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12 November 1968

Dear Mr Solomon,

The University is now gathering information for its 1968 annual report to Parliament.

... Could you please let me have your report on the University Union for 1968 by Friday 15 December. The main report will have the same form as the report for 1967. A copy of the 1967 report is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,



C.G. Plowman  
Academic Registrar

Mr D.H. Solomon,  
Chairman,  
Union Board of Management,  
University Union.

File away

THE UNIVERSITY UNION

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE UNION BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

Mr. D.H. SOLOMON

Membership

In 1968 the Union had 3,175 student members, three staff members, twenty-eight life members, six Ph.D. student members and three Staff Centre members.

Governing Body

Members of the Board of Management were as follows:

Mr. D.H. Solomon: Chairman, elected by the general membership to the Board; Professor Hanna Neumann: the Vice-Chancellor's nominee; Mr. A.T. Shakespeare: appointed by Council; the Bursar (Mr. W.S. Hamilton): ex officio; Professor J.D. Smyth and Professor L.F. Crisp: appointed by the Staff Association; Mr. A. Brooks: appointed by the Students' Representative Council; Mr. C.D.S. Alexander: appointed by the Sports Council; Mr. C.C. Macknight: appointed by the Research Students' Association; Miss Jane Chapman, Mr. R.G. Fraser, Mr. A.G. Hartnell, Mr. R.J. Rankin and Mr. R.C. Refshauge: elected by the general membership; and Mr. G.J. Nuthall: co-opted by the Board.

In the course of the year a constitutional amendment was passed which altered the tenure of office of the Chairman of the Board.

Staff

The Union administrative staff consisted of the Secretary to the Board, Mr. E.C. de Toth, the Assistant Secretary, Mr. H.E. Falvey and twelve members of permanent staff.

Finance

In 1968 revenue from membership fees, used by the Union for current purposes, was \$49,969. This was an increase of \$7,517 over 1967 and can be accounted for by a slight increase in membership.

Entrance fees, used for capital expenditure, provided \$12,358 (\$9,860 in 1967). Union trading throughout the year showed a loss of several thousand dollars, due largely to an increase in food costs which the Board of Management decided to meet from its financial resources rather than by raising food prices during the year. In 1969 the question of prices is to be reviewed.

Total expenditure on the Income and Expenditure Account in 1968 was \$42,600 (\$39,048 in 1967).

Pressure on the capital account remained heavy as the Board of Management continued to develop the facilities of the building, and capital expenditure in 1968 was \$4,670 (\$8,561 in 1967).

Activities

Activities in the Union continued to expand. Many Union Nights and Lunchtime Concerts were held. Debates again prospered, and the parliamentary nights were stimulated by the participation of several members of parliament and of a number of colourful personalities.

The Union Art Exhibition was again successful as was the Union Dinner.

The Board decided to experiment with the holding of a Faculty or Departmental staff/student function. A highly successful beginning was made with a sherry party for the Department of Political Science. More than 450 staff and students attended and the evening was held by all to be a great social success as well as a useful way of allowing staff and students to get together. The Board intends to hold a large number of this type of functions in 1969, so as to allow all staff and students in the School of General Studies the opportunity of attending at least one.

Facilities

During the year the Union sought money from the Australian Universities Commission to allow for the construction of a Second Stage. This would have the effect of virtually doubling the existing size of the Union. It would mean the creation of some facilities which as yet either do not exist or exist inadequately in the present building. Common Room space is simply not available in the present building.

The Board decided during the year not to proceed with the construction of a Cellar which would have cost about \$30,000 to build. It considered the money could better be spent on other facilities within the Union.

The Union has continued its attempt to persuade the University to persevere with a draft statute which would allow liquor to be sold in the Union.

Gift

The Union gratefully acknowledges the donation of a semi-grand piano by the University. This instrument has been a well worthwhile acquisition.

Finally, it is important that the Union places on record how appreciative it is of the help given it over the year by the Registrar and his staff.