

## 9 *Early expansion*

When Professor A. J. H. van der Walt and his colleagues began to prepare for their first students, it was impossible to estimate just how many candidates for the degree examinations of the University of South Africa would decide to make use of the tuition offered. In fact, 1 250 men and women enrolled in 1947, a total representing no more than one-third of all those registered with the university for examination purposes. The success of the new venture may be gauged from the rise in enrolments over the next four years and, more particularly, from the increasingly larger share of the total number of external students seeking graduate qualifications. In 1948, the Division of External Studies had 1 751 students, or over 40% of all those registered for examinations; by 1951, the Director and his staff were providing tuition for 2 455 students, or more than 53% of the total number. This gain was, to a very large extent, at the expense of the commercial undertakings. The Division of External Studies, it may be added, in keeping with the traditions of the university of which it formed a part, existed to help students of all races. In 1949 and 1950, more than one student in three came from the African, Coloured and Indian sections of the community.

This steady increase in student numbers brought in its train new problems for the University of South Africa. It soon became clear that 222, Proes Street could only be regarded as a temporary home for the overflow population of Somerset House. Fortunately, new office blocks were being constructed in Pretoria

and rooms were rented on the top floors of the Transvalia Building on the corner of Central and Pretorius Streets. Here, in what Edward Davis of the Department of English described at the time as "a truncated skyscraper", the entire lecturing staff of the Division of External Studies and a considerable part of the administrative section were housed. At last, the Director's promise of a single room for all had come true. It was, however, a brief respite from overcrowding. The university continued to expand and soon a house in Skinner Street and offices in Security Building, Pretorius Street were taken over. At last, in 1949, the University of South Africa vacated its accommodation in Somerset House. The Registrar's section moved further along Vermeulen Street to Kerry Building, which also provided a new chamber for meetings of Council.

It was time for the university to find a home of its own. Already, a committee, consisting of the Director, the Chairman of Council's Finance Committee, J.P. Duminy, and another Council member, S. P. E. Boshoff, had recommended this course and Council endorsed its findings, placing a cautious ceiling on the purchase price of the necessary land. The cheapest site available was on the south-eastern outskirts of Pretoria's central area, but this did not meet with the Registrar's approval. Langham Murray wanted the university to remain somewhere near Church Square, the heart of the city, and even the final choice did not entirely satisfy him. This was a plot of land in Skinner Street, purchased for R12 000. The University of South Africa took the opportunity of reminding government of the loss it had sustained when it had sold the only other home it had ever possessed – the building in Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town. It asked, as some compensation for its earlier unhappy experience, for the sum of R90 000 to add to the amount received at the time of the Cape Town sale. The Treasury, with some advice about simplifying the proposed design of the new headquarters, was prepared to find the money and in time, on a site already occupied by a house leased by the university, new offices were destined to arise. It was hoped that this new building would bring to an end the need



Administrative Staff  
Division of External Studies, 1948

- 1st Row (l. to r.): W.A. Kleynhans, B.Com., B.A.; P.A. Olivier; H.J. Nel; P.J. Fouché; I. Lubbe; H.O.K. Zastrau, B.Sc.*
- 2nd Row (l. to r.): D.M. Fourie; G.J. Eysell, R.D. Jacobs; A.J.H. van der Walt, M.A., D.Phil. (Director); I.S. Willis; S.S. Oosterchrist; M.I.G. Visser.*
- 3rd Row (l. to r.): C.P. Botha; H. Malan; R. Erasmus; J.D. Louw, B.A.; B.F.J. van Rensburg, B.Com., B.A. (Secretary); A.J. Vorster, B.A.; A.M. Steyn, B.A.; C.W. Mouton, M.A.; E. Smit.*
- 4th Row (l. to r.): N. Kruger; E. van Rensburg; A. Louw; D.W. Steenkamp; V.M. Moran; D.E. Rogers; A.C. Steyn.*
- 5th Row (l. to r.): E. Lowry; N. Fourie; A. Nortjé; M.G. van Niekerk; H.W. Dragt; G. Zietsman; C.C. Coetzee, B.A.*



Administrative Staff  
Division of the Registrar, 1948

*Back row (l. to r.): J.S.N. Marais; F.J.D. Stokes-Waller; C. Botha; A.J. de V. Alberts; C.I. Fourie; H.M. Beukman; D.U. Kleynhans; J.A. Venter; P.G.J. de Villiers; J.A. Erasmus.*

*Centre row (l. to r.): G.B. van Malsen; J.G. Smuts; A. Grimbeek; O.H. Smart; A.E. Nel; C.E. van der Westhuizen; M. Balt; A. Krige; M.J.H. van Graan; P.N. Botha, B.A.*

*Front row (l. to r.): G.C. Kachelhoffer, B.Admin.; W.H. le Roux, B.A.; P.J. Retief; J.J. Brits, B.A.; P.A. Taljaard, B.A., LL.B. (Assistant Registrar); Langham Murray, M.A. (Registrar); H.W.H. Hewson, B.Com., A.C.I.S.; L.G. van der Merwe, B.Com.; A.T. Laubscher, B.Econ.; K. Alexander, M.A.; P.W.J. du Toit.*

ALBERTUS JOHANNES ROUX VAN RHIJN was born on 7 July, 1890 at Van Rhynsdorp (Cape). He matriculated at the Wellington High School in 1907 and graduated three years later at the Victoria College. He went to Germany in 1911 to study chemistry and geology, but returned to South Africa on the outbreak of war in 1914, when he became Vice-Principal of the Calvinia High School.

He was appointed to a lectureship in chemistry at the University of Stellenbosch in 1920 and in the same year obtained his M.Sc. degree. In 1921, he returned to Germany, where he gained a Ph.D. in chemistry *magnus cum laude*. He then became head of the Calvinia High School, but in 1925, accepted the editorship of the Bloemfontein newspaper, the *Volksblad*, a post which he held for more than 20 years.

He was elected M.P. for Bethlehem in 1948 and was made Administrator of South West Africa two years later. In 1953 he became Minister of Health and Mining, and from 1954 he was responsible for the portfolios of Economic Affairs and of Mining. From 1959 until the end of 1960, he was the Union's High Commissioner in London.

