Joint initiative good news for Sussex

Sussex has been successful in two bids under a new joint research equipment initiative: a partnership between the UK higher education funding bodies and Research Councils. The initiative, which requires institutions to obtain matching funding from industry and other sponsors, provides state-of-the-art research equipment in Foresight priority areas.

One of the Sussex awards is for a mass spectrometer for the Sussex Centre for Neuroscience. Its partner in the bid was Micromass Ltd with whom the Centre has developed close links. Collaborative projects have included direct analysis of biomolecules in nerves in the pond snail which are involved in the control of feeding behaviour. According to Paul Benjamin, who together with Michael O’Shea prepared the bid, “Exciting new projects are planned in the Centre to confirm the neurotransmitters in heart motoneurons, and in defined neural networks.

Elsewhere in the University, the Mass Spectrometer will be used to investigate the chemistry of fullerenes, pituitary growth hormones, protein folding and receptors in memory processes.”

The other award went to Chris Chatwin in ENGG for the establishment of a high power laser facility. The bid was submitted jointly with the University of Essex and generated such interest within industry that eleven companies supported the application. The matching funding was provided by James Howden & Co.

Sir Harry Kroto receives the award of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry from the King of Sweden in Stockholm on 10 December. 1996 was a very significant year for Sir Harry: he was knighted last January and received the Nobel Prize in December. “It has been a good year for me and for Sussex,” says Sir Harry. “In a time when small universities are under threat, it shows how small universities can do as well, if not better than, the big ones.” To mark his great achievements Sussex is to honour Sir Harry at a special ceremony later this year. He will be awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Science.

Science Master Classes

The Vega Science Trust, which Sir Harry co-founded, will have its first two Science Master Classes broadcast next week as part of The Learning Zone on BBC2. On Tuesday 14 January States of Matter, featuring Professor John Murrell, will be shown at 4.30am followed by Life in Space with astronaut Helen Sharman at 5.00am. Remember to set your videos on Monday night.

‘GOOD’ for Primary PGCE

The Primary Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) course received ‘good’ in all aspects of a recent OFSTED inspection of training and quality assurance. Three HMIs spent five days looking at every aspect of the course, including University workshops and training in six Sussex Consortium schools. Some sessions were judged ‘excellent’, and several strong features of the course were identified, such as the cross-school moderation visits made by all participating teachers. The Course Team were praised for having made significant improvements to the course since the last inspection. Dr Vivienne Griffiths, Course Director, reports: “We were confident about the quality of the training provided, but it is good to see this confirmed officially by the inspectors.” Vivienne is particularly appreciative of the support shown by the primary schools in accommodating visits by inspectors at a time when teachers were busy with nativity plays and other Christmas activities.
Name that building

It has until now been the University's practice to name its academic and social buildings after their principal usage, normally, in the case of 'single occupancy' academic buildings the name of the occupying School. However, the creation of the new Schools of Mathematical Sciences (SMS) and of Chemistry, Physics and Environmental Sciences (CPES) from the Schools of MAPS and MOLS, and the return of the AFRC Building to University use, mean that three of the University's main academic building complexes now bear the names of organisations which no longer exist, leading to confusion for those arriving new to the campus (and for some of those already here). In addition, the University's policy on space redistribution means that buildings are increasingly liable to have changes of main occupant or several units occupying substantial areas of space within them.

The Estates Committee, which is responsible on behalf of the University Council for the naming of buildings on the campus, has approved a policy and guidelines intended to enable visitors and others to locate easily buildings and units occupying them, while avoiding as far as possible unnecessary changes of building names. The guidelines include the use of locally-derived names for new buildings, or any existing buildings whose current name becomes inappropriate. Categories of name suggested, some of which are already in use on campus, include Sussex rivers (e.g. Cuckmere, Arun), forests (Ashdown House), hills (e.g. Caburn, Firle) or 'worthies' (Mantell Building). The Committee also agreed that, where a building has a neutral name, the names of units occupying it should be displayed outside the building and be made clear on campus maps.

In this context, the Committee is seeking new names for the following buildings:

- Chemistry and Molecular Sciences (MOLS), Stages I, II and III
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MAPS), Stage I and II
- AFRC (which, following refurbishment, will house part of CPES plus seminar rooms)
- Refectory (a title which, it is felt no longer reflects the range of uses of the building)
- New student residences at King's Road, Brighton

The heads of units occupying the individual buildings are being consulted, but the Committee would also welcome comments or suggestions from members of the University community in general. These should be addressed to the Secretary to the Estates Committee, Morag Stalker (Estates Building, email M.J.P.Stalker@sussex.ac.uk), from whom copies of the paper setting out the full policy and guidelines may be obtained. Formal proposals for new names will be considered by the Estates Committee on 26 February, so suggestions should be received by the end of January.

