

Edward Arthur Kuska (10 June 1937 – 31 August 2019)

Ed Kuska was born on the 10th June 1937 in Alliance, Nebraska. Having obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree at Idaho State University in 1959, he came to the LSE in 1959 to study for a Ph.D. He was initially supervised by Bill Phillips and later by Dick Lipsey. He obtained his Ph.D. in 1970 with a thesis entitled 'The Theory of Devaluation, Uniform Commercial Policies and Transfer Payments'. In 1961 he was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Economics at the School. In 1964, he was promoted to Lecturer and in 1982 he became a Senior Lecturer,

After 1982 he concentrated on teaching and student welfare, rather than on research. He was an excellent teacher and taught Mathematics, International Monetary Economics and Macroeconomic Theory. The course he particularly enjoyed teaching was the month-long, intensive September Course in Mathematics that was taught to students coming to study for the one-year M.Sc. in Economics. His style was relaxed with lots of jokes and even students who thought they were ‘bad at maths’ enjoyed the course and progressed enough to handle the requirements of the M.Sc.

He had a strong commitment to the welfare of students, which was reflected in the care he took to respond to the problems of his tutees. This was expressed more generally in the time he spent as a Warden in several of LSE’s student halls of residence. He was the Warden in Carr-Saunders Hall for twenty-two years from 1st January 1971 until 31st December 1993 and the High Holborn Residence from September 1995 to August 2002. Many students arriving in London for the first time, particularly from another country, would find it a daunting and lonely experience. LSE had a policy of offering all new undergraduates a place in a hall of residence and the Warden has an important part to play in the process of settling in. Ed was particularly approachable and helpful to new students.

Ed’s success as a Warden was confirmed by many of the hundreds of LSE students who lived in LSE halls where Ed was the Warden. On a number of occasions when I called on Ed in the Warden’s Flat at High Holborn I would be introduced to a visitor, who was a former hall resident, just dropping by to see Ed on his or her way through London.

An indication of Ed’s style as Warden has been captured in fiction. In the novel by Benjamin Markovits entitled *A Weekend in New York* (Faber & Faber 2018, Paperback version 2019) there appears:

Paul, listening to their cross talk, remembered something. Bill had a friend in London they used to stay with, an American guy who worked at the LSE. His apartment was in the penthouse of a student building, right in the middle of the city—you walked out of the lobby into a bus lane. Red double-deckers. There was a pub on the corner with etched-glass windows, the side street led to Covent Garden. The apartment itself felt likm5(m)-6(en)-3.9(t)-6.1(i)-5.9(t)-6(s)-5(el)-Tw -23.93 -10 Tc 0 Rs

