

Non-course Open Forum 1 (1973) – Peter Venables clip

Contributors in clip: Peter Venables, James Barber

Clip transcript:

Peter Venables:

Well, really my concern is with policy as affecting university, to be quite clear about what the university may need by way of support of its work, the implications of the decisions made in Council. I have many consultations with the university Vice-Chancellor, who is Chairman of Senate – we have the two sides, Council and Senate – so that the two parts go along together, in harmony. And also much discussion of course with the Secretary of the university.

James Barber:

So there's a fair amount of informal sounding opinions and ideas, and exchanging between these meetings, at which I come along to you in the formal position?

Peter Venables:

Surely, the Council meeting is where a lot surfaces, for decision. And the Chairman of the Council must understand the work of the university pretty thoroughly, although he cannot be the expert that the Vice-Chancellor is. On the other hand, he is an external person, representing in some senses the world outside so that the work of the university can be allied, fruitfully, to the needs of the community and of the students.

James Barber:

Yes, now I think that's very important. You've emphasised this point about an external view of what's going on –

Peter Venables:

Well, we have lay members who come in from outside, and we have the academics who come from the academic side, and if you like you could say Council represents the workaday world inwardly into the university, and that the Senate is helped by the Council representing it outwardly to the world at large.