



MONASH REPORTER

A MAGAZINE FOR THE UNIVERSITY

ORIENTATION SPECIAL

ORIENTATION WEEK will probably be a confused jumble of experiences for most of the 3500 new students coming on to the Monash campus for the first time this week.

At the risk of adding to that confusion—and to the mass of literature that will be showered on them—"Monash Reporter" has prepared this special supplement aimed at providing some insight into the workings of the University.

Details of the social and extra-curricular side of University life are given in your Orientation Handbook, and a full description of Orientation Week activities is provided in the official OW programs available at the Union Desk.

In this supplement, we undertake an exploratory trip through the thickets (and minefields!) of university government. And on the back page, Doug Ellis, deputy warden of the Union, explains the aims, purposes and workings of the Union.

Inside is the first issue of the "Reporter" for 1975. We hope that newcomers (and "old goers" for that matter) will find something of interest and value in it. It's a magazine designed for all members of the University, and it welcomes ideas, comments and contributions from staff and students alike.

("Monash Reporter" is published by the University Information Office. Inquiries or contributions should be directed to the editor, on the first floor, University Offices. Telephone extensions 2087, 3087.)





A plain man's guide to . . .

University

Who runs the University? And how?

Questions that have exercised the minds of scholars (and others) ever since universities began.

"EASY," say some of the scholars (and others), "it's the Vice-Chancellor . . . it's the Council . . . it's the god-professors (in that exclusive assembly of the gods, the Professorial Board) . . . it's the Deans . . . the Academic Registrar . . . the Comptroller . . . the grey band of bureaucrats in Admin . . . it's a student general meeting . . ."

"And it's all done," they will, at some time or other, say, "by mirrors, persuasion, coercion, bribery, chicanery,

benevolent despotism, threats, promises, by democratic processes of the highest order, by the old-boy principle of 'who you know, not what you know, . . . etc., etc.'"

Because universities are unique, and more than a little complex, in the form of government they have developed over the centuries (and which they are still developing), not many university people — even those of long experience — are fully aware of all the ramifications.

The "Reporter", therefore, has been persuaded to take this ramble through the thickets of university government . . .

It is all set out in great detail, of course, in the University's official Calendar — a noble publication but, at 680 or so pages, not readily assimilated in one sitting.

So what follows is necessarily a heavily-abbreviated rundown on the power structure of the University.

While the hierarchical setting-out of the structure seems to indicate the degree of power or influence wielded by the individuals and bodies named, it's important to remember one salient fact:

The decision-making machinery has been devised to ensure, as far as possible, that no one individual or group in the University has the power to act unilaterally, or without proper consultation, on any matter that affects any other individual or group.

In other words, the "system" allows for the fullest possible co-operation between the doers and the done-to — all aimed at achieving the greatest possible measure of consensus (even in matters like exams and assessment!).

First . . .

THE COUNCIL

Presided over by the Chancellor (now Sir Richard Eggleston — see page 5).

It is the University's supreme governing authority and derives its powers from the Monash University Act, passed by the Victorian Parliament in 1958, but since amended in a number of ways, particularly in relation to membership.

At present, the Act requires that the Council should consist of not more than 39 members (currently we have 36 members), made up as follows:

Nine members appointed by the Governor in Council, of whom — Three shall be members of the Victorian Parliament, and Six shall be appointed covering agricultural, professional, industrial and commercial interests, including one nominated by the Melbourne Trades Hall Council.

Two members (not employees or students of the University) elected by the graduates of the University.

Seven members (again not employees or students) elected by members of the individual Faculties of the University.

Four members elected by the professors of the University.

Three members elected from among their number by members of the teaching staff (other than professors) of the University.

One member appointed by the Minister who shall be either the Director-General of Education, or a deputy.

Four members (not employees or students) appointed by co-option by the Council.

Two members — deans of faculties — appointed by co-option.

One member elected from among their number by full-time members of the staff of the University (other than the teaching staff).

Three members elected by the students of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor and the Chancellor are ex-officio members of the Council.

(* The Act originally envisaged eight faculties, not seven as we now have.)

The Council meets, in the elegant Council Room on the first floor of the University Offices, 10 times a year — usually on the second Monday of each month, from March to December.

