MINUTES
Emeritus Faculty
The Australian National University

Minutes of the sixth meeting of the Committee of the Emeritus Faculty held on Wednesday 28 June 2000 at 4.00 pm in the Club Room, Cellar Bar, University House

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Present: John Molony (Provisional Chair), Beryl Rawson (Provisional Deputy Chair), Rafe De Crespigny (Provisional Treasurer), Maev O'Collins, Peter Stewart, Colin Plowman, Giles Pickford (Provisional Secretary). Maurie Weidemann and Geoff Smith were in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Anthony Low, David Hambly, Gerard Ward.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the fifth meeting were confirmed.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Launch

The Committee noted that 60 people attended the launch. The invoice of $562 has been paid out of ticket sales. As the bill worked out at $9.36 per head, the event raised $38.40 profit for the Emeritus Faculty.

3.2 Lecture Series

The Committee considered the following list of Speakers (not necessarily in chronological order):
(i) Libraries Now, Colin Steele
(ii) The Role of the AVCC, Stuart Hamilton
(iii) Universities and Industry I, The Hon John Button
(iv) Universities and Industry II, Mike Sargent
(iv) Internationalisation, Lindy Hyam, IDP
(v) Reaching Out, Mike Gore

(vi) Unfinished Business, Ben Selinger

It was agreed to delete (iii). Peter Stewart was asked to contact Ben Selinger re (vi) above, and Giles Pickford was asked to contact Lindy Hyam (iv) and Mike Gore (v) above, with the aim of running public lectures by all of them in the next few months.

3.3 Summer Schools

The Chair and Deputy Chair reported on the Summer School for Humanities Teachers. There was an offer of collaboration from the HRC. However it was felt that it may be too late to organise this event in the coming summer.

Peter Stewart tabled a proposal for the Science Teachers Summer School and he, Maurie Weidemann and Geoff Smith spoke to the paper. Various amendments were suggested. It was agreed that two versions of the paper need to be produced: one for taking to the Chancelry and the other, addressing national need, for submission to the Head, School Quality Program, DETYA. Peter Stewart agreed to produce a budget with the assistance of Maurie Weidemann and Geoff Smith, so that both versions would be complete.

Rafe De Crespigny agreed to find out if it would be possible for University House to administer the Summer School on behalf of the Faculty Emeritus.

The question of whether or not the Science Summer School would be ready for the coming summer cannot be answered at this stage.

A copy of the revised paper (Chancelry version) is appended below.

3.4 Literature Search

Colin Plowman to reported further on this matter, including his searches of HERDSA, ATEM Journals, Eureka, Minerva, Daedalus and other Journals. The study will continue. At this stage Yale appears to be the most fruitful area of investigation.

4. Membership

The Membership Database was be tabled. Members who have already been admitted were noted. The Committee reached tentative decisions on the other applicants.

(NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting the Chair has suspended action on membership matters pending further clarification of definitions at the next meeting).

5. Treasurer's Report

Rafe De Crespigny reported on the opening of an account in the name of the Emeritus Faculty. It was agreed that the Credit Union of Canberra should be approached to open an account with the following signatories being approved: Any two of John Molony, Beryl Rawson, Rafe De Crespigny and Giles Pickford.

The Committee noted that there was a credit of $220 in the Faculty's account plus a profit of $38.40 from the Chancellor's Launch Function.

6. Other Business

6.1 A letter from Frank Fenner and Gordon Ada was tabled. The Committee agreed with the ideas presented and asked to Secretary to implement them forthwith.

6.2 The idea of having a function to welcome the new Vice-Chancellor in January was discussed and deferred to the next meeting

6.3 An idea for involving all members of the Faculty in creating interesting activities was discussed and deferred to the next meeting.

7 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 August at 4.00, pm in the Club Room of the Cellar Bar.

GP 4/7/00

Emeritus Faculty of the Australian National University

Proposal for a National Science Teacher's Summer School

The Emeritus Faculty of the Australian National University, in conjunction with the University, proposes to establish a National Science Teachers' Summer School. Interested science teachers from secondary schools (state and private) around the nation would be invited to attend the summer school with the aim of updating and expanding their understanding of recent developments in the physical, biological, medical and earth sciences. The school would also consider social issues which arise from new scientific developments. The summer school curriculum would be developed and presented by research and teaching staff of the Australian National University, advised by a small management group appointed by the Emeritus Faculty. Activities would range across lectures,

seminars, demonstrations, hands-on activities, and informal interactions with staff members and emeritae of the university.

During the summer school, which would run for approximately five days, teachers would be accommodated in a student residence on the ANU campus. The use of a single residence would encourage and facilitate exchange between the teachers, particularly in those matters of teaching methods and philosophies which characterise teachers individually, or which differ across school systems.

The intended outcomes of the proposed National Science Teachers' Summer School would be:
* wider appreciation nationally of the standing and excellence of the ANU as a national and international research and teaching centre;
* increased awareness on the part of teachers of the opportunities which the ANU offers for secondary school students, from anywhere in the nation, for undergraduate and postgraduate study;
* acquaintance on the part of academic staff of ANU with secondary school teaching methods and curricula, and the challenges which confront secondary school science teachers;
* continuing interaction among science teachers, and between the teachers and academic staff, particularly by way of practical and informational assistance for teachers in the development of new school activities and courses in science in secondary schools, and assistance to teachers in placing their students into suitable university courses and departments.

As a specific illustration of what the Emeritus Faculty has in mind for a National Science Teachers' Summer School, the program for an earlier summer school, run in January 1995, is appended (similar summer schools were also successfully run in 1994 and 1996). Some 30-40 teachers from all states and territories attended these summer schools, which received high praise, both from the teachers and from the participating ANU staff. The school was conducted under the auspices of the Centre for Continuing Education at the ANU, with funding provided jointly by DEET (now DETYA) and the ANU Vice-Chancellor's Office to fund fellowships awarded to the teachers for travel and accommodation, plus administration costs incurred by the CCE.

The Emeritus Faculty now seeks funding support for a National Science Teachers' Summer School. Three possible modes of funding appear worth exploring:

* grants from the university and/or government departments or agencies (such as DETYA or state education authorities) who see extension activities such as summer schools as consistent with their goals or purposes;
* grants from corporate sponsor(s) which might seek naming rights and other publicity through support of the summer school;
* course fees charged to teachers attending the school (which might be met personally by teachers, or by way of support from, for example, the teacher's school or education authority, or from interested local organisations or associations).

The true value of the summer school would be many times the teachers' travelling and accommodation costs, and attributable administrative costs of the summer school. ANU staff time, access to and demonstration of sophisticated research equipment and associated technologies, and establishment of links between teachers and ANU staff, and among teachers themselves, might be valued at multiples of the direct costs of the summer school.

A notional budget for a summer school, based on experience from the earlier summer schools, will shortly be prepared. Total transport, accommodation, management and administrative costs are likely to be of the order of $100,000.

This proposal was prepared for the Emeritus Faculty of the Australian National University by:

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