Statistical appendix

by Michele Abendstern and Steve Chick

The following graphs are based on statistics derived from the University Council's Annual Reports to the University Court for the years 1974 to 1990, and also on the figures for student numbers reported to the Senate in October or November of each year. Some of the supplementary figures on accommodation were gathered directly from the Accommodation Office. It is hoped that the graphs will speak for themselves and complement the story told in the main text of the book. A brief commentary on the figures follows.

Information is more complete for these years than for 1951–73 and it has been possible to demonstrate more fully the growth and changing pattern of some sectors of University life. In particular we have been able to gather statistics on student accommodation, an area of student life that changed dramatically during these years. The number of student places in University residences increased substantially between 1974 and 1990 from about 4,700 to over 6,600. In 1976 the University also initiated a direct leasing scheme, whereby it took over the tenancy of houses owned by private landlords and then sublet them to students. According to the University Calendar for 1989–90, 'Some 750 to 800 places are available and new accommodation is constantly sought.' The biggest expansion was in self-catered accommodation, provided for about 1,300 students in 1974, for about 3,300 in 1979, and for some 3,700 in 1989, chiefly through the growth of Oak House in Fallowfield and Whitworth Park on the Oxford Road site, mainly in the 1970s (there was comparatively little new building in the 1980s, although the direct leasing scheme was extended). The proportion of students in University-provided accommodation increased over the period from 32 per cent to 43 per cent of the whole student population.

The figures on income show a steady growth in cash terms throughout the period. However, as the text explains, the real value of University income, its power to purchase essential goods and services, was constantly being eroded by inflation. Parliamentary grants remain the largest single source of income throughout the period, though in 1990 they drop below 'other' combined sources of income for the first time. As a proportion of total income the parliamentary grant falls substantially from just below 80 per cent in 1974 to approximately 48 per cent in 1990.

Total full-time student numbers rise between 1974 and 1990 from 14,684 to 17,842 if UMIST is included, an increase of 18 per cent. Most faculties contract in response to the cuts imposed by the Conservative Government in 1981–84, but thereafter begin to recover. The Faculty of Music was ‘discharged’ and assigned as a department to the Faculty of Arts in 1987–88.

The gap between male and female student numbers closes during the period by about 7 per cent. If the Faculty of Technology/UMIST is included, women accounted for 30 per cent of total student numbers in 1974 and for 37 per cent in 1990. For Owens alone the figures for women are greater, rising from 36 per cent to 42 per cent.

Student numbers have been broken down faculty by faculty, showing which areas remained predominantly male preserves throughout the period. Women students never make up more than 28 per cent of the total in the Faculty of Science, whilst in the Faculty of Technology/UMIST, although their numbers double in the period in question, they remain a minority at 26 per cent in 1990. On the other hand, women outnumber men in the Arts Faculty throughout the period, having first overtaken them in the early 1970s. The numerical dominance of male students in the Faculty of Medicine that can be seen in 1974 no longer exists in 1990.

Graph 20 shows the increase in the proportion of part-time students during these years. This rises from roughly 5 per cent in 1974 to 10 per cent in 1990, partly as a result of the introduction of part-time undergraduate degrees in 1985.

1. Total Full-Time Students
(including Faculty of Technology/UMIST)

2. Total Full-Time Students
(excluding Faculty of Technology/UMIST)

3. Faculty of Arts

4. Faculty of Economic and Social Studies

5. Faculty of Education

6. Faculty of Law

7. Faculty of Medicine

8. Faculty of Music

9. Faculty of Science

10. Faculty of Technology/UMIST

11. Faculty of Theology

12. Faculty of Business Administration /The Business School

13. Women as % of Total Students
(including Faculty of Technology/UMIST)

14. Comparison of Owens and Faculty of
Technology/UMIST intake of Women

15. Percentage of Women Students (Arts)

16. Income

17. Parliamentary Grants as a % of total income

18. Accommodation

19. % of Students in Accommodation Provided by the University

20. Growth in Proportion of Part-Time Students (including Faculty of Technology/UMIST)