COUNCIL	Agenda Item 52(g)
28 January 2010	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREENGROUP

SUSSEX UNIVERSITY: CUTS TO JOBS AND SERVICES

"Nearly 50 years after it was established, the University of Sussex is a leading teaching and research institution. In the 2009 Times Higher Education University World Rankings, Sussex was ranked in the top five per cent of all universities worldwide.

University of Sussex staff and students play an integral role in Brighton and Hove, contributing to the city's economy, culture and vibrant atmosphere. The entire student community makes up roughly ten per cent of the population and brings in around £250 million to the regional economy annually.

This council notes:

The University of Sussex has revealed plans to cut spending by £5 million during the next academic year, achieved through job losses, course closures and department restructuring.

Proposed changes include:

- a reduction of 24 posts in Life sciences, 13 posts in Informatics, 5 posts in English, 3 in History, Art History and Philosophy and 62 posts in Professional support services including 5.5 Student Advice posts

- closing Unisex, a tripartite project involving the Universities of Sussex and Brighton and the local NHS Primary Care Trust, that provides support and advice for students concerning sexual health, HIV & Aids, Drugs and Alcohol.

- potentially closing the campus crèche and nursery, which is used by more than 80 staff and 20 students

This council believes:

- The proposed plans will have a negative impact on staff and students alike.

- In the longer term the cuts could reduce the critical role the university plays in supporting and helping to develop the city's economy and prosperity

- Reducing student support services is a particularly damaging option.

Therefore, this council

Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sussex informing him of our concern and asking him and his colleagues to reconsider the proposals."

Proposed by: Cllr Bill Randall Seconded by: Cllr Amy Kennedy

Supported by: Cllrs Ben Duncan, Ian Davey, Jason Kitcat, Sven Rufus, Paul Steedman, Keith Taylor, Vicky Wakefield-Jarrett, Rachel Fryer, Pete West, Alex Phillips and Georgia Wrighton.