A member of the university Council from 1930 until 1953, he was chosen Vice-Chancellor for the period from 1948 to 1952.

Dr van Rhijn died in Bloemfontein on 30 December, 1971.

*Dr Albertus Johannes Roux van Rhijn, B.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.  
Member of Council 1930-1953  
Vice-Chancellor 1948-1952*



for rented accommodation in the city which, by 1950, was costing the University of South Africa nearly R14 000 per annum.

One of the first problems facing the Division of External Studies was the provision of adequate library facilities for students, many of whom lived far from Pretoria and all of whom, in the immediate post-war years, were faced with the chronic shortage of suitable text books. Both a loan library and a reference library would be needed. The first, with the help of an initial grant of R15 000, was early established and in one year managed to acquire more than 10 000 books. For the benefit of students who had not enrolled for the university's courses, as well as for those working through the Division of External Studies, the annual *Calendar* drew attention to the loan facilities offered by other libraries, including the National Students' Library of the Department of Union Education in Pretoria, the State Library in the capital, the Johannesburg Public Library and one at a greater distance – Denny's Student Library in the Strand, London.

Arrangements were also made with the Department of Union Education to build up the holdings of its library on Church Square so that external students could use it for reference purposes. However, the scheme did not prove satisfactory and before long the reference section was brought under the control of the Division of External Studies itself. It was the beginning of the library as we know it today and, as the Librarian, H. O. K. Zastrau, pointed out in 1951, the new comprehensive library system gave every student the assurance that all his needs were cared for by a single authority.

Annual grants for the purchase of books were not large in the early years. From the R2 400 received for the 1948–1949 period, the grant was increased in the early fifties to something over R6 000. This sum represented about 9% of the money made available by the university for the development of the Division of External Studies each year. The amount provided never met expenditure, but the annual deficit was made good through the generosity of well-wishers. The library received gifts of books as

well as cash from many sources. One of the largest and the first of its kind was a donation of 840 volumes from the French government. These were presented to the university in 1950 by the French Ambassador, Armand Gazel.

The library grant was apportioned on a departmental basis, with regard to the size and the special needs of each field of study. The method by which the percentages were arrived at was sometimes questioned by disappointed departmental heads, but on the whole, the system seems to have worked reasonably well. English, the largest department, usually received a good quota; its members were also allowed the privilege of keeping the *Oxford Dictionary* in their own offices! Other departments were not neglected, however. The Department of Law was allocated the largest percentage in 1948 and two years later, the Department of History was given a special grant to buy the Van Riebeeck Society's publications and the works of Sir George Cory and George McCall Theal. The first grants to departments for the purchase of periodicals gave to each the sum of five rands! If more journals were required, departments would have to dip into their book allowances.

The question of examinations directly concerned the newly appointed lecturers of the Division of External Studies. With so many different groups of students in 1947, it is small wonder that difficulties arose in this connection – difficulties which were increased by uncertainty over the status and even the permanency of the new section and by doubts about the untested calibre of most of its staff. There were, in the first place, the constituent college students who would be examined by the university until the end of the federal period in 1951. For them, a system of internal and external examination had long obtained. Then there were the students at the South African Native College – “externals” who enjoyed special “internal” privileges. Those whom the university examined, but did not teach formed a third group. These included fee-paying students at commercial correspondence colleges, those studying for degrees at institutions of less than university college rank and the “lone wolves”

who sought no outside instruction. Finally, there were the Director's own charges. In this diversification lay an excellent reason for keeping control of examinations in the hands of the Registrar and his subordinates.

Nevertheless, the Director and his colleagues might reasonably have expected, like the staff of the South African Native College, to "brand their own herrings". What had to be avoided, however, was the imputation of unfairness in any form to other external students. One method of avoiding this accusation had been suggested by Jan Hofmeyr early in 1946. This was the use of numbers instead of names on examination scripts. The Registrar's office was not enthusiastic about this plan, but Professor van der Walt and his lecturers were much in favour. The reason is not far to seek. If candidates were to hide behind the mask of anonymity, then there was no reason why the staff of the Division of External Studies should not correct all examination scripts, including those of candidates who had prepared under the tuition of the rival commercial firms. Within a decade, when the university's new teaching section had become firmly established, the use of numbers was, in fact, introduced. The more recent retreat from student anonymity in examinations has not been universally approved.

The Senate Executive Committee of the University of South Africa came up with a rather complicated scheme for the examination of external students early in 1947 and this, in due course, was accepted, with minor additions, in full Senate. While the rights as examiners of members of the Director's staff were confirmed, it was made clear that they were not to mark any scripts but those of their own students. The system adopted involved the use of three examiners, only one of whom was to be a member of the Division of External Studies. He was to be responsible, in collaboration with the other two, for the setting of any papers to be taken by his own students. For marking purposes, he would only be employed to examine scripts submitted by students of the Division of External Studies, with one of the other men as second examiner. The scheme had one merit, for it enabled a

single paper to be set for all students, whether or not they obtained their tuition with the university. It did not, however, prevent some variations in the standard of marking. From 1948 onward, past papers became available for the guidance of students. They could be obtained from the university and could also be consulted at centres throughout South Africa and in Southern Rhodesia and Basutoland.

The system of examination was not entirely satisfactory and, not surprisingly, many alternatives were put forward at meetings of the Director's Advisory Council, the association of university lecturers. This body, however, did not have statutory powers. The main desire was for a scheme involving two examiners only and this was eventually introduced. Further, the whole problem of examinations was closely linked with the status of the university's teaching section. As it grew in size and strength, the examining restrictions placed upon its staff became increasingly irksome. The examiners were appointed by the committees of studies in the faculties concerned, where the Division of External Studies was only represented by one man among many. In addition, staff members were not notified that they had been chosen as examiners until after the information had been passed to the Registrar's office. This procedure, in those days of tension between the sections, was not popular. As early as 1948, there were demands for better treatment for university lecturers. Many felt strongly that the time had come for the teaching arm of the central university, as distinct from the constituent colleges, to have its own Dean – possibly the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, since most of the departments fell into that category. Such a move would give Professor van der Walt and his colleagues greater standing in university circles. In 1951, came a call to upgrade the heads of departments to professorial rank.

