

Fees likely to affect continuing education

It is still a little difficult to be clear about the way in which the Government's decision to introduce fees for certain second degree courses in tertiary institutions will be implemented.

Major uncertainties are the exact definition of the courses which will attract fees and the level of fees which will be imposed on these courses.

Setting aside those uncertainties, I am concerned principally about the impact of the imposition of fees on the opportunities for "continuing" education within Australian tertiary institutions. There is a general agreement (which I am certain is shared by government) that opportunities for the upgrading of qualifications, for the updating of personal skills and information, and for retraining to permit changes in employment, are extremely important for the industrial, commercial, civic and social

By the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, Professor Michael Birt.

life of Australia now - and probably increasingly in the future. It is widely accepted that many people need opportunities for such continuing education, and that young people being trained at the moment will have to contemplate a number of changes in career in the future. For all these reasons, it is vitally important that access to costing education courses in higher education should be freely available. It seems to me that the present proposals for reintroducing fees for selected postgraduate courses is likely to interfere very seriously with entry into programmes of continuing education.

Perhaps I can illustrate my concern by reference to the position in the University of Wollongong. We have 466 postgraduate enrolments, with only 36 (22 on Commonwealth Postgraduate Awards and 14 on University Awards) apparently eligible for exemption from fees. Of the 466 postgraduate enrolments, about 56% are undertaking their courses part-time - in other words, many of them are already employed, and are upgrading or redirecting their knowledge and skills? Moreover, just under half of the total postgraduate enrolments are in the "business and technologies" courses which, understandably, are of special concern to the Government at the moment. It seems to me certain that the fee structure proposed from enrolling in these important fields of continuing education. Consequently, I hope that the government will undertake urgently a review of the likely impact of introducing the particular fees proposed, with the intent of ensuring that higher education is able to serve the needs of Australian society now and in the future in the most effective possible way.

Chancellors lodge official protest

The Chancellors of all six Universities in New South Wales have sent the following message to Mr. Fraser and Mr. Fife.

The Chancellors of their Universities (in alphabetical order) are:

Macquarie University - Emeritus Professor P.H. Partridge
University of Newcastle - Sir Bede Callaghan
University of New England - Sir Frank Kitto
University of New South Wales - Mr. Justice Samuels
University of Sydney - Sir Hermann Black

University of Wollongong - Mr. Justice Hope

The message, which was sent by telex, reads in full:

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MALCOLM FRASER, CH, MP, PRIME MINISTER AND THE HONOURABLE WAL FIFE, MP, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION.

WE, THE CHANCELLORS OF MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITIES OF NEWCASTLE, NEW ENGLAND, NEW SOUTH WALES, SYDNEY AND WOLLONGONG, VIEW WITH THE GRAVEST CONCERN THE PROPOSED REINTRODUCTION OF TUITION FEES

FOR HIGHER DEGREE STUDENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS STEP WOULD SERIOUSLY INHIBIT ACCESS TO ADVANCED STUDY AND RESEARCH IN UNIVERSITIES, AND WOULD THEREBY IMPEDE THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING, AND TECHNOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN AUSTRALIA. WE STRONGLY URGE THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER THE PROPOSAL.

Signed: P.H. PARTRIDGE, BEDE CALLAGHAN, FRANK W. KITTO, GORDON SAMUELS, HERMANN BLACK, R.M. HOPE.

The Federation of Australian University Staff Associations has launched a major new campaign to obtain an increase in research funding in the forthcoming budget.

The campaign is directed towards a boost in funding for the Australian Research Grants Scheme (ARGS).

Dr. Peter Darvall, President of FAUSA said:

"We are asking for a steady increase in funds for basic research through the ARGS.

"ARGS is the major funding source for basic research in Australia.

"We have conducted a survey of the results of research done by ARGs grant-holders eleven years ago - in 1970.

"The results show developments in the intervening period of great significance to agriculture, science, industry, commerce, public health, and to the community generally".

The FAUSA Report is being sent to all federal politicians and to relevant government departments.

Funds drive to boost research

"The new evidence we have gathered proves that basic research, if examined over the longer term, makes significant returns to the community" said Dr. Darvall.

"The results from 1970 include improved cattle breeding techniques, methods for fighting oil well fires; a study of the effects of pollutants on native flora and fauna; advances in the prevention and cure of many human and animal diseases and disabilities; a more economic design for steel framed structures; improved industrial boiler design; and a standard reference work in the Australian Constitution, to name only a few".

