Professor W. D. Borrie’s term as Director ended in August, and pending a more lasting appointment Professor G. Sawyer, Head of the Department of Law, was appointed Acting Director. The School remained one of 9 Departments (Economics, Economic History, Law, Political Science, History, Philosophy, Sociology, Demography, Statistics) 3 Units (History of Ideas, Education Research, Urban Research) and 2 Sections (Australian Dictionary of Biography, Archives for Business and Trade Union Records) and a Programming Section was maintained in partnership with the Research School of Pacific Studies. A proposal was made for creating an additional Centre by removing from Political Science its workers in the field of world politics, but the Faculty rejected the proposal, adhering to the general principle of its submissions for the next triennium that the School should not readily add to the present number of organisational units. Academic staff totalled 90. In view of the approach of the limit of about 120 academic staff envisaged for this School in University planning approved by the A.U.C., the School adopted a strategy for ensuring flexible deployment of its resources. The Faculty resolved to establish at once a School Project Fund to finance short-term appointments in order to carry through specific research projects with a relatively short life, promoted by individuals or consortia of individuals in existing Departments and Units. It is proposed to seek permanent funding for this type of activity in the budget for the next triennium. This program also encourages the more junior members of the academic staff to plan research projects arising from but slightly outside the general program of their Department or Unit, and it encourages cross-disciplinary work. By December 1973, five applications had been approved and funded pursuant to this program, including projects in Australian government, criminology, oral history, philosophy and education.

There was a substantial increase of staff participation in governmental activities or consultative work for governments and governmental commissions etc; three staff members took leave to work full-time, two obtained half-time leave, and at least a dozen were occupied for irregular but substantial periods similarly.

G. Sawyer