In two ways, the Director came to exercise a strong influence over students and thus to strengthen the position of the Division of External Studies in relation to the correspondence colleges. In the first place, the University of South Africa provided an



One member in this photograph of the FIFTH COUNCIL of the University of South Africa represents a link with the former University of the Cape of Good Hope.

The Rev. Leo Sormany was appointed by the Governor-General as a representative of Natal in 1916. He served the examining university until its dissolution two years later and was then nominated by the Council of the Natal University College to the governing body of its successor. He retained office until March, 1949, when the college became the independent University of Natal.

#### Council 1947

*Front row (l. to r.): T.P.C. Boezaart; Dr S.H. Pellissier; Dr Anna J.D. de Villiers; Prof. F. Postma; Mrs M.A. Malan; Prof. J. Smeath Thomas; R.A. Banks.*

*2nd row (l. to r.): W. Orban; Prof. W.F.C. Arndt; Dr A. Kerr; Dr P.C. Schoonees; Dr R.B. Denison; Dr E.G. Malherbe; Langham D. Murray (Registrar).*

*3rd row (l. to r.): Prof. H.J. Chapman; Dr S.P.E. Boshoff; Dr A.J.R. van Rhijn; Rev. H.J.R. du Plessis; Prof. A.J.H. van der Walt; Prof. J.P. Duminy; P.A. Taljaard (Asst Registrar).*

*Insert: Prof. H. v.d. M. Scholtz; Dr W. de V. Malan; Rev. Dr L. Sormany; Prof. I.S. Fourie; J. Cowie; Dr H.H.G. Kreft (Vice-Chancellor).*

advisory service which was available to all, wherever they chose to study. Prospective candidates for degree examinations could consult the Director in order to discuss suitable courses in the light of their needs, interests and aptitudes.

In the second place, the Division of External Studies decided to hold an annual Vacation School from 1948. This has undoubtedly become one of the University of South Africa's most successful ventures. It was, from the outset, open to all students and many of those who attended were under the tuition of the correspondence firms. Throughout the last years of the federal period in the university's history, two separate schools were arranged. That for European students was held at the Pretoria Technical College, while non-Europeans made use of the facilities made available at the former Methodist Church institution at Kilnerton near the city. The University of South Africa was able to provide accommodation for the latter group, a circumstance which, together with the need for greater personal supervision in their studies, contributed to the larger numbers attending the Kilnerton school. Most of these students were from the various African ethnic groups, but there were also Coloured and Indian students. Loans and bursaries were offered to help the needy to attend. The schools were held in July and their growing popularity may be gauged from the steady increase in attendance figures. 160 students enrolled for the first one, 84 of them non-Europeans; by 1951, the numbers attending had increased to 253, including 135 non-Europeans. At this period, some 14% of the African, Coloured and Indian students enrolled with the Division of External Studies made use of the schools and about 7% of the Europeans.

Arrangements for the Vacation School were made by the university's Organizer and in every year, a representative committee of the students in each group was chosen to assist in planning social events and to form a link with members of staff. Visits to such places of interest as the Union Buildings, the veterinary station at Onderstepoort and the Voortrekker Monument took place; there were also film shows, musical evenings

and additional lectures, including one by Guy Butler on the South African poet, Roy Campbell, and others on African literature and cultural development.

For a brief spell each year, the university was seen in tangible form as a corporation of teachers and learners and for many students, the Vacation School provided a unique opportunity of meeting the tutorial staff to discuss special difficulties encountered in their work. It also did much to break down racial prejudice. The first school was held in a period of political change which saw the success of the National Party in the election of 1948 and some hostility was displayed by African students in that year towards a predominantly Afrikaans-speaking lecturing staff. Antagonism was short-lived, however, when it became apparent that the lecturers of the Division of External Studies were prepared to assist students of all races in every way possible with their courses of study.

Another method of helping students and at the same time of making the student body a more intimate part of the university was suggested at the first Vacation School. This was the formation of study groups in various centres, a task undertaken by the Organizer, A. J. Vorster. These began with centres for European students on the Rand and in Pretoria and for non-Europeans at Dundee in Natal. The number of groups increased and within a few years, others had been established in cities as far apart as Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Province and Salisbury, Rhodesia. However, the movement cannot be regarded as an unqualified success, although it continues to be used in an effort to counteract student isolation. Inevitably, some groups suffered from a lack of continuity as members completed their courses or ceased to study through the university. Arranging the groups took up a great deal of time and they needed the constant encouragement of the Director and his staff. They flourished, however, where local enthusiasm ran high.

One study group in the Eastern Province came to regard itself as the nucleus of something greater. In December, 1950, a musical function was arranged by it in the East London City



*The first Vacation School White group, Students and Lecturers, 1948*

*The first Vacation School Non-white group, 1948*



Winter VACATION SCHOOLS were first held in 1948 and provided students with an opportunity to meet their tutors and to discuss special problems with them. They proved immensely popular and became a permanent feature of the academic year. The first function for European students was held at the Pretoria Technical College; that for African, Coloured and Indian students was arranged at Kilnerton, on the outskirts of Pretoria.

Hall. The entertainment was attended by A. S. Roux of the Department of Psychology and his wife. There, the work of the Division of External Studies was highly praised in a speech which contained a short history of its inauguration. Early in 1951, Mary McMillan, the Honorary Secretary of the East London group, wrote to the Secretary for Education, Arts and Science to ascertain the minimum requirements for founding a university college in the city and the degree of assistance which might be expected from the University of South Africa. She was told, however, that government could not contemplate any such extension of higher education in South Africa for many years to come.

Some departments of the Division of External Studies gave excellent advice on how to run a successful study group. In this connection, that offered by Theo van Wijk of the Department of History served as a model for A.S. Roux when he discussed the formation of new groups in the 1951 issue of *Student*. However, it was only in Pretoria and on the Witwatersrand that university lecturers could really give personal attention to group discussions. Bringing the student body into the university community was from the beginning a difficult problem. Certainly, the poor response to questionnaires sent out by the Director – unless on topics of immediate concern to students – seemed to indicate a lack of interest on the part of many. As there were then no compulsory exercises to submit in courses of study, some students did no more than read through the lectures sent to them and made no personal contact with the lecturing staff. Many hoped optimistically – as, perhaps, many still do – that a nodding acquaintance with the university's tutorial matter would be sufficient to ensure at least a pass in any course.