Once names have been agreed a process of re-signing will commence and campus maps displayed on site will be updated and redesigned.

Appointment of new SPRU Director

Senate and Council endorsed the appointment of Professor Ben Martin as the Director of the Science Policy Research Unit with effect from 1 January 1997.

Ben Martin, Professor of Science and Technology Policy Studies, studied physics at Cambridge University, and science and technology policy at the University of Manchester. He has been at SPRU for 18 years carrying out science policy research in four areas: research evaluation; assessments of national scientific performance; international comparisons of research funding; and foresight in science and technology. He has served as SPRU Director of Graduate Studies and is currently SPRU Director of External Relations.

Ben Martin has been closely involved with the UK Technology Foresight Programme and has served on its Steering Group, helping to produce the report on Progress through Partnership. He has also given presentations and advice on technology foresight in other countries including Germany, the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand, and written reports on technology foresight for OECD, the International Energy Agency and the European Union.
SENATE AND COUNCIL – in brief

Vice-Chancellor
Senate and Council received the report of the group established by the Council to make a recommendation on the extension of Professor Conway’s appointment as Vice-Chancellor. The Council approved the recommendation that the appointment should be extended for a further five years and noted that the Senate had conveyed its warm and positive support for the recommendation and its approval of the open and exhaustive consultative procedure which had been adopted.

Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor
The Council approved the appointment of Professor Alasdair Smith as Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor for a period of two years from 1 August 1997 to 31 July 1999.

Review of the 1996-97 University Budget
Senate noted and Council approved a report on the University budget. In introducing the paper, the Registrar & Secretary drew attention to a number of uncertainties still affecting the Budget which would necessitate a re-calculation of the estimates for 1996-97 early in the new year and the re-doing of the five-year financial forecasts. This would mean that Schools would not have firm budgets until well into the financial year, but it was important to proceed prudently to preserve the University’s overall healthy financial position.

New professors
Senate and Council approved the following professorial appointments from 1 January 1997:
Dr Vivien Hart, Reader in American Studies in EAM, is promoted to a Professorship in American Studies
Dr Laci Lib, Reader in German in EURO, is promoted to a Professorship in German.

Director of CLS
Professor Harry Rajak is to be the new Director of the Centre for Legal Studies.

Quentin Bell
We regret to report the death on 16 December 1996, of Quentin Bell, Professor of the History and Theory of Art at Sussex between 1967 and 1976. He was a major figure in the life of the University, and he and his wife, Anne Olivier Bell, received honorary doctorates from Sussex in September 1993.

Winter Graduation Ceremonies
This year there will once again be two Winter Graduation ceremonies both held on Thursday 30 January 1997 in the Gardner Arts Centre.

160 students in the following GRCs/Units will graduate at the morning ceremony at 11.15 am: BIOLS, COGS, CPES, ENGG, SMS, SPRU and USJE, CLS and Roffey Park Management Institute.

170 students in the following GRCs will graduate at the afternoon ceremony at 3.00 pm: CDE, CulCom, HUMS, GRCiSS, SEI and IDS.

Honorary Graduands
The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws will be awarded at the morning ceremony to Mr Terry Whitney, recently retired senior property partner of the University’s Solicitors, Donne Mileham & Haddock. Mr John Tomlinson, opera singer, who has just been awarded the CBE in the New Year Honours List for services to music, will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Music at the afternoon ceremony.

Media Students Success
A video made by last year’s Music and Media Studies Finalists has been highly commended in the experimental category of the Royal Television Society Student Video Awards. Sadness or Euphoria is an illustration of the work of a 13-year old poet. The judges were impressed by the mix of camera movement, imagery and sound. The students who graduated last year were Jean-Jacques Maurage Director, Jane King operator and Katy Cash actress. J.J. Maurage who directed the piece is at present teaching the final year music students studio work.
Monday 13 January - Sunday 19 January

Miscellaneous cont...

- **Pub Quiz**
  Pub quiz at the Playing Fields Pavilion on Thursday 16 January at 1.15pm. Superprizes to be won. Maximum 4 per team. To enter ring: ext. 3950 or 8230.