Dr. Darvall pointed out that Australia compared very poorly with other western countries in the amount of resource it devoted to research. Only Iceland, New Zealand, Spain and Portugal, amongst OECD countries, spend less than Australia. Australia's expenditure on basic research is less than half the amount spent on defence research.

"Unless Australia's research capability and its human resources are developed together with its physical resources, we will become a quarry for other nations which develop both" said Dr. Darvall.

"The ARGS is being funded in 1981 at about half the level, in real terms, that it was in 1966" said Dr. Darvall.

"The size of the average research grant has shrunk to about a quarter of its 1966 value. This means it is far more difficult to obtain funding for important projects".

In 1981, ARGs grants totalled \$16 million. FAUSA is asking for this to be raised to \$22 million in 1982, and to \$32 million by 1984.

Membership of the Friends of the University is more than 100 and well on the way to achieving the 200 target, according to Executive Officer of the Friends, Mr. Giles Pickford.

Mr. Pickford said membership represented people from industry, unions, commerce, the professions, church groups, agriculture, schools, graduates and staff and students of the University.

"We have achieved a truly representative sample of Illawarra and the second 100 members will continue this policy. After all, the University was created to serve the whole community and the membership of the Friends reflects this fact," Mr. Pickford said.

He said although inviting membership had been the major activity of the past few months, some projects were already in the early stages of development.

'Friends' flourish

These included:

- Student Accommodation - Friends were beginning to take hand in assisting the University to find suitable accommodation for students in areas close to the University.
- Student Employment - casual employment opportunities during vacation were being sought, and in some cases provided by Friends.
- Development of Italian Studies - the Chairman of the Department of European Languages has asked for assistance from members of the Italian studies to enable students to take Italian to honours level, a course prohibited at the moment by lack of a staff position.

- Visiting Catholic Scholar - a group of Friends led by members of the Catholic parish of Fairy Meadow/Balgownie were working on an idea of providing from time to time an internationally renowned Catholic scholar to lecture at the University and generally provide stimulus to the discussions of theology and religious thought in Illawarra. This group has already organised for the Rev. Fr. Eamon Carroll, O. Carm., of the University of Chicago, to speak at the University on June 23 in the Union Common Room at 12.30 p.m.
- Tours by school students - Mr. Barry Lee of Crown Street Travel has undertaken to provide his services to organise tours to the University from schools in the region.
- Library and Regional Archives - University Librarian Mr. Jeff Hazell was currently collecting interested Friends to join in a developmental project for the library and archives, both a major research tool in the region.
- Uniadvice - this service was already operating successfully, providing advice from University sources on a range of problems (on a commercial basis) including arbitration in development of a patent, computer design (software and hardware) and commercial high technology.

FIRST AID ATTENDANTS

The following members of staff are appointed as First Aid Attendants.

Mrs. D. Ashelford	Chemistry	Ext.864
Mr. N. Buckley	Administration	960
Mr. T. Clout	Administration	958
Mr. A. Coleman	Administration	960
Mr. E. Foster	Administration	960
Mr. G. Hamilton	Metallurgy	913
Mrs. J. Hamilton	Computer Centre	926
Mrs. M. Inglis	Economics	807

Mr. T. Jones	Psychology	487
Mr. A. King	Chemistry	942
Mr. B. Laughton	Store	857
Mrs. A. Lee	Biology	414
Mrs. E. Lee	Geography	475
Mr. P. Pavlik	Chemistry	864
Dr. D. Pearson-Kirk	Civil Engineering	980
Mr. K. Shepherd	Maintenance	444
Mrs. D. Swoope	Library	887
Mr. W. Trueman	Library	425
Mr. F. Zylstra	Maintenance	445

'Maximum damage for minimum savings'-Fausa

The Minister for Education, the Hon. Wal Fife, has responded to FAUSA's "open letter" on the proposal to re-introduce tertiary tuition fees for second and postgraduate degrees.

His reply is not satisfactory.

BROKEN PROMISES

Mr. Fife accuses FAUSA of arousing "needless misapprehension" about the re-introduction of fees for undergraduates. He says that there is no basis for speculation about this. He says the government has "no intention" of introducing fees for first degrees.

Just seven months ago Mr. Fife gave us a similar assurance about all fees. And before that his predecessor, Senator Carrick, gave us a similar assurance, after which the government promptly introduced fees for overseas students.

So "assurances" count for very little; it seems that the will of anti-intellectual factions in the government overrides the importance of promises made by Ministers for Education.

Mr. Fife may be giving his assurances in utmost good faith; but he is a member of a government which is not sticking by its promises on higher education. He may not believe that this is the first move towards introducing fees for all tertiary students: we still do.