Graduation Day ceremonies would have been an excellent way of bringing the work of the Division of External Studies before the public and of fostering a sense of corporate pride in the university's new role. However, during the last years of the federal period, degrees continued for the most part to be presented at the constituent colleges and at the college for non-

Europeans at Fort Hare. In addition, some small ceremonies were held in the university offices in Pretoria following special examinations for wartime students. At all these ceremonies, both collegiate and external students were capped. Several honorary degrees were also conferred, among them a D.Phil. to Mabel Palmer of Durban in 1947, a D.Litt. to D.F. Malherbe of Bloemfontein in 1949 and, in the same year, a D.Ed. to Ferdinand Postma of Potchefstroom. All had done much for higher education in South Africa and for candidates for the university's examinations in particular. It had been Ferdinand Postma who had encouraged the Director to undertake his task in 1946.

An attempt was made to provide alternative functions for non-European students in 1948. There was not a sufficient response to justify holding a Graduation Day for them in Pretoria, but one was arranged at Paarl by the staff of the Huguenot University College. However, there was opposition to this move by some who favoured racially integrated functions of this kind. Protests came from individuals and also from the Coloured Advisory Council and the experiment was not repeated. However, despite opposition at the Cape, there was continued support for the idea among African students in the north. Nothing, however, was done until the last of the constituent colleges had left the federation in 1951. In the following year, two ceremonies were held in the Pretoria Technical College, both of which were presided over by the Vice-Chancellor at that time, Professor S. P. E. Boshoff. In 1953, the non-European function was transferred to Kilnerton and for some years, at the request of students, Degree Day coincided with the Vacation School.

In 1948, permission was given for the lectures of the Division of External Studies to be used by instructors at two non-profit making institutions: Helderberg College in the Cape, the Seventh-day Adventist Church foundation, and Adams College in Natal, the institution for African students over which Edgar Brookes had long presided. At the same period, certain lecturers with the Division of External Studies were giving their services on a part-time basis to the *Kolege ya Bana ba Afrika* in Atte-

The publication of an ANNUAL MAGAZINE has for many years enabled the university to keep in closer contact with its scattered student body.

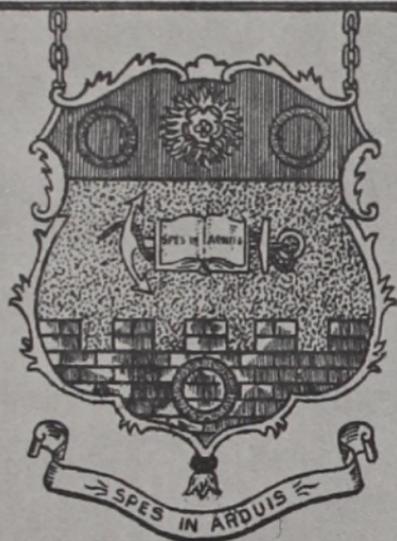
A roneoed *Newsletter* was issued in 1947 and proved such a success that a magazine, *The External Student*, was published in the following year. Two numbers appeared in 1949, but from 1950, the journal appeared annually. It was renamed *Student* in that year and *Unisa* in 1955.

At present, *Unisa Bulletin* is published as the prestige journal of the university.

*Cover of first Magazine*

DIE EKSTERNE • THE EXTERNAL

# STUDENT



1948

ANNUAL

JAARBLAD

ridgeville, Pretoria. These collegiate links, tenuous enough in the early years, foreshadowed later developments.

The first of these came in 1951, when an agreement was reached with the Transvaal Department of Education to bring the Heidelberg Teacher Training College in the province into a special relationship with the University of South Africa. Under this arrangement, some college lecturers were recognized as university teachers working in collaboration with the various heads of departments in the Division of External Studies. The Director and his staff had, in turn, rights of inspection over the work done at the Heidelberg institution. As a result, prospective teachers were able to study for a degree while completing their teaching certificate course. This permitted the college to become, in the words of its Principal, G. J. Jordaan, an institution "waar akademiese studie geïntegreer kan word met die vorming van die onderwyser as mens en as opvoeder". It was a step forward in South African teacher training.

The inauguration of the Division of External Studies also raised again the question of academic training in technical institutes. The Northern Cape Technical College in Kimberley spoke of the possibility of preparing students for external degrees through the facilities now offered by the University of South Africa. It was tempting to see further development along these lines, but it had long been university policy in South Africa to resist the claims of technical colleges to a higher status. Such expansion was not, therefore, encouraged, although the question was to be raised once more at a later period.

Finally, the break between the university and the Huguenot institution at Wellington was not a complete one at the end of 1950, for in the following year there were still 60 candidates for the B.A. degree at the Huguenot Missionary College which had taken the place of the university college. These students were working through the Division of External Studies.

Professor A. J. H. van der Walt and his colleagues had achieved much by 1951, when the last two constituent colleges at Grahamstown and Potchefstroom became independent univer-

sities. At the end of that year, the Division of External Studies was supplying courses for 2 215 undergraduates. More than 1 500 of them were of European descent, of whom some 900 were Afrikaans-speaking. In addition, there were more than 400 African students, 175 Asians and nearly 100 Coloured students. Post-graduate work, too, was not neglected and if most of the students in this category were studying for the Bachelor of Education and honours degrees, there had been a steady increase in the number of masters' dissertations and doctoral theses in preparation.

The Director and his staff were providing opportunities for large numbers of people to obtain university degrees who would otherwise have been unable, for a variety of reasons, to do so. When a survey was made in 1950, it was found that more than 90% of the students attached to the Division of External Studies were above the normal age for attending a university; several, indeed, were more than 50 years of age. Again, more students came from rural areas than from urban districts. Although the vast majority lived in South Africa, with the heaviest concentration in the Transvaal, the university was showing itself to be an institution catering for the needs of the whole of southern Africa, as, indeed, had always been the case throughout its history. More than 5% of the student body lived beyond the national borders, most of them in Rhodesia. Several were studying overseas.

