

Managing effectively



The new Arts Piazza café, which is already proving one of Sussex's most popular meeting places

Proposal for change

The University published a proposal for change in November 2009 to help ensure the University is achieving financial and academic stability.

The proposal followed the principles, established by the University Council in the summer, that the University should be looking for growth where possible, as well as targeted reductions in areas which had the most significant deficits. This means securing value for money in professional services to support the academic mission, not providing subsidies to trading services, and investing in the campus to sustain growth.

The plans propose 115 posts for redundancy, as well as the creation of 20 posts as a result of the changes, to secure a £5-million improvement in turnover. The plans look across all areas of the University in seeking to improve performance and deliver growth to improve the position of the University.

Consultation with the three campus trades unions on ways to avoid, mitigate or reduce redundancies took place from the date the plans were presented, and a range of

measures to achieve this have been consulted on and published. No decisions were to be taken until the March 2010 Council meeting.

Since the plan was published, the government has announced significant reductions in public sector spending on higher education for the next financial year and indicated further reductions in later years. The University planning for these reductions and seeking to increase income from non-public sector funds is the responsible approach to take.

Applications to Sussex rocket by 32 per cent

Applications to study at Sussex in 2010 have increased by a record-breaking 32 per cent from last year, according to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). Current applications to Sussex stand at 15,339, compared to last year's 11,651.

The figure puts Sussex 12 percentage points above the national average for degree-level applications, and among the highest performers of the research-intensive universities of the 1994 Group.