and national criteria would seem to disprove that.

Among the 200 graduates to receive their degrees from the Vice-Chancellor at the Winter Graduation Ceremony on January 30, was Ebenezer Obi-Obi-Bua, who was awarded an MA in International Business.

He is one of a growing number of Nigerian students to complete postgraduate courses at Sussex under the British Council and Sir Adam Thomson Scholarship Scheme.

A crowded Gardner Centre also saw the award of an honorary degree of Master of Science to Mr. John Le P. Webb, who has been associated with the work of the undergraduate Physics teaching laboratories for many years.

A further 160 degrees were awarded in absentia. The Summer Graduation Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, July 9, at the Brighton Centre.

MATHMATICS FIELDS MEDALIST TO VISIT SUSSEX

One of the most influential mathematicians and winner of the mathematical equivalent of a Nobel prize, Professor Jean-Pierre Serre, is to speak at a conference at the University on February 27.

Professor Serre, of the Collège de France in Paris, won his Fields Medal, as it is known, in 1954, at the age of 28. His mathematical work covers a wide variety of branches of pure mathematics, such as algebra, topology, algebraic geometry and number theory.

The conference, which is equivalent to an MRC Research Studentship, will be awarded in alternate years.

The Canadian Professor of Mathematics who endowed the scheme, was first awarded in 1936. Between two and four medals are awarded every four years at the International Congress of Mathematicians, always to those under forty.

The Sussex conference is on finite geometry. The other speakers are Professor J.A. Thas (Ghent), Professor A.A. Bruen (Western Ontario) and Mr. J.F. Voloch (Cambridge). Further details are available from the Mathematics Division in MAPS.

We NEED YOUR OLD PHOTOGRAPhS

As part of the preparations for the University's Silver Jubilee next year, the Information Office is trying to compile a photographic and pictorial record of the first twenty-five years.

There are already many photographs in our records and elsewhere. However, we know that there must be many more which individual students and members of faculty and staff have collected over the years.

Photographs do not need to be particularly dramatic; any photographs of the early years are interesting, as are photographs of University events, routine and non-routine, and of the many people who have been members of the University or associated with Sussex. Please look and see whether you have anything.

Any photographs loaned, whether black and white or colour, will be carefully copied and returned to their owners as quickly as possible. If you are in doubt about whether we would be interested please contact Pauline O'Kelly in the Information Office, Tel: 05-196, to whom photographs and pictures should be sent.
RESEARCH GRANTS NEWS

The Research Grants Office, Room 331, Sussex House, holds details of the following grants and fellowships:

ECC grants

* Applications are invited for European research projects to boost technology in traditionally neglected fields. (BRITe) The ECC has set aside £78 million over the four years 1985-88. This is the intention that the European Community should give the traditional industries to improve their technological base.

The ECC will provide 50 per cent of the funds with the remainder provided by the industrial participant. Projects are expected to be of a substantial size - approximately £25,000 in total. Closing date for applications: April 30, 1985.

* To encourage university research in the field of European integration, the ECC will award in July 1985 20 research grants with a maximum funding of about £1,730. Closing date for applications: March 31, 1985.

The ECC calls for participation in the second phase of the ESPRIT programme. Closing date for applications is March 25, 1985. Considerable details are available.

* The EEC is to fund two separate programmes for cooperation in higher education. The first, Joint Programmes of Study, is for students to undertake a field trip for a period greater than one month at a partner institution of a member state. The second is for teaching and administrative faculty to visit a member state for a period of up to one month. Closing dates for applications: April 1, 1985 for the Joint Programmes, and June 15, 1985 for the study visits.

Further period of two years. The fellowships are open to candidates in an area of physical or biological sciences or engineering who have, or are about to complete, a Ph.D. The stipend will be paid in the first year, and £7,740 in the second. A candidate must be a citizen of the Commonwealth or of the Republics of Ireland, Pakistan or South Africa, preferably aged 30; host universities must be recommended by Professors or Heads of Departments. Closing date for applications: May 1, 1985.

Leslie Wilson Research Scholarships

* These scholarships are offered by Magdalene College, Cambridge, for candidates intending to do postgraduate work at the end of their first degree course. A maximum award of £5,152 p.a. will be made to a scholar who proves he has no other means of finance; minimum award £300 p.a. Scholarships are tenable for up to three years and there is no restriction on the field of study. Closing date for applications: March 31, 1985.

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES AT THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE, FLORENCE

Four leaflets covering graduate studies in Political & Social Sciences, Law, History, and Economics have been issued by the European University Institute with the aim of encouraging British students to apply for postgraduate studies at the Institute. Copies of the leaflets are available for consultation with the relevant Subject Chairman, Deans of Arts Graduate School, EUIN, Oxford Street, London W1. Further information is available from OAS, SCR and Information Office. Closing date for applications: March 15, 1985.

OVERSEAS RESEARCH STUDENTS AWARDS SCHEME

Some 75 awards will be offered on a competitive basis in 1985 to overseas students (those liable to pay fees at the higher rate). Applicants must be commencing full-time study for research students for a higher degree, or already be full-time research students, or be registered as a research student in 1985-86, but following a 'taught' course during the first year.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Graduate Admissions Office or the Graduate Office in Arts B building. Applications are due to the Graduate Admissions Office by April 25, 1985.

VACANCIES

Faculty & Non-Faculty

The Personnel Office has issued the following summary of posts to be filled. Advertisement for these vacancies must be placed in the local and, where appropriate, national press, as well as being sent to the Staff Registry Office for circulation to staff, and to union representatives. Copies of these advertisements and further particulars if available and application forms are available from the Personnel Office, Room 206, Sussex House. This list was compiled on February 11, 1985.

All posts are full-time, full-year, permanent and for male or female unless otherwise stated.

Faculty

Temporary Lecturer in Operational Research, initially for two years. Temporary Lecturer in History of Science, School of African & Asian Studies, for two years. Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence in the Computing Studies Department, initially for three years. Lecturer in Engineering Dynamics in the Mechanical and Civil Engineering Subject Group.

Research

Research Fellow, Theoretical Nuclear Physics, MAPS. Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Research Office, MOLS.

Clerical and Related

Secretary, Grade 3, Engineering and Applied Sciences. Secretary, Grade 3, Astronomy. Secretary, Grade 12, Science Policy Research Unit. Secretary, Grade 3, part-time, Centre for Medical Research. Secretary, Grade 3, part-time, temporary, School of Social Sciences (closing date June 30, 1985). Clerk, Grade 12, Accommodation Finance Office. Computer Operator/Secretary, temporary, School of Biological Sciences.

LOCAL NEWS

The Bulletin is published every three weeks during term. The next edition (and the last edition this term) will appear on Tuesday, March 12. Copy must be received in the Information Office, Room 329, Sussex House (tel. 021-05 135) by no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, March 4.

We can only inform you, if you inform us, so please remember to let us know about news events.

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