The B.A. degree was the main objective, although other degrees, particularly those in commerce and economics, were popular. Teachers and instructors far outnumbered those in other occupations among the students of the Division of External Studies. A striking variety of vocations was, however, represented. Among the student body were clerks, housewives, farmers, businessmen, diplomats, army officers, motor mechanics, secretaries, engineers and ministers of religion. The list for 1950 also enumerated eleven caretakers, a licensed victualler and an entomologist!

However popular the Division of External Studies had become with those seeking graduate qualifications, it did not enjoy

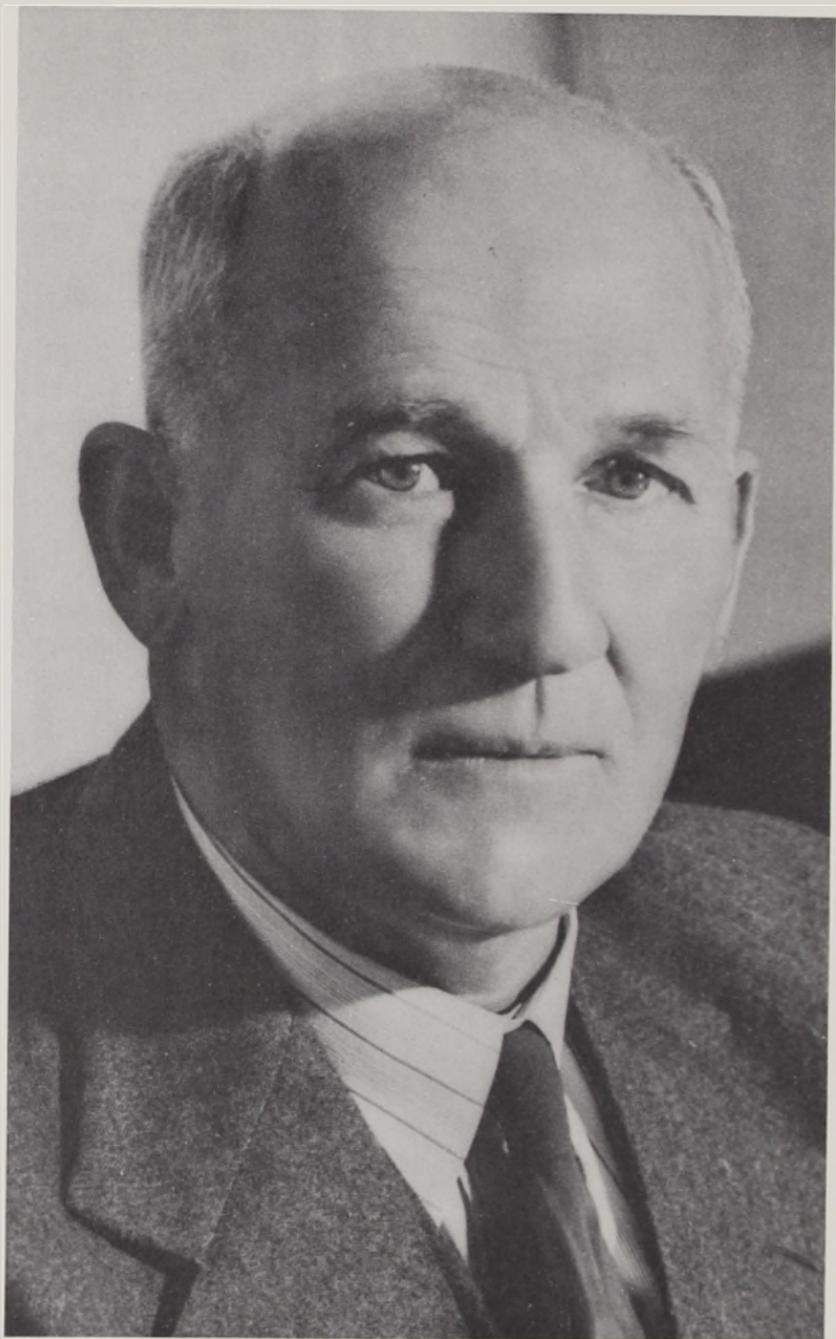
the same enthusiastic support in the academic world of South Africa. The progress which has been charted in this chapter was achieved under considerable difficulties and at no time in the first five years in the career of the university's new venture was it certain of becoming a permanent feature of the higher educational scene. The University of South Africa was, until 1951, primarily a federation of constituent colleges and to many people it was inconceivable that the infant teaching unit should inherit the family home when the last college had reached maturity and embarked upon an independent life. For was not the Division of External Studies what it had so often been called in parliament and outside, a mere correspondence school – and an extraordinarily costly one at that?

## 10 *An uncertain future*

The development of the Division of External Studies and the future of the constituent colleges were not the only concerns of the University of South Africa during the five years which ended with the resignation as Chancellor of N. J. de Wet in 1951 and the election of Judge President G. J. Maritz to succeed him.

The administrative section of the university retained its function as an examining body in a variety of fields. The examination for the Junior Certificate attracted several thousand entries annually. However, the need for this test of scholastic ability gradually diminished as alternative examinations were introduced by various authorities. In time, it was made use of almost entirely by non-European candidates and was finally abolished in 1960. The responsibility for the administration of the Joint Matriculation Board, however, continued to devolve upon the Registrar and his staff. The other conjoint board, which controlled examinations in law and surveying, was becoming an anachronism by the early fifties and ceased to exist at the end of the decade. It was replaced by a Board for the Recognition of Examinations in Law, no longer the administrative concern of the university, although it is represented upon it. The largest number of candidates for examinations conducted by the university came forward in the field of music.

Although relations with the Associated Board in London had been severed at the end of the war, the question of control of examinations in music had not really been finally settled. There were still many people in South Africa who would have pre-



GERHARDUS JACOBUS MARITZ was born on 7 December, 1889 at Klerksdorp. He received his early education in Pretoria and Stellenbosch and after studying at the Victoria College, obtained the B.A. degree in 1908. A Rhodes Scholar, he qualified in 1912 at Trinity College, Oxford, for the Middle Temple in the Honours School of Jurisprudence.