(The "Reporter" had hoped to publish an up-to-date picture of the Council in session to match the Professorial Board picture, but on the day arranged for this there was a power failure and Council hurriedly moved to Engineering. We'll try again.)

Council does not, as a rule, initiate changes in the Statutes and Regulations governing the conduct of the University. Rather, it acts upon the advice and recommendations of the myriad other boards, committees and bodies concerned with the day-to-day running of the institution.

(For example, "Reporter" No. 35 of October, 1974, set out in considerable detail the powers and responsibilities of Council *vis-a-vis* Professorial Board and other bodies within the University in formulating procedures relating to course structures and assessment — matters that were then the subject of much contention on campus. It was pointed out that neither Council nor the Professorial Board was all-powerful in determining matters of this nature.)

Council depends heavily, too, upon the work of its own standing committees. These are generally composed of a group of Council members, chosen to represent a broad cross-section of the Council itself, together with other officers or members of the University (including students) whose special knowledge in various fields would enable them to make a valuable contribution to the Council's deliberations.

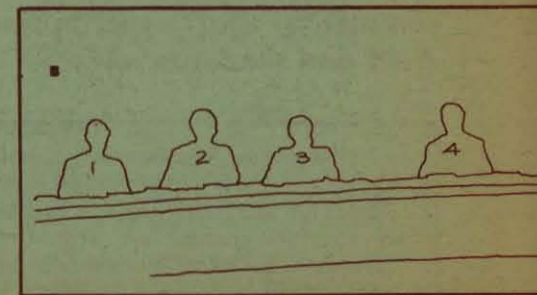
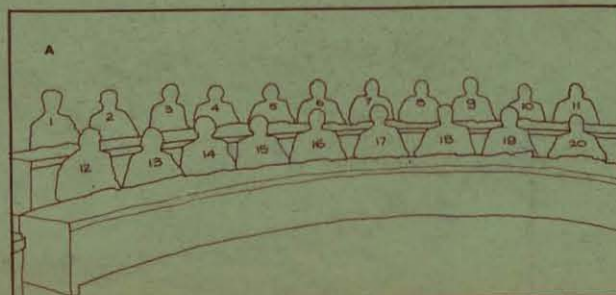
The standing committees are: Finance; Buildings; staff; Affiliation; Halls of Residence; Honorary Degrees; Housing and Transport; Naming of Buildings; Patents; Religious Centre Advisory; Safety; Students' Loan Fund; Student Services.

From time to time, Council appoints special *ad hoc* committees to investigate and advise Council on contemporary issues and matters of interest. These, too, are broadly representative of interested parties; two recent ones — though not necessarily typical — were the committees chosen to advise on the steps to be taken in appointing or electing a new Chancellor and a new Vice-Chancellor.

Meet the Professorial Board

The photographs at the top of the page were taken at the November, 1974, meeting of the Professorial Board, when a number of members were absent. Below is a key to the personalities in the pictures.

- A
1. Prof. A. Brown; 2. Prof. A. S. Henning; 3. Prof. K. C. Westfold; 4. Prof. P. W. Musgrave; 5. Prof. J. A. McDonnell; 6. Prof. G. R. Manton; 7. Prof. J. D. Legge; 8. Prof. A. G. L. Shaw; 9. Prof. K. Morsztyn; 10. Prof. D. G. Lampard; 11. Prof. W. A. G. Scott (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); 12. Prof. W. A. G. Scott (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); 13. Prof. D. B. Heron (Deputy Academic Registrar); 14. Mr T. B. Southwell (Librarian).
- B
1. Mr F. H. Johnson (Comptroller); 2. Prof. W. A. G. Scott (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); 3. Dr D. B. Heron (Deputy Academic Registrar); 4. Mr T. B. Southwell (Librarian).





Government

Next in the hierarchy of governing bodies comes ...

THE PROFESSORIAL BOARD

Originally seen as an assembly composed almost wholly of the professors of the University, the Board has lately been expanded to give it a somewhat broader base of membership.

Today it has a membership of some 118 persons, made up of:

The Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor.

The professors of the University.

The directors of the Centre for Continuing Education, the Computer Centre and the Higher Education Advisory and Research Unit, and the Librarian.