DISCOURAGEMENT OF POSTGRADUATES

Mr. Fife says that FAUSA's assertion that the Commonwealth is directly discouraging higher degree enrolments, and that it places no value on university research, is "squarely opposed to reality".

What are the realities? There will be exemptions from the postgraduate fees; this is recognised. But many postgraduates will still have to pay fees - perhaps up to \$2,000 p.a. The TEC has planned for an increasing proportion of postgraduate enrolments in universities. Postgraduate scholars are an essential element in the research role of universities and their academic staff. Several surveys have shown that a large proportion of students would suspend or discontinue their studies if fees were re-introduced.

These are the facts. The conclusion is a simple one. The imposition of fees will discourage postgraduate enrolments; and it will hamper research in universities.

It is the Commonwealth Government,

and not FAUSA, that is squarely opposed to reality. It is also now squarely opposed to its own declared policy of ensuring a greater concentration on postgraduate work and research in universities. (As announced by Senator Carrick on 22 November 1979).

PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE

We asked Mr. Fife if the government believed it could look forward to an age of high technology if there are not sufficient skilled professionals to cope with it.

Mr. Fife points, in answer, to the government's support for a "major redirection of effort in advanced education". He refers to the shot-gun marriages proposed by the razor gang between groups of CAE's and between some universities and CAE's, and the intended future emphasis on technological and business studies in colleges.

This is beside the point. Manpower

FROM DR. PETER DARVALL
(PRESIDENT FAUSA).

planning in education cannot be achieved at the point of a gun. The government cannot force students into areas of study which it believes are relevant by forcing them out of other areas. Such a move is, in any case, contrary to its own declared policy (eleven months ago) of having "prime regard to the demand for places from those qualified and wishing to enter particular courses".

What is to the point is that postgraduate studies undertaken now will be an essential feature in Australia's future prosperity, when a more highly-educated and adaptable work force will be needed if Australia is not to become a "poor relation" in the Asian region.

And the government is not only discouraging postgraduate study, but undergraduate enrolments as well. Both by tightening TEAS allowances and by cumbersome physical relocation of teaching arrangements through "shot-gun rationalisation" (by proposed mergers between institutions physically remote from one another) the government is succeeding in manufacturing a downwards trend in tertiary enrolments.

EDUCATION AS AN INVESTMENT

We believe that the government is failing

to make an essential investment in human resources - both in its complacency about falling school leaver enrolments in tertiary education, and in its active attempt to reduce both undergraduate and postgraduate enrolments.

For Mr. Fife to quote the government's overall expenditure of \$2867 million on education is only to re-emphasise the lack of any rationale for introducing fees which, in 1982, may net an income of some \$5 million.

It is likely that the cost of collecting these fees will absorb a substantial amount of the income so derived! But if undergraduate fees are round the corner, we can see that the Department of Finance believes the money will be well spent.

If the "user pays" philosophy is to be accepted, we should think about who is the "user" of tertiary education. The answer is that it is the community which benefits in the long term from a better educated work force, and it is the community which should pay. This concept has been accepted for several decades in respect of primary and secondary education.

Mr. Fife asks us to read carefully what the Prime Minister has had to say. We have read it carefully. We can see where it is heading. As far as Australian universities are concerned, it is heading back towards the nineteen fifties - when Australia's universities were second-rate institutions by world standards - when postgraduate work was something done mainly in the United States or in England - when most of our academic staff were recruited from overseas - and when an Australian degree was merely a pre-requisite for study at more prestigious institutions.

ROLE OF THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

We are dismayed that the Minister is such an enthusiastic supporter of assaults on Australian investment in higher education. Perhaps this is a hangover from the days when he was Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs. FAUSA is firm in its belief that our investment in human capital should be promoted, and we regard it as a pre-requisite for a Minister for Education to be an advocate in similar terms, not to support educational policy generated by nameless anti-intellectual bureaucrats in the Department of Finance.

We repeat our charge specifically on fees for postgraduate students: the Minister is acquiescing in a policy of maximum damage for minimum savings.



Items for "Take Note" should be forwarded to the Development and Planning Office, Room G08 The Hut (ext.955).

Wollongong and Sydney newspapers and magazines are now available from the Union Shop.

Staff and students are also reminded of the Higher Education supplements in Wednesday's edition of The Australian and in The National Times.

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS.

Details of the following items are available from the Student Enquiry Office, Ground Floor, Administration Building.