When the first World War broke out, he was practising in Pretoria. He decided to join the abortive rebellion, but was captured and interned. He returned to the law after his discharge and built up a flourishing practice. President of the Income-tax Court in 1926, he was appointed a judge in the Transvaal Provincial Division four years later and Judge President in 1947.

Chosen as Chancellor of the university in 1951, he resigned this office in 1957.

Judge President G.J. Maritz died in Pretoria on 16 July, 1964.

*Judge President the Hon. Gerhardus Jacobus Maritz, B.A., Q.C.  
Chancellor 1951-1957*

ferred a return to the old system of examiners from abroad, as was evident when the 25th Annual Conference of the South African Society of Music Teachers met in 1946. Two years later, the Associated Board showed interest in the renewal of co-operation and the appointment of examiners on a fifty-fifty basis. It could also offer a diploma which obtained world-wide recognition. The University of South Africa intimated that it was prepared to consider the matter, but that there was now a fully representative national advisory committee in music, which would have to be in agreement with any changes made. By 1949, however, a final split with the Associated Board had taken place and the following year, in answer to demands from music teachers, the London body began to hold its own examinations in South Africa, in competition with its former associate.

The work of the Registrar's office, which Langham Murray continued to keep strictly apart from that of the teaching section, was largely centred upon this diversity of examination work. By 1951, when the Assistant Registrar, Petrus A. Taljaard, summed up the duties of the department, there were nearly 10 000 entries for music examinations – more than twice as many as there were for degree examinations from students of the Division of External Studies and others. In addition, the two school examinations brought in some 6 000 more entries and there were then about 1 000 for the professional examinations. All this threw a great burden upon the shoulders of the administrative staff. There were notifications to be sent to examiners and moderators, centres to be provided – and already there were more than 1 200 of these in South Africa and elsewhere – and papers to be printed and distributed. The scripts which poured into the university office after the examinations had taken place had then to be despatched to the examiners. Finally came the collating of marks, the notification of results and the preparation of certificates.

That candidates who had enrolled with the Division of External Studies were dealt with in this respect in entirely the same way as those who had studied with the commercial colleges

was in keeping with the promises made by Jan Hofmeyr in 1946. The University of South Africa was at all times careful to avoid giving offence to the correspondence firms. Moreover, it was always ready to consider their ideas on the syllabuses for external students.

The university was not prepared, however, to extend official recognition to the colleges individually, nor did it accept that their association had unlimited rights to criticize. The Regulations for External Students which appeared in the annual *Calendar* stated firmly in a preamble that the University of South Africa was not associated in any way with outside bodies or institutions preparing students for its examinations and added, in less emphatic print: "Enrolment in the Division of External Studies is optional".

Relations with the commercial undertakings were, from the outset, far from cordial. Complaints were frequent and the Secretary of the Association of Correspondence Colleges, L. J. Erasmus, listed some of them in a letter to the Registrar in June, 1947. He contended that the very mention of the Division of External Studies in the *Calendar* constituted unfair competition; that arbitrary changes in regulations and syllabuses made the work of the colleges more difficult; that there was a growing fear among external students working through the firms belonging to his association that marks were to be awarded on the year's work of those who studied through the university.

It is true that the Director and many of his staff were greatly in favour of this last course. It would stimulate study and help to close the gap between lecturer and student. However, the University of South Africa was well aware that, in the circumstances, it could not introduce the system, unless means could be devised to extend it to all. One alternative was tried in 1952 at the Vacation School. This was the institution of Progress Record Tests which, since the function was not restricted to students of the Division of External Studies, were considered to be fair to everybody. It was also hoped that such a scheme would encourage a larger attendance at the Vacation School. Few stu-

dents, however, were prepared to attempt the tests, even though the idea had first been mooted by candidates for the university's examinations. In the 1953 edition of *Student*, B. M. Allpass (significantly named!) explained why. Many felt, he argued, that "a test for which they were, in July, ill-prepared, was no gauge of their pass-worthiness in November"; moreover, the mark awarded could not only help a border-line student to pass; it could emphasize his lack of ability.

Complaints continued to reach the university, both from the colleges in association and from individual students. Even as late as 1955, there were allegations of discrimination – dismissed as "nonsense" by the Registrar – against candidates unconnected with the Division of External Studies. The Association of Correspondence Colleges dearly wanted closer links with the University of South Africa and the appointment of a second examiner nominated by it. The university, on the other hand, wished to keep the association at arm's length and it is significant that in December, 1947, when the Registrar was invited to the first meeting of the Board of Control of the Association of Correspondence Colleges, Langham Murray promptly declined the invitation.

The commercial undertakings based some of their arguments upon their numerical strength, so far as student enrolment was concerned. However, in this respect, their case was not so good as they made out. This is clear from a detailed memorandum compiled by the Director in December, 1948. There were, it is true, more than 2 500 students who were not enrolled with the Division of External Studies in that year, forming much the larger group. However, 640 of the independent students worked entirely on their own. This still gave the colleges a slight numerical advantage, but there were many institutions in competition with each other. At some – among them the Lyceum College of Johannesburg – students working for degrees formed only a small part of the total enrolment. Four institutions dominated in the university examination field: Transafrica, the Rapid Results College, Union College and the *Volkskorrespondensie*

*Kollege*. The first named had 572 students, 320 of whom were working for the B.A. examination. Rapid Results gave tuition to 529 men and women, 286 of them studying for the B.Com. degree. The Union College provided tuition for 270 students, 175 of them taking the B.A. course, while the *Volkskorrespondensie* institution's 156 university students were mainly enrolled for the B.A. and B.Com. degrees in almost equal numbers. These two degrees were the most popular among students of the Division of External Studies, with more than half studying for the B.A. and some 17% enrolled for the B.Com. degree. There was some truth in the comment made at this time that most of the commercial firms did not make much money from their degree courses, but kept them for reasons of prestige.