- **Sportcentre**
  - **Classes and Courses**
    Enrolment from 6 January. For a full programme contact Karen Dunster at the Sportcentre, ext. 3947, or email: K.Dunster@sussex.ac.uk. New this term:
    - **Interval Step**: Fridays 1-2 pm - Taster session Friday 10 January 50p. Course commences 17 January.
    - **Latin American and Rock 'n' Roll**: Thursdays 7-8 pm. Commencing 16 January; £14.80 for 8 weeks. No previous experience required.
  - **New Regular Users Scheme**
    Any group wishing to book a regular slot in the Sports Halls for 5 or more consecutive weeks can now do so as part of a new scheme set up by the Sports Service. The scheme, set up to cope with some of the many requests of this nature, will commence in January. Any group can now make a booking at the rate of £12.50 per hour. For more information please contact Brian Barnett, Operations Manager, on 6782(228), or email Sportservice@sussex.ac.uk.

- **Thank You**
  To all colleagues and friends in Sussex House for the generous Christmas gift received by Phil and Peter the Sussex House porters.

Christmas Charity Challenge

A big thank you to everyone who helped out with and took part in the Christmas Charity Challenge on 11 December. £784.04 was raised for the Sussex Cancer Treatment Fund. The event was won by the Mohawks (Ultimate Frisbee). Runners up were Doodle Scores Again from BIOLS.

University Term Dates 1997

Spring Term: Monday 6 January - Friday 14 March
Summer Term: Monday 21 April - Friday 27 June

Small Ads

- **Small Ads Cont...**
  TO LET: Room in house available for 4-8 weeks from January 31. Suits visiting solo academic. Please contact: ext. 2501 or p.drake@sussex.ac.uk
  TO LET: One furnished and one unfurnished room to let in a nice, spacious 4 bedroom house, 3 min from Brighton station. All mod-cons, CH, 2 bathrooms, courtyard. £50 pw plus bills. Available 29 January. Non-smoking, working people aged 24+ preferred. For more details please ring Tami or Richard on 729270.
  WANTED: Tutor to teach English GCSE to teenager. Please call ext. 8537.
  STOP SMOKING FOR 97: Discuss stopping at a meeting in the Health Centre, 3.30 pm on Wednesday 8 Jan. or 15 Jan (Health Centre: Patients only). Or ask for a smoking appointment with nurse Val.
  HOUSE EXCHANGE: Family house available for 3 week exchange in June/July. Situated in Tiburon, a small town in California: 25 min. North of San Francisco, 45 min. South of the Napa Valley. Contact Dr. E. Zwillinger in USA on: (415) 383 5753, or fax: (415) 338 0594, or e-mail: ext-zwill@usa.edu.
  RESEARCHER with strong academic background and journalistic skills available to work on books, theses, etc. Contact 725194.
  AMSTRAD 6128 PLUS: Excellent first computer. Smart looking. Comes with a few games, keyboard, colour monitor and other accessories. £100 ono. (01825) 768282.
  KIDDIES KARAOKE: Excellent fun for all ages. Singalong video. £45. (01825) 768282, or ext. 2697.
  HOUSE TO RENT: In small village near Moulpellier, France. 4 double bedrooms, large sitting room with two sofa beds, two bathrooms and all mod-cons. Large garden with small pool, lawn, eating areas, BBQ. Ideal area for walking, canoeing, swimming, pot-holing and riding. The sea is an hour's drive away. Available all year round. Weekly rent starts at 2000 FF. Contact Josephine Kaye: 642066 or at home on 386984, or e-mail: j.m.kaye@brighton.ac.uk.
  JVC VCR: Front loading, full features, remote, overhauled. Together with Philips 14" colour monitor £100 ono Jerry Mitchell: ext. 4237 or (01444) 482346.

Bulletin

The Bulletin appears every Friday of term, with copry deadline the preceding Friday lunchtime. We welcome suggestions for news, events, letters and small ads. Please contact the Information Office, Sussex House on ext. 8209 or email: Bulletin@sussex.ac.uk

Bulletin is now on the web: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/information_office/bulletin/
RAE 1996 - Outcome
Letter from the Vice-Chancellor

We have today received the results of the 1996 Research Assessment Exercise. I am pleased to say that they reflect national recognition of our continued positive progress.

Particular congratulations must go to History of Art which has achieved grade 5* - the new top grade for groups that have achieved "research quality that equates to attainable levels of international excellence in a majority of sub-areas of activity and attainable levels of national excellence in all others". Most grades 5* went to Oxford and Cambridge.

