Date Introduced: 25 October 1979
House: Senate
Presented by: Sen. Durack, Attorney-General

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Australian National University Act 1946 with respect to fees for the provision of amenities and services to students and the membership of student organisations, and other matters.

Background

This Bill replaces the Australian National University Amendment Bill which was introduced in November 1978. The provisions of that Bill which have been modified include those providing that compulsory fees payable to the University for the provision of amenities and services not of an academic nature -

(a) should not be made available to a student organisation unless its governing body had been elected in an election in which not less than 25 per cent of eligible students voted

(b) should not be paid to any national organisation representing students.

The provisions in the Bill for a restructuring of the Boards of the University are in accordance with decisions taken by the University Council, as are those relating to the change of name of the School of General Studies to the Faculties.

Main Provisions

Clauses 3 and 5 provide for the changing of the name of the School of General Studies to the Faculties.

Clause 10 amends section 15A of the Principal Act to provide for alterations to the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies. This will enable the Board to become a smaller representative body.
Clause 11 amends section 15B of the Principal Act to provide for alterations in the structure of the Board of the Faculties. This will enable the Board to become a larger body with increased representation of student members and non-professional staff.

Paragraphs 15(2)(c) and (d) amend section 27 of the Principal Act to have the effect of making fees payable to the University in respect of an organisation of students voluntary.

Clause 16 introduces a new section 29A which provides that fees payable to the University for the provision of amenities and services that are not of an academic nature -

(a) shall not be made available to an organisation of students unless the University Council is satisfied that the governing body of the organisation is representative of students

(b) shall be for the provision of amenities and services which will directly benefit the University

(c) shall not be paid to any national organisation representing students unless the Council is satisfied that such an organisation has the principal object -

(i) of encouraging student sporting and recreational activities

(ii) of promoting student interests in some particular educational, cultural or social field

(iii) of promoting the interests of post-graduate students.

Clause 16 (new s.29A(6)-(8)) also obliges the Council of the University to prepare an annual financial statement giving details of receipts and expenditure of compulsory fees.

Clause 18 inserts new sections 31A, 31B, 31C and 31D which relate to bank accounts, proper financial accounts, audit and taxation of the University. The new provisions update the existing Act so that they accord with current Commonwealth practices.

Clause 19 introduces a new section 32A which provides that a student shall not be penalised by way of
admission or enrolment at a university, for failure to join a student organisation.

7 November 1979

Education and Welfare Group
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