When it came to finance, the correspondence colleges were on firmer ground. However excellent the tuition offered students by the University of South Africa, however laudable the whole concept of university training by correspondence, there is no doubt that the venture failed hopelessly where it was confidently expected to succeed! It had been argued that, since the commercial undertakings could make a reasonable profit on all their operations, the Division of External Studies should be able to do the same. In that way, it would neither become a charge upon the university nor upon the state. It was therefore financed quite separately from the administrative section of the University of South Africa so that its expenditure could be adequately controlled.

Alas, the Division of External Studies soon showed an alarming propensity to swallow up money at a faster rate than anybody – the directors of correspondence colleges excepted – had ever imagined! It began with a small enough deficit – just under R3 167 on 31 March, 1947. By the following year, this had increased to the alarming figure of almost R36 000 and in 1949, to a staggering R61 330. Langham Murray complained that the university's reserves could not meet deficits of this kind, the more so as the government grant for administrative purposes, together with fee income and other sources of revenue, fell very far short

of the university's needs. There were deficits here of more than R40 000 in 1947 and of R20 000 in 1948. The University of South Africa was, as a result, requested to make economies. In 1950, some fees were increased, the minutes of meetings were published in alternate years in English and Afrikaans and certain handbooks were issued less frequently.

The situation for the Division of External Studies was a serious one – far more so than most members of the teaching staff realized. Professor van der Walt's section had, however, some support. J. P. Duminy, for example, was able to tell the government's University Advisory Committee that the losses incurred by the teaching division were beyond its control and the committee went so far as to record the encouraging minute that the new venture provided a "service of national importance". The Director tried to keep costs down by cutting back expenditure on such items as library books, in view of the "ernstige finansiële posisie waarin die Afdeling verkeer". However, in the early months of 1949, the bottom had been scraped out of the financial barrel.

On the morning of 7 March, the Director sent an urgent telegram to the Secretary for Education: "Finansiële posisie van Universiteit uiters sorgwekkend. Onmoontlik om enige verdere verpligtinge na te kom sonder versekering van uitbetaling van gevraagde staatshulp vir afgelope twee jaar. Addisionele bankkrediet nie verkrygbaar. Telegrafeer onmiddellik wat die posisie is". The following afternoon, a second appeal was addressed by Professor van der Walt to the Vice-Chancellor, Dr van Rhijn, then in Cape Town: "Universiteit kan nie funksioneer sonder onmiddellike hulp. Alle uitbetaling reeds in Februarie gestaak terwyl salarisse hierdie maand reeds al nie uitbetaal kan word. Verdere bankkrediet onmoontlik".

With bank credit exhausted and no money with which to pay the staff, the position was indeed precarious. The Treasury, which was awaiting the views of universities in general on their financial needs, had already displayed some irritation about the poor showing of the new venture in comparison with the pre-

sumed financial stability of the private firms. Now it was distinctly annoyed. A cheque for more than R90 000 was hastily sent to cover the deficit, but a letter written on behalf of the Secretary for Finance, Dr J. E. Holloway, clearly indicated that the matter was regarded in that department in a very unfavourable light. "Die Tesourie beskou dit . . . baie onbevredigend", it stated, "dat so 'n groot tekort afgeloop het en hy voor 'n vol-donge feit geplaas is".

However, a departmental committee of W. V. Robertson and P. J. Olckers had recently recommended that the university's Division of External Studies should receive an annual subsidy to a maximum of R56 000. The report was accepted, but the financial position remained difficult for some time to come. On 13 August, 1949, the Director wrote to H. S. van der Walt, who had just succeeded A. A. Roberts as Secretary for Education. He pointed out that the Division of External Studies was still relying on heavy overdraft facilities and asked for a temporary subsidy to relieve a burden which was "reeds weer vinnig besig om te versleg". Assistance was given, but the Secretary for Finance took the opportunity of expressing his dissatisfaction that "hierdie diens aansienlik hoër uitgawe meebring as wat die Kabinet oorspronklik verwag het". The teaching section could not expect to be subsidized at so high a rate in future, nor would the University of South Africa be placed upon a formula basis for an annual grant. Not surprisingly, Dr H. G. Luttig, Member of Parliament for Mayfair (Johannesburg) and Managing Director of the Transafrica Correspondence College, brought up the question of the government subsidy to the Division of External Studies in the parliamentary session of 1950.

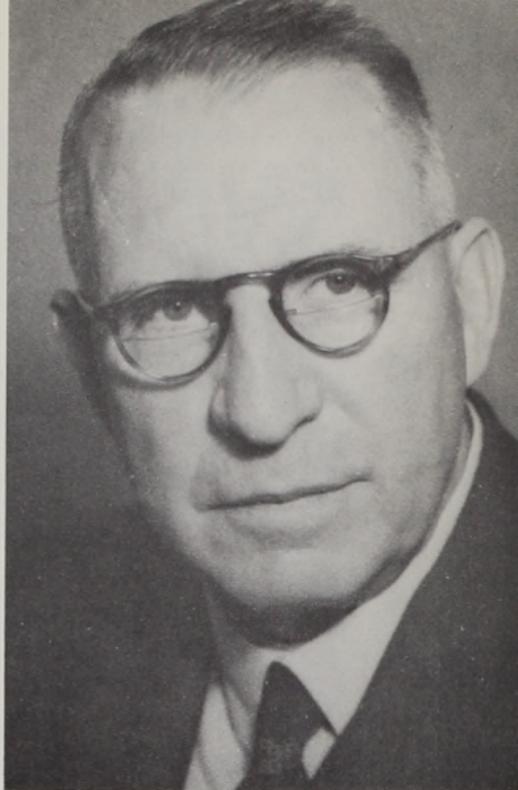
There is no reason to impute extravagance to the Director, or to consider that the large deficits were entirely the result of a lack of business acumen, although that is what the commercial firms thought. The whole problem of university finances was investigated by a government commission of enquiry which was appointed in 1951 under the chairmanship of Dr J. E. Holloway, Its report of May, 1953 indicated clearly the special difficulties

The major problems facing SENATE in this period were the institution of the Division of External Studies and the coming of age of all the constituent colleges, with the exception of that at Wellington.

The transition from a federal to a purely teaching university with a specialized function took place during the chairmanship of Professor W.F. Barker. It was during his second term that his own college became the independent Rhodes University.

