

FACULTY OF ECONOMICSDEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND PUBLIC FINANCEANNUAL REPORT 1965Staff

The Department of Accounting and Public Finance was established at the beginning of 1965 with the following academic staff:

Professor

Professor R. L. Mathews, B.Com. (Melb.)

Senior Lecturers

Mr. J. G. Head, B.Ec. (Adel.), B.Phil. (Oxon.)

Mr. W. R. C. Jay, B.A., B.Com. (Q'ld.)

Mr. P. E. M. Standish, B.A., B.Ec. (Syd.)

During Mr. Head's absence on study leave Mr. A. W. Hooke of the Economics Department, Faculty of Economics lectured and conducted other classes in Public Finance. Mr. B. D. Haig of the Department of Economic History, Research School of Social Sciences, gave lectures in M.Ec. (Prelim.) courses. Professor J. A. Maxwell, Professor of Economics, Clark University, Worcester, Mass., visited the Department and conducted seminars in public finance.

The Work of the Department

The Department undertakes research and offers courses in accounting and public finance in the Faculty of Economics. Accounting is studied, not as a professional subject, but as a basic academic discipline among the social sciences. Emphasis is therefore placed on theoretical aspects of accounting and on its role in relation to business management, public administration and the formulation of national economic policy.

Courses

The teaching staff was responsible for lectures and pass and distinction tutorial classes in Accounting I, Accounting II and Public Finance. Courses in National Economic Accounting and Public Authority Accounting were conducted for M.Ec. (Prelim.) candidates. The course in Accounting III was not offered in 1965.

Post-graduate Study

Four students enrolled for the first year of the M.Ec. (Prelim.) course. One Ph.D. candidate began work under the supervision of the staff of the Department.

Enrolments and Examination Results

It will be seen from the attached table that persistence and pass rates in the new Accounting I course were very low, but that better results were achieved in Accounting II (also a new course) and Public Finance.

Research

The major research interests of members of the Department during the year were: public investment in Australia; the planning and control of public expenditure; business taxation; welfare aspects of public finance; Commonwealth Grants Commission; accounting for price level changes; private superannuation funds; company financial reporting in Australia; managerial

accounting and business organization. Books were published, or manuscripts completed for publication, covering the first two topics; papers were published in Australian and overseas journals as a result of work done on other topics.

Acknowledgements

The Department is grateful to the other Departments in the University which gave teaching assistance during the year, and members of the Department also wish to record their thanks to the Library and administrative staff, and to Mrs. M. Rummery, Secretary, and Mrs. M. Liu, Administrative Assistant, for their help throughout the year.

DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND PUBLIC FINANCE

Enrolment and Examination Statistics 1965

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Enrolments</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Examinations</u>		<u>Fail</u>
	<u>Full-time</u>	<u>Part-time</u>		<u>Presented</u>	<u>Pass*</u>	
Accounting I	29	23	52	41	20(10)	21
Accounting II	6	7	13	12	10 (2)	2
Public Finance	15	23	38	26	24 (6)	2
M.Ec. (Prelim.)	-	4	4	3	2	1

* Figures in brackets indicate number of passes with merit, credits, distinctions and high distinctions.