RADIO RESEARCH BOARD POSTGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP for full-time research in the radio and telecommunications sciences leading to award of PhD at an Australian university. Applicants must be under 25 years of age, have Australian citizenship or be a permanent resident in Australia.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY OVERSEAS BURSARIES 1981 - 82 are available to students whom the Board of Graduate Studies has accepted for admission. The value of a Bursary, which may be tenable for up to three years, will be determined in the light of the circumstances of each applicant. Applications close on 15 July, 1981.

UTAH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY is offering scholarships to students undertaking full-time study with Geology as a major subject. Scholarships are for one year only, non-bonded, although students may re-apply each year. Closing date for applications: 30 June, 1981.

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA is inviting applications for a Research Fellowship tenable in the School of Social Sciences (Economics, Geography, History, Psychology, Sociology). The fellowship is tenable for one year but may be renewed for a further twelve months. Applications close 31 July, 1981.

RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA invites applications for grants from the Economic and Financial Research Fund for projects to be undertaken in 1982. The Bank is also offering Fellowships in Economic Policy which are tenable at universities and approved institutions. Applications close on 30 June, 1981.

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMIC OF SCIENCE advises that the U.S. Public Health Service is offering International Research Fellowships to young Australians working in the biomedical sciences, to enable them to undertake research in health-related fields in the United States. Applications close 31 October, 1981.

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE invites nomination of candidates for the

award of the 1982 Gottschalk Medal which recognises distinguished research in the medical or biological sciences. Candidates must be under the age of 37 years and research must have been carried out mainly in Australia. Nominations close on 30 September, 1981.

NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA is inviting applications for Research Fellowships, Grants-in-Aid for research, Post-Graduate Medical Research Scholarships and Overseas Travel Grants. Applications close 30 June, 1981.

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT has announced that funds are available to support research, collections and data processing consistent with the aims of the Australian Biological Resources Study. Those working on Australian animals and plants, and interested in participating in the Study, are invited to register with ABRS.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED BREWERS invites applications for Grants-in-Aid, Research Fellowships, Research Scholarships, and Limited Short-term Grants to support research on health-related aspects of alcohol consumption (physiological, psychological and epidemiological aspects). Applications close 30 June, 1981.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY. St. John's College invite applications for a Commonwealth Fellowship for the year 1982-83. The Fellowship is open to men and women and is intended for postgraduate degrees) who wish to undertake study and research and to make contact with scholars in Great Britain. Applications close 15 January, 1982.

ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. The Scuola Superiore Enrico Mattei, Milan, is offering scholarships to both Italian and foreign graduates with a degree in scientific matters, economics, law and statistics, for a year of study in Italy. Applications close 10 June, 1981.

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE invites applications for the Charles John Everard Scholarship to undertake postdoctoral research in the agricultural or horticultural sciences. Applications close 30 June, 1981.

HARKNESS FELLOWSHIPS. Applications are now being invited for 1982 awards to enable study and travel in the United States. Candidates must be over the age of 21 years but preference is given to persons under 36 years of age. Candidates must be Aust-

ralian citizens or have taken steps to achieve citizenship. Applications close 31 August, 1981. Additional information on Harkness Fellowships is available from Ross Walker, Academic Appointments Officer, (ext. 885).

MISCELLANEOUS

TO LET: Right on the Beach, two bedroom flat, one of two duplex. Landscaped grounds with lock-up garage. Top condition, carpeted, curtains. Unfurnished. \$70 per week. Bulli. References required. Tel. Guy 280033 by day or 832281 after 6 p.m.

LONDON FLAT TO LET: Fully furnished 2 bedroom 1st floor flat in FOREST HILL, South London. Pleasantly situated, close to trains, shops and buses. Central heating throughout. Sleeps 4. Vacant June 1st - Jan 30th
1981 1982

\$A100 per week.
Phone HARDING 042-286354.
or 02-888-8000 X9178

WOLLONGONG WORKSHOP THEATRE: "The Lover" by Harold Pinter, plus, "The Chairs" by Eugene Ionesco. June 17, 19, 20. 8p.m. Gipps Road, Keiraville.

FRENCH SONG COMPETITION: Authors, composers and singers in non-French speaking countries are invited to enter an international competition of French songs. Songs must be written in French and text and music must be original. Organisers looking for melodies inspired by local rhythms (e.g. bush ballad or Aboriginal rhythms in Australia). Competition organised by the Direction generale des Relations Culturelles, in collaboration with Alliance Francaise. Prizes include a return trip to Paris, 15 days in France, with an allowance of about \$81 a day and the recording of the winning songs by a recording company. Entries should be sent to Alliance Francaise de Brisbane, 1st Floor, 191 George Street, Brisbane, 4000, Queensland. Tel. 2217957. Closing date, september 1, 1981.

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