

Meeting May 13th 9.30
Minutes circulated to Sociology
Staff on Thursday

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Minutes of Staff Meeting held on 13th May, 1968

Present: Mr. I. Davies (in the chair) Mr. A. Tudor
Prof. P. Townsend Dr. E. Rudd
Mr. G. Hawthorn Mr. P. Doreian
Dr. D. Lane Miss J. Busfield
Miss S. de Miranda Mrs. R. Simpson
Miss A. MacEwan Mr. F. West
Mr. A. Sinfield Mrs. V. West
Mrs. J. Marceau Dr. D. Smith
Mr. D. Marsden Mr. R. Jenkins
Miss M. Clossick Mr. N. Stockman
Mr. R. Cox Mr. M. Lane

The meeting commenced at 9.35 a.m..

1. Minutes

Consideration of the minutes of the last meeting was deferred until the next meeting.

2. Matters Arising

Deferred until the next meeting.

3. At this stage of the meeting Mr. Tudor informed those present that it had been suggested to him (as secretary) that a special item be added to the agenda. This was consideration of the situation occasioned by the expulsion of three students from the University for their part in a demonstration last week. The item was admitted for discussion.

Dr. Rudd introduced the topic by explaining that under statute V (7) the Vice-Chancellor had suspended three students from the University without the right of appeal and without giving reason. What he objected to was their summary dismissal, not the fact of their being punished. They had every right to be heard.

Professor Townsend was asked if he had any information as regards the Dean of Student's position in relation to the present crisis. He replied that Professor MacIntyre was ill and had indicated that he could not be involved in or deal with the situation.

There followed considerable discussion revolving round the issue of what action the department might take with regard to the specific issue and the more general situation. Dr. Thompson read out a document which he and a number of other members of staff had produced for the Vice-Chancellor's consideration. This document made a number of proposals for a solution to the situation. On the basis of this it was resolved that the following letter be sent to the Vice-Chancellor from the Department

"A formal meeting of the Department of Sociology on Monday, 13th May, 1968 agreed unanimously to express its deep concern about the suspension of three students from the University on 10th May without thorough investigation of the facts about the events of Tuesday, 7th May, without their being heard and without any right of appeal. In the interests of normal democratic protest and re-establishing teaching routines, we wish to recommend:

(i) that a Committee of Enquiry be set up to investigate the

sent to the Vice-Chancellor from the Department

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- (i) that a Committee of Enquiry be set up to investigate the events and make recommendations;

- (ii) that the Committee should consist of representatives of both staff and students, each being appointed by the Staff-Student Liaison Committees of each department;
- (iii) that the Committee's report should be considered by a special meeting of General Assembly;
- (iv) that until General Assembly can consider such a report, the three students should be reinstated.

But it is quite clear that the more general issue of staff-student relations needs to be reconsidered at length, not only by formally constituted bodies but by specially appointed committees of staff and students. In particular the Vice-Chancellor's powers as set out in Statute Section V, paragraph 7, should be reviewed."

A number of members pointed out that it was now impossible to get an outside line without going through the university exchange. There had been no formal notice of this action. Professor Townsend agreed to investigate.

4. Allocation of Teaching 1968/69

There followed a brief initial discussion. Miss MacEwen pointed out that Comparative Studies students would have a substantially larger number of teaching hours than Social Studies. This did not seem desirable. It was suggested that the Cross-National Seminar could be dropped from the second year Comparative Studies curriculum. More generally it seemed the case that the Methodology courses could be looked at in more detail. It was thus resolved that a Working Party be set up to consider the methodology courses and report back (if possible) to the next staff meeting

Membership: Professors Lockwood and Townsend, Drs. Abell and Rudd, Messrs. P. Doreian, R. Jenkins and A. Tudor.

Further discussion of Teaching Allocation was deferred until the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.15. a.m..

Andrew Tudor.
15th May 1968