Four student representatives, and Seven members of the non-professorial teaching staff.

In the broad terms of the Act, the Professorial Board " . . . may discuss and submit to the Council an opinion on any matter whatsoever relating to the University and in particular may make to the Council such recommendations as it thinks proper with respect to studies and examinations, admission to degrees and discipline in the University".

The manner in which the Board exercises these powers is spelt out in further detail in Statute 2.2 (pp 165-167, Calendar) — but subject also to the mass of Regulations governing the conduct of affairs in the faculties, departments and other areas of the University.

In practice, the Board is guided principally by advice and submissions from the Faculty Boards and — like the Council — relies heavily upon the work of its own standing (and *ad hoc*) committees. There are some 25 standing committees, covering a wide diversity of interests — principally those of an interdisciplinary nature, involving numbers of departments or faculties.

As a rule, the Board meets 10 times a year — on the last Wednesday of each month, from February to November — reporting its decisions to the following meeting of Council.

THE FACULTIES

Responsibility for conducting the academic affairs of each of the University's seven faculties is vested in the appropriate Faculty Board.

Faculty Board membership varies fairly widely, but within limits set down under regulations that ensure, as far as possible, the broadest representation of all departments within a faculty, and of students. (Student membership of the various boards varies from three to as many as 26.)

The boards, under the chairmanship of their respective deans, meet regularly, but with varying degrees of frequency, from four to 10 times a year. The results of their deliberations are reported to appropriate Professorial Board Meetings.

The faculty boards enjoy reasonable autonomy in ordering the affairs of their own faculties, but a system of cross-representation between faculties and overall accountability to the Professorial Board, ensures that the decisions or actions of one faculty board do not adversely affect the interests of other faculties.

Faculty boards bear the major responsibility for determining such matters as course structure and content, assessment procedures and the like, but, in turn, they base their decisions on advice from individual departments — and here is where the University's decision-making apparatus broadens out into what is now popularly known as the "grass-roots" area.

The departments — nearly 50 of them — find the inspiration for their ways of doing things — planning courses, resolving differences — in a multitude of ways, but all involving the greatest possible degree of consultation and co-operation.

Some have formal staff-student liaison committees, others encourage less formal and more personal staff-student contact; the department of history has established a "consultative congress" of staff and students to make recommendations on courses and assessment; the department of chemical engineering, on the other hand, appoints "ombudsmen" to keep open the lines of communication within the department.

On a much broader scale, the Faculty of Arts has established a 64-member council whose main function will be to arrange regular forums at which it's expected a wide range of topics will be fully aired (see page 3).

ADMINISTRATION

Some people find it convenient to believe that all "power" in a university resides in The Administration — that important decisions are made by a small cabal of bureaucrats and handed down to the faculties and departments.

That's not how it works at all. In fact it could be said that, to a large extent, the administration is the servant of the complex decision-making apparatus we've described in the foregoing section.

Its job primarily is to see that salaries are paid, proper records are kept, buildings and grounds are maintained, accounts are collected and paid, handbooks and exam papers are printed, degrees awarded, blown light bulbs replaced, transport and accommodation arranged . . . and to provide countless other services that enable the University to carry out its basic teaching and research functions smoothly and efficiently.

Certainly, "Admin." houses some Very Important People — the Vice-Chancellor (Dr Matheson), the University's chief executive officer; the Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Professor J. M. Swan and Professor W. A. G. Scott); the Comptroller (Mr. F. H. Johnson); the Academic Registrar (Mr. J. D. Butchart).

Between them — and together with the Deans of Faculties — they carry major responsibilities.

The Vice-Chancellor, for instance, is *ex officio* a member of every faculty, and of all boards and committees within the University. Subject to the various statutes and regulations and resolutions of Council, he exercises a "general superintendence over the educational and administrative affairs of the University." His responsibilities are now shared with the two Pro-Vice-Chancellors.

The Comptroller is, in a way, the "business manager" of the University. His area of responsibility covers such matters as the financial affairs of the University, staff appointments and services (other than academic staff), buildings and grounds, central services of various kinds, legal affairs and the like.

