

influence of the Colleges, since many Regent House members currently elected to Council have close involvement with Colleges.

The University Council should logically be the representative body or cabinet of the academic community, and should reflect the balance of membership of that body. Its membership should comprise those best placed to plan and direct the work of the University.

The Chairs of Schools clearly have a central role in the academic and educational affairs of the University which are to remain the primary responsibility (under the Council) of the General Board. Their membership of that Board is therefore entirely appropriate.

The same does not, however, appear to be the case for their membership of the Council. Apart from adding substantially to their workload, their membership introduces a powerful block onto the Council focussing specifically on Faculties and Departments. Although this is a major part of University activities, it does not encompass the whole picture – otherwise why not combine the Council and General Board into one body? It would be preferable for the six places allocated to Chairmen to be filled by Professors and Readers, elected by the Regent House, ensuring a better balance on the Council. The thrust of the proposals should, in any event, be in the direction of a smaller rather than a larger Council. A body of 26 members will be unlikely to operate effectively as a coherent body. A body closer to half that size would be better placed to undertake executive and policy-making actions on behalf of the University.

Involvement of Colleges in University policy-making

The Colleges currently have a chance to participate in discussion of University policy in a number of ways. The Chairman and Secretary of the Colleges' Committee together with the officers of the Senior Tutors' and Bursars' Committee form a Colleges Standing Committee which meets twice a term. This Committee in turn meets regularly with representatives of the University's Planning and Resources Committee. Meetings are also held from time to time with the University's Personnel Committee. The point was made at the Colleges' Committee on 9 February that it would be desirable if mechanisms for input by Colleges into University governance were provided for explicitly rather than left to depend on informal arrangements which may be agreed from time to time. This seems a good point, with which Downing concurs. More generally there should be greater provision to ensure that the views of Colleges are known when strategic issues and policy-making matters are discussed at key committees. This point might be met by providing explicitly for College members on these bodies.

Regent House

It is proposed that Membership of the Regent House should be expanded to include all academic and academic related staff who are employed on 'unestablished contracts' subject to reasonable provision for a qualifying period of service. As a consequence it is envisaged that the Regent House will expand from ~3200 to over 5000 members.