New grade 5's are American Studies, History, Pure Mathematics, French, German and Media Studies.

Law, Psychology and Social Policy/Social Work jumped two grades to achieve 3a. The complete list of grades (with the previous grades for comparison) is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>1996 grade</th>
<th>1992 grade</th>
<th>1989 grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Studies</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>75.5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>30.3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33.8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>27.7</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25.6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Art</td>
<td>5*</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>3a</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics - pure</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics - applied</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics - statistics</td>
<td>3b</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Modern Languages:

French                        | 5          | 12         | 3          |
German                        | 5          | 3.7        | 2          |
Italian                       | 4          | 3          | 3          |
Russian                       | 3a         | 3          | 2          |
Media Studies                 | 5          | 10.5       | -          |
Music                         | 4          | 2.6        | 3          |
Philosophy                    | 4          | 10         | 4          |
Physics                       | 3a         | 28.3       | 3          |
Politics and IR*              | 4          | 23.5       | 3          |
Psychology                    | 3a         | 10         | 2          |
Science Policy Research Unit  | 5          | 39.5       | 4          |
Social Anthropology           | 4          | 14         | 3          |
Social Policy/Social Work     | 3a         | 6.5        | 1          |
Sociology                     | 4          | 25.3       | 4          |

* the Sussex European Institute was a flagged research group.
We shall have no firm news until the end of February of the impact of the new grades on our HEFCE grant for research. Nevertheless we can draw some very rough conclusions from the extent that our weighted average grade has improved relative to the national average. Our weighted average grade is now 4.39, an increase of 9 per cent on the previous figure of 4.03. This can be compared with ‘grade drift’ elsewhere in our disciplines, which is around 10%. In other words, our average grade relative to the national average grade has fallen back very slightly and, all other things being equal, that might indicate a small diminution in grant.

A similar pattern emerges from examination of the provisional national league table of weighted average grades, which is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1996</th>
<th></th>
<th>1992</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Oxford</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>1 Cambridge</td>
<td>4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Cambridge</td>
<td>4.88</td>
<td>2 Oxford</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 LSE</td>
<td>4.81</td>
<td>3 LSE</td>
<td>4.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Imperial</td>
<td>4.74</td>
<td>4 UCL</td>
<td>4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 UCL</td>
<td>4.62</td>
<td>5 Warwick</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Bath</td>
<td>4.53</td>
<td>6 Imperial</td>
<td>4.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 UMIST</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>7 UMIST</td>
<td>4.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 York</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>8 Edinburgh</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Warwick</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>9 Lancaster</td>
<td>4.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 SUSSEX</td>
<td>4.39</td>
<td>10 SUSSEX</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However there are major uncertainties about the methodology that might be followed by HEFCE in determining grant for 1997-98, one of which is the treatment of grade 5*. The table above values grade 5* as the same as grade 5 (i.e. that it might be an honorific grade rather than a financial one). This is in line with some informal indications, but it may be just as likely that grade 5* could generate a financial premium - for example valuing it at 5.5 would change the national league table to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1996</th>
<th></th>
<th>1992</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Oxford</td>
<td>5.30</td>
<td>1 Cambridge</td>
<td>4.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Cambridge</td>
<td>5.19</td>
<td>2 Oxford</td>
<td>4.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 LSE</td>
<td>5.05</td>
<td>3 LSE</td>
<td>4.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Imperial</td>
<td>4.87</td>
<td>4 UCL</td>
<td>4.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 UCL</td>
<td>4.73</td>
<td>5 Warwick</td>
<td>4.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Bath</td>
<td>4.57</td>
<td>6 Imperial</td>
<td>4.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 UMIST</td>
<td>4.52</td>
<td>7 UMIST</td>
<td>4.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Warwick</td>
<td>4.47</td>
<td>8 Edinburgh</td>
<td>4.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 York</td>
<td>4.45</td>
<td>9 Lancaster</td>
<td>4.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Lancaster</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>10 SUSSEX</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 SUSSEX</td>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>11 York</td>
<td>3.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The difference between the two tables simply emphasises how difficult it is to draw firm conclusions at this stage on the outlook for grant.

Whatever the final outcome of the grant might be, RAE 96 has been a success for Sussex, confirming our place among the top rank of British universities. I am very grateful for all the hard work and devotion that has gone into achieving this continued success.