

14 JULY 1982

PROFESSOR GEORGE WADE - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Plant pathologist in Vic. Dept. of Agriculture. Arrived 1947 to develop division of plant pathology in State Dept. of Agriculture. University decided to establish an agriculture course because of importance of agriculture to state. 1962.

Difficulty of establishing variety of new subject areas e.g. microbiology, biochemistry. Had to have help of other departments. Never an expectation of large numbers of students. Difficulty of providing course for wide variety of needs with small resources - a broad-based course science subjects in 1st year, 2nd year slightly more applied, 3rd year - still prescribed - introducing them to particular difficulties - 4th year a limited amount of optional material. Details. The basic structure of the course has remained the same over the years, with modifications. Successes of students trained here.

Conspicuous lack has been adequate training in economics and farm management. Help from Ecs. and Commerce. P/t farm management lecturer.

Honours course. Master's degree and Ph.D. The 3rd largest number of postgraduate students of any department in the University. A particularly successful aspect of the dept's work.

135 Connection between Faculty and State Dept. of Agriculture. Desirability of more formal relationship? Competition? The appropriate work for each.

225 Staffing

- (1) Plant pathology (Wade)
- (2) Microbiology - taken also by many science students
plus 2nd appointment
- (4) Agronomy - Yates
plus 2nd appointment
- (6) Soil Science

PROFESSOR GEORGE WADE - AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE (contd.)

Most appointments have been made from outside Tasmania; but the majority Australians. Stability of staff.

420 2 major problems of Ag. Sci:

(a) Accommodation. Inadequate from day they moved in. Supplemented with 3 "temporary" huts, the first in 1968. 3 occasions when a new building seemed likely; then snatched away.

Major grant from Electrolytic Zinc Co for facilities on Bend 3 of Nelson Road - called Horticultural Research Centre - invaluable for research.

(b) Staffing to teach all the disciplines we would like to teach. Details.

490 Need for new initiatives to increase student numbers. This reqd. of the Faculty by the Review Committee, before the advertising of the Chair (to replace Wade retiring end 1982) was approved.

Details. New staff will be needed to attract more students.

Also expected to increase teaching in Horticultural Science. This also will require further staffing - so difficulties can be expected.

530 What if student numbers are not increased by these means?

Our research output is considerable, but this does not help with "the formula". The numbers game.

560 Involvement of G.W. in other university affairs. Not interested in "politicking". The Orr case after-math.

End side 1

Side 2 "The other divisive issue": the Karmel report. Losing the Faculty of Education would have been worse than what actually happened.

The possibility of a Diploma of Agriculture - not himself in favour.

Amalgamation with TCAE broadens base, and Diploma would now be possible, which it wouldn't have been before.

Pros and cons of Ag. Science Faculty - seen by some as being too expensive?