The Academic Registrar is responsible, among other things, for the preparation and custody of general academic records . . . the secretarial work of all academic boards and committees . . . the management and supervision of exams . . . the editing of official publications, etc. . .

To help carry out the myriad mundane, and frequently monotonous chores involved in servicing a large, complex and lively community of some 16,000 people, Administration has to call on the services of about 550 "bureaucrats" of high and low degree, clerks, typists, computer operators and all manner of specialists — some working within the central administration building, but the majority spread throughout the various teaching departments.

In addition, there are about 1400 others engaged in service-type activities of one sort or another.

Two major components of the University decision-making structure remain — the Union and "student government", represented by the Monash Association of Students. But these are adequately covered elsewhere . . . by Doug Ellis, Deputy Warden of the Union, in these pages, and in the Orientation Handbook.

So . . . where DOES the power lie?

This, as we mentioned at the beginning, is a question that has bedevilled scholars and politicians (on and off campus) down through the centuries.

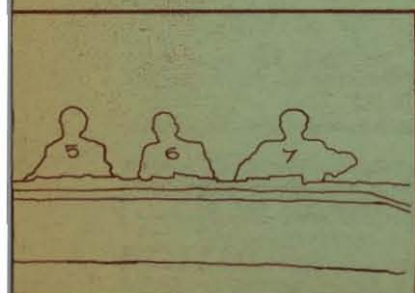
It is a question that is frequently asked, but never satisfactorily answered — largely perhaps because it is meaningless.

There is, in universities, no such thing as naked "power". The motivating force of any university is not power (unless one talks of the power of intellect) — but INFLUENCE . . . the influence of ideas, cogently assembled, carefully prepared, reasonably presented.

Which is as it should be in an institution devoted to the pursuit of knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

5. Prof. J. M. Swan (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); 6. Mr J. A. L. Matheson (Vice-Chancellor); 7. Dr J. A. L. Matheson (Vice-Chancellor); 8. Mr J. D. Butchart (Academic Registrar); 9. Prof. J. M. Swan (Pro-Vice-Chancellor); 10. Mr R. J. Lancashire; 11. Prof. J. D. H. Monro; 12. Prof. A. M. McBriar; 13. Visiting Prof. J. Reeve; 14. Prof. C. G. Weeramantry.

1. Prof. L. Bodi; 2. Prof. B. S. Hetzel; 3. Prof. J. W. Warren; 4. Mr P. J. Hanks; 5. Prof. J. B. Miller; 6. Prof. P. Boss; 7. Prof. T. A. Jones; 8. Prof. W. H. Scott; 9. Prof. S. Faine; 10. Prof. C. S. Wallace; 11. Prof. U. G. E. Hammarstrom; 12. Prof. C. Skinner; 13. Mr J. Grinberg; 14. Prof. H. Feith; 15. Mr J. du V. Morgan; 16. Dr J. M. Pope; 17. Acting Prof. J. B. Agnew; 18. Prof. R. J. W. Selleck; 19. Dr J. A. Fyfield; 20. Acting Prof. H. B. Connell; 21. Dr N. J. Hayward; 22. Prof. R. P. Tisher; 23. Prof. B. O. West; 24. Prof. M. J. P. Canny; 25. Prof. G. B. Preston; 26. Prof. I. J. Polmeare; 27. Prof. A. W. Linnane; 28. Prof. W. B. Jackson; 29. Prof. E. M. Laurensen; 30. Prof. K. H. Hunt; 31. Prof. D. Cochrane; 32. Prof. S. S. Dunn; 33. Prof. M. D. Neale.



An introduction to . . .

THE UNION

by DOUG ELLIS

Deputy Warden and Sports Administrator

Whether the Union is going to be more to you than just a building containing a collection of facilities is primarily your affair.

The facilities we have were provided from a combination of public funds and student fees, and the cost of maintaining these and servicing our activities during this year will be met from your Union fees.

Most of these services and activities have been mentioned in the articles headed "A to Z Guide" and "All this for \$96" in the Orientation Handbook. Hopefully you will not only make use of the place but also participate in making the Union a lively and effective organisation.

The following brief points may help you to understand more about our organisation.

