

COMMISSION ON "FRESHER RECEPTION"

Discussion on this topic was precluded by an examination of what actually happens on the individual campuses. There was a great variation in the programmes adopted at the various centres but one thing common in them all was that they were too short.

The commission then decided to list a number of points that should be observed by various centres in an effort to make freshers reception uniform :-

- 1) The term "freshers" by definition means a person who is attending university for the first time, in other words anybody from university attending for the first time at another is by definition not a fresher at all. This is because he has already been "received into university life at his original university.
- 2) Fresher Reception is calculated to make new students aware of the life they are starting to allow them to start thinking positively about topics affecting their lives as well as the lives of their fellow men; to enable them to blend in seamlessly with the rest of the university population each contributing as much as he can in the field in which he is best equipped. In other words fresher Reception is a culmination of the maturation process that goes on in matriculation, it is a symbolic recognition of the fact that the new arrival at university is now a fully developed individual with the ability to think independently.
- 3) The programme must include provisions for debates symposia, seminars etc. with the new students as the chief contributors.
- 4) There should be lots of informal gatherings on a social and intellectual level.
- 5) Attempts should be made to break down sexual segregation. The new students must do away with this legacy from high schools. This is especially, necessary because friendships at any place are usually formed over the first few days. Keep the men and women as mixed as possible in order to permit friendships to be formed across the sexes. Also noticeable is the fact that in multiracial institutions like UNNE there is a tendency to form racially exclusive friendship circles. The same procedure of deliberate mixing the two groups should be followed here.
- 6) Provision should be made for sporting events either amongst the new students alone or between them and the old students. Not only does this provide entertainment but it also allows the committees concerned with sports to pick out their potential stalwarts.
- 7) Introduction to SRC management and general student politics is also necessary. Because of the great number of speeches to which the freshers usually have to listen it is probably better that all main points should be included in a hardbook to be given to each fresher. This serves for reference purposes.
- 8) National student and non-student bodies of interest should be requested to give literature calculated to enable the freshers to grasp at once the aims and policies of the organisation.
- 9) For the sake of the new students information by means should be set up by the SRC to advise the students on what courses to take etc. If necessary staff members could be incorporated into this.
- 10) A feedback mechanism should be adopted here in that at the end of each freshers reception programme there should be a general meeting of freshers wherein the freshers will critically examine the programme set up for them.

Collection Number: AD2189

SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' ORGANISATION (SASO) 1969-1973

PUBLISHER:

Publisher:- Historical Papers Research Archive

Location:- Johannesburg

©2013

LEGAL NOTICES:

Copyright Notice: All materials on the Historical Papers website are protected by South African copyright law and may not be reproduced, distributed, transmitted, displayed, or otherwise published in any format, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Disclaimer and Terms of Use: Provided that you maintain all copyright and other notices contained therein, you may download material (one machine readable copy and one print copy per page) for your personal and/or educational non-commercial use only.

People using these records relating to the archives of Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, are reminded that such records sometimes contain material which is uncorroborated, inaccurate, distorted or untrue. While these digital records are true facsimiles of paper documents and the information contained herein is obtained from sources believed to be accurate and reliable, Historical Papers, University of the Witwatersrand has not independently verified their content. Consequently, the University is not responsible for any errors or omissions and excludes any and all liability for any errors in or omissions from the information on the website or any related information on third party websites accessible from this website.

This document is part of a collection deposited at the Historical Papers Research Archive at The University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.