

Tony B

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT NURSERY CAMPAIGN GROUP
HELD AT UMIST STUDENTS' UNION ON TUESDAY 1st APRIL 1980 AT 7.30p.m.

Present:

From UMIST Students' Union:	Karen Reissmann Keith Underhill Ian Dixon Rick Boyle Paul Baker Tony Baldwinson
From Owen's Students' Union:	Jane Taylor Diana Mitlin
From Owens ASTMS:	Ginia Bazley
From Owens NALGO:	P. Cummings V.B. Moorhouse
From Salford Students' Union	Richard Johnson

1. CORRESPONDENCE:

Paul Baker said he had been in contact with Manchester City Social Services Department at Solway House and had arranged an appointment to see Mrs. Rigby, the Senior Nursery Officer. Together with Karen Reissmann he had prepared a list of written questions to give them. These are requests for factual information on nursery provision within the locality. Written replies should be received in due course.

Tony Baldwinson reported that he had received a letter from Leslie Worsley who is the Agent for Jim Callaghan M.P. (Labour, Middleton). Leslie Worsley is on the Rochdale Council and has volunteered to ask questions during committee proceedings to the Rochdale representative on UMIST Council regarding the proposed nursery closure.

2. MANCHESTER SOCIAL SERVICES:

Diana Mitlin said she had visited a nursery in Moss Side. Although she was told that permission from the Social Services was required before visiting, she was met informally. The position in all local authority nurseries is that:

- (i) none have vacancies
- (ii) most places are for Social Service referrals.
- (iii) most places are taken by one-parent families
- (iv) students are usually referred back to the University
- (v) many children presently in nurseries are under 2 years of age, so vacancies are not likely to arise in the medium-term.
- (vi) waiting lists for local authority nursery places are very long.

Paul Baker said he had been in touch with Cath Robinson, who is on the Manchester Social Services Committee and has arranged a briefing meeting.

Diana Mitlin noted that a privately-run nursery was not feasible because of the wages for 2 workers required and the strict regulations concerning care for kids under 2½ years of age.

3. QUESTIONNAIRE:

Diana Mitlin said the group should also consider 'hidden demand' for a nursery in terms of students who would have come to college if nursery places were available and students who leave college totally when they become pregnant.

Rick Boyle noted that one question in the questionnaire to parents on the waiting list and current users did try to measure the first form of hidden demand.

Paul Baker suggested that Student Health Dept. could be approached to measure the second form.

Jane Taylor noted that hidden demand for child care was a national issue and figures and findings from other groups could be used.

Karen Reissmann said that students who leave were required to give a reason and this is recorded. The Institute could be asked to say how many people have been forced to leave because of a pregnancy or young child. Richard Johnson said he would try to get similar figures from Salford University.

4. PRESENT NURSERY:

V.B. Moorhouse asked whether the Fire Brigade had much influence over the future of the building on Oxford Road. Diana Mitlin replied that its fate depended more on building regulations and similar health and safety considerations. The main threat of closure would come from the Environmental Health Dept. of the City Council.

5. U.G.C. FUNDING:

V.B. Moorhouse asked whether anyone was clear on the position of U.G.C. Funds and nurseries. Karen Reissmann noted that NUS were now saying that Student Unions can only provide funds from earned income.

6. NEWSPAPER:

Jane Taylor outlined the format and content of the campaign newspaper. It will be an 8-side edition in tabloid form. The front page will contain brief summaries on various aspects of the campaign. Page 2 will contain editorial-like material. The centre pages (4 and 5) will be full spread with photographs, issues, etc. The back page will contain a list of demands, and prompts and contacts for people to get further involved. Half a page will be for alternative types of provision. One page will be for an analysis of the results of the questionnaire, and parents comments. Half a page each will be for nursery nurses pay and conditions of employment, and on kids comments to lighten the reading. The draft edition should be ready for the next meeting.

Tony Baldwinson asked whether the centre pages could be designed to

form an informative wall poster. Jane Taylor replied this was possible.

P. Cummings said she thought the Cooper Committee should be included somewhere within the newspaper, either as a contributor or in the form of an interview.

Paul Baker remarked it could also include comments from Social Service Councillors and officers.

7. LOBBYING:

Paul Baker suggested that the group should compile a 'hit' list of key decision-makers who should be intensively lobbied. It would include:

- (i) M.P.s with student constituents
- (ii) Councillors
- (iii) Sympathetic Academics
- (iv) Student Union and Trades Union reps. on Committees
- (v) Other sympathetic organisations, e.g. Chaplaincies.

Martin Kender will be asked to help construct this list.

8. STUDENT IMAGE:

Paul Baker reported an earlier idea of combining fund-raising for the campaign with developing a "respectable" image to encourage more staff to become involved in the campaign. It was noticed that the "student image" did tend to keep some staff away. This venture would be along the lines of a cheese and wine buffet. Only one speaker was thought necessary.

P. Cummings said that Trades Unions may be able to contribute to the campaign costs. Jane Taylor added that Student Unions can also share some of the costs involved. V.B. Moorhouse said she thought Jol Purcel should be invited to speak. Tony Baldwinson said he thought it important that the Cooper Committee backed such a venture, at least in principle.

9. UMIST COUNCIL:

Karen Reissmann said that UMIST Council think that the issue is dormant until the Day Nursery Committee reports back with alternatives. There is also a danger that Council will reject one DNC recommendation after another until their spirit is broken because it will be too late to sustain a campus nursery provision. UMIST Council should be forced to "put some money on the table" which would be reserved for a nursery regardless of the particular scheme.

At 9.30p.m. Karen Reissmann drew the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for their attendance.

DETAILS OF THE NEXT MEETING:

Thursday 1st May
5.30p.m.
UMIST Students' Union.

Creche, buffet and bar facilities will be
provided

YOUR ADDRESS:

If you would like to receive a copy of this and further minutes,
or if your address is incorrect or incomplete, please write to:

Community Action
UMIST Students' Union
P.O.Box 88,
Manchester M60 1QD.

with your correct address. Your letter to us can be sent in the
internal mail system. Similarly, if you can give us an internal
address, it saves on our postage costs. Thank you.