First, all members of the university are automatically members of the Union. Its services and facilities are therefore open to members of the academic, administrative and general staffs as well as to students — both on campus and in the affiliated hospitals and institutions.

The total Union membership is over 15,000 people and although very real efforts are made to communicate with them all these efforts are only successful if they become a two-way process.

If you can't find the information you want, then ask! People in the Monash Association of Students, Contact, Clubs & Societies, Sports & Recreation, Union staff and fellow members should be able to help.

Secondly, there exists a great variety of opportunities for participation in activities, other than your formal studies.

If you can't find out where these activities are based or whom to ask, again please check with the Union Desk, Contact, Monash Association of Students, Lot's Wife and others. The important thing is to ask and check out for yourself. For example:

- Ask ● Monash Association of Students about insurance, their activities programs, or how they can help with any hassles you may have with other areas of the University.
- Clubs & Societies and Sports & Recreation about their services and affiliated clubs.
- Vicki Molloy about tuition classes and arts and crafts.
- Rob McNamara about any personal worries.
- Ian Mason about a job.
- Bill Robinson about organic gardening and the activities of the Community Research Action Centre.
- The girls at the Inquiry Desk on how to book a room in the Union.
- Jean Stephens in the Pantry about whole foods.
- Lot's Wife about writing an article.
- Andrew Ross about student theatre.
- The girls in the John Medley Library about your favorite record.

Your guide to the campus



But don't only ask — give of your ideas too. Remember, however, that you don't have to join a club to use most of the facilities and services.

Thirdly, it should be made clear that the Union is not merely a number of "instant" rooms and services which will in some magical way satisfy the wants of its members.

In fact, the Union is the daily work place of more than 250 real live people, many of whom work behind the scenes in our kitchens, stores, offices and grounds. Some of these jobs are more monotonous and arduous than others, but all are important in making the Union function.

Managing the Union

Fourthly, who manages the Union?

The Union Board is the top of the Union totem pole. Many members accept the Union as just the place where they go to eat, shop or relax, without realising the way in which decisions of the Union Board can affect the pattern of Union life.

Apart from the administrative and service areas of the university, the Board is responsible for managing virtually all non-academic facilities and activities.

The Board has 15 members comprising nine students (one research student), two members of university staff, one member of the University Council, one graduate, one representative of the Comptroller of the University, with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor as Chairman. There are a number of standing committees of the Board such as Finance, House and Catering and various sub-committees as established from time to time to advise on particular matters.

The responsibilities of the Board are wide ranging. They include through the Clubs & Societies Council, many non-sporting activities of the University, and the summer schools and tuition classes.

Similarly, the Board is responsible through the Sports & Recreation Association for sporting activities and the provision and maintenance of all sports facilities, both on-campus and at the Alpine Lodge, Mt. Buller, and the seaside camp at Shoreham.

If you look at the notice board near the Union Theatre, you will see photographs of the members of the Board and also of the officers, or "civil servants" of the Union. Again, you can ask these people for any help or information you may require.

Members of the Union who are interested in discussions and decisions of the Board can — attend all meetings of the Board as observers; usually obtain speaking rights for any particular item, and read the agendas, and subsequent minutes, of meetings which are placed on the official Union notice board.

Other items of interest are displayed on this board, including dates of Board meetings, statements of income and expenditure for the previous year, and the Union budget for the current year. Loose copies of minutes are also available at the Union Desk.

Where the money goes

Fifthly — The Union fee. We like to think of people and their environment before money, but the hard facts of where your dollars go mustn't be overlooked. These are spent under two headings — recurrent or running costs, and the Union Development Fund.

The smaller of these is the Union Development Fund (known to Union heavies as the U.D.F.) to which is allocated \$24 of the \$96. It is this fund which is used for extensions to the Union, such as the current work near the Forum and the new Recreation Hall just completed near the Sports Centre.

In most cases these buildings are paid for with grants from the Universities Commission supplemented from the U.D.F., but it is likely that in future a greater share will have to come from our own resources.

The other and larger amount of \$72 is spent on providing the services in the Union and also the various grants and subsidies for student activities.

Finally, please remember that the Union has to meet the same costs for all goods and services as does the general community and the "Union dollar" is no more elastic than any other!