

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

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**THIS
CONCERNS
YOU!**

**EMERGENCY STUDENT MEETING
TO DISCUSS FEE INCREASES**

**WED. SEPT. 13, 1.10 p.m.
IN THE CLOISTERS**

UNI FEES TO RISE

Last week Adelaide University students were suddenly confronted by a major assault on their finances. The attack came in two different forms.

(1) The University Council has increased the fees which all students must pay to it. The nature of the increase can be seen from the table of fees below, relating to an Arts student taking a normal year's work:

1967 General Service Fee	.....	\$21
Entrance Fee (for freshers only)	.....	\$6
Tuition Fee	.....	\$240
Total	.....	\$267
1968 General Service Fee	.....	abolished
Entrance Fee	.....	abolished
Tuition Fee	.....	\$300
Total	.....	\$300

Thus a first year Arts student in 1968 will pay \$33 or 12.4 per cent more than his counterpart in 1967. A second or subsequent year Arts student will pay \$39 more than his counterpart in 1967.

For students in other faculties doing a normal year's work, the net percentage increase is almost exactly the same.

The SRC last meeting passed a motion deploring this action.

Motion 28. "That the SRC deplors the recently announced increase in tuition fees and urges that relief in the form of

(a) fee relief

(b) loan funds

be increased and publicized to a greater extent even to specifically informing all fee paying students of these provisions."

However, this is not the only increase in fees facing the student —

(2) The Union Council's annual membership fee (the Statutory Annual Fee) is also likely to rise. Because of the need for new Union Buildings (refectories etc.), the Union Council recommended to the University Council that all freshers joining the Union (membership of which is compulsory for full-time students) should pay \$15, in addition to the usual annual fee of \$27. Then in a couple of year's time the annual fee would go up to \$45—by which time some of the new developments would be in use. In this way those who would get the benefit of the facilities would be paying for them.

This method was rejected by the University Council which has sent back a recommendation to the Union Council that the Union institute a \$45 annual fee immediately, thus hitting those who will never use the buildings.

It is to persuade the Union Council not to accept this recommendation, but to adopt their original idea, that the SRC has called an Emergency General Student Meeting. The recommendation has already been approved by the Union Finance Sub-Committee, and now needs only ratification from the Union Council at its meeting on this Wednesday night, to come into effect. The SRC hopes that if enough students voice their disapproval of the increase proposed by the University Council, then the Union Council will reject the submission.

Although the SRC believes that the present scheme for new Union Buildings is an acceptable one and therefore agrees that some increase in the annual Union fee is justified it feels that the suggestion that the overall increase should take effect from next year is unnecessary and unjust in that it will mean that students who will be affected by the increase next year will be paying for facilities that they will never be able to use.

At the last SRC meeting a motion was passed condemning this move and it was suggested that an Emergency Student Meeting be called in an attempt to influence the Union Council's decision to accept or reject the proposed increase.

The motion which was proposed by John Bannon and seconded by Mark Pickhaver reads:

MOTION 25: "That this SRC, believing that increased union fees should be accompanied by an increase in benefits and facilities for those paying them, while supporting the principle of a reasonable union entrance fee **opposes** any substantial increase in the statutory fees for 1968."

In other words the SRC believes that increases in the Union fee should be staggered or phased so that the students who are paying it will receive some benefit for the extra cost. One way of doing this is the way originally proposed by the Union Council — namely by charging freshers as from next year an extra \$15, and in 1970 increasing the fee payable by all students to \$45.

The proposal to bump up the Union fee, coming as it does at the same time as a huge increase in Tuition fees, means that a student who is paying his own fees will be burdened with extra costs for which he will receive no benefit.

At the Meeting which will be held on Wednesday the SRC will also inform the students of details of the building plan and the exact effects of the fee increases. It will also ascertain student feeling on how the plans will be financed.

If the proposal is passed by the Union Council it means that students will be paying \$45 for Union fees — the present Union fee is \$27. This represents an increase of 67 per cent.

This matter should be one of concern for all students and is a situation where students can influence decisions which will affect them in no small manner. It is therefore imperative that as many students as possible attend the meeting.

If the Union Council does increase their fee to \$45, the average student who is not on a scholarship (i.e. one-third of the University) will be paying about \$50 more than last year — due to the increased tuition and Union fees. This represents a percentage increase of about 17 per cent.

It is hoped to include the following in the redeveloped Union:

1. Increased Refectory accommodation to include an Asian food bar, a grill bar, a quick snack bar and to provide facilities for all meals including breakfast.

2. Special dining rooms where a higher class of meal can be obtained with liquor if possible.

3. The development of a coffee lounge that could be used for folk singing, jazz concerts, etc.

4. A Tavern at which liquor would be supplied.

5. Provision for welfare officers including the Student Counsellor and Housing Officer.

6. An increase in the number of common rooms and lounges.

7. Increased accommodation for the Clubs and Societies of the Union, including a newspaper office, photographic dark room and painting and sculpture room.

8. Provision of games rooms for billiards, table tennis, chess and cards. It is also hoped to make some provision for squash courts on the campus.

9. It is also hoped that the Staff Club and a centre for Graduates would be established in the Union.

Unfortunately the details are complicated and the above explanation may confuse some — but in essence the issue is simple. Is it fair to put such a harsh extra financial burden on students already hit by very big tuition fee rise, in order to pay for facilities the benefit of which they will never receive? Or is it preferable to get the necessary money by phased fee increases, so that those who are paying will be those who are benefiting?

Prepared by the Editors of ON DIT on behalf of the SRC.