In 1952, the Director of External Studies (later the Principal) became Chairman of Senate. The office has been held by the Principal since that time.

*Right: Prof. J.C. van Rooy  
(Potchefstroom University College)  
1944-1946  
(Photo: Potchefstroom University)*



*Below: Prof. H. v.d. M. Scholtz  
(University College of the  
Orange Free State)  
1946-1948*

*Below right: Prof. W.F. Barker  
(Rhodes University and  
University College), 1948-1952  
(Photo: Rhodes University)*



of the University of South Africa in financing its Division of External Studies. In the first place, lecturers had to be paid salaries similar to those received by their colleagues of equal rank elsewhere in the South African university world. Secondly, the library cost money to staff and to stock and office accommodation in Pretoria was particularly expensive.

Whatever the reasons for the failure of the teaching venture to pay its way, there is no doubt that its financial problems embarrassed its supporters and delighted those of the correspondence colleges. Governments of all political persuasions dislike spending public moneys unnecessarily. Jan Hofmeyr, the United Party's Minister of Education and Finance in 1946, had seen the possibility of making one small saving when the university scheme was launched. To avoid having to subsidize two institutions working in the same field, government cut the grant made to the Witwatersrand Technical College, which handed over its correspondence courses – some of degree level – to the Division of External Studies.

The economy effected here, however, was more than offset by the seemingly insatiable demands of the new infant, to the dismay of the Nationalist government which took control of the Union's higher education in 1948. A measure of its concern is the injunction given to the Governor-General's nominees to the university Council to pay special attention to financial matters in debate.

The heavy deficits came to light at the very time when the whole future of the Division of External Studies – and, indeed, of the University of South Africa itself – was in jeopardy. Professor A. J. H. van der Walt was doing his best to give his section the standing of a university, but to many, it fell short of the university ideal. It was argued that, if external degrees were really necessary, a joint board could well control them. Alternatively, perhaps the older universities – or the new ones, then emerging from the federal chrysalis – might like to take over the existing external work. On the other hand, the actual teaching could, perhaps, be left to the correspondence colleges which,

at all events, were no drain on the national exchequer.

It had been evident when the Brookes Commission on the University of South Africa had reported in 1947, that the government of the institution would have to be drastically revised after the departure of the constituent colleges. It was felt then, and for some years to come, that the university in its new form as a teaching foundation for external students would have insufficient experience to control its own affairs alone. Moreover, there was the question of public trust. The University of South Africa would be regarded with more assurance if it were made evident that its standards were being maintained in the new circumstances. It was therefore suggested by the Brookes Commission that as each college representative left Council when the constituent nominating him achieved independence, a new member should be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of a "Universities Co-ordinating Board". He would be chosen specifically to represent one of the conventional teaching universities. If possible, something similar should be done on Senate, although it was recommended that, as in wartime, the Senate Executive Committee should control affairs in any transition period. Once the university had lost all the constituent colleges, Senate could be reconstructed on the basis of equal representation for the Director and five selected members of his staff, with six nominated members chosen on the advice of the proposed co-ordinating board.

As the date approached when reconstruction of the university would have to take place, the commercial institutions, emboldened now that they had successfully combined in a powerful association, began to press for a greater share in the affairs of the university. At the 3rd Annual Conference of the Association of Correspondence Colleges held in Johannesburg in September, 1950, tributes were paid to the sterling work of the private firms by several speakers, among them Councillor C. F. Beckett, the city's Deputy Mayor. It was asserted that the time had come for the commercial colleges to be represented on the governing body of the university and conversely, for the university to have a

nominee on the Board of Control of the association. It was also alleged at this period that the Registrar's office was guilty of trying to coerce students to enrol with the Division of External Studies. Great indignation was expressed that an institution heavily subsidized by the state should be allowed to compete in such an unfair manner with commercial undertakings.

The Association of Correspondence Colleges submitted a memorandum to the University of South Africa in December, 1950, asking for representation on the governing body. Council was, however, opposed to this, although it was anxious to know in greater detail exactly what the colleges wanted. Accordingly, a meeting was arranged between Vice-Chancellor van Rhijn and members of the Board of Control of the association at the University of Cape Town on 12 January, 1951. Among those who took part in the discussions was Dr Luttig of Transafrica. Again, the desire for Council membership was voiced. What the members of the Association of Correspondence Colleges really hoped for, however, was for the university to revert to its old examining form and for the Division of External Studies to be severed from it and made a member of the association, on the same basis as the commercial forms. To all this, Dr van Rhijn presented an immovable front. He was, however, prepared to listen to the views of the colleges on a change of name for the university, although he did not much like their suggestion of a "South African Universities' Examining Board". In place of this, he put forward the title "University of South Africa for External Studies", a name which had the support of others in the world of South African higher education at that time. If the Association of Correspondence Colleges wanted any further changes, however, it should apply to the Director himself!

In discussions on the future of the Division of External Studies, Professor A. J. H. van der Walt and his colleagues were in no position to play a decisive role. At meetings within the University of South Africa they were always outnumbered and although the Board of Tutors fought hard to become the legally constituted channel for the expression of the views of the teaching staff,

it was never listened to by Council with the respect which that body accorded the opinions of Senate. The Board of Tutors remained no more than a staff association.

Nor was the Director given full recognition. At meetings of all the South African universities, his situation was an anomalous one. The body which had for long been accepted as the joint consultative board for the nation's universities was the Vice-Chancellors' Committee. However, Vice-Chancellors were not always Principals and what was important for a representative association of this kind was that it should be fully capable of making decisions on academic matters. Accordingly, a new body, the Committee of University Principals, was set up in 1949. Here, the University of South Africa was in a difficult situation. It had no Principal. Although the Director and the Registrar were invited to attend meetings of the new committee, the university's official representative was declared to be the Chairman of Senate. Professor Barker, who held this post throughout these years of uncertainty over the future of university training by correspondence, was keenly interested in the affairs of the Pretoria institution, but he had greater loyalties. This was also the period in which his own college, Rhodes, achieved full independence.

While the Committee of University Principals came in 1950 to accept that the University of South Africa's teaching function should continue after the withdrawal of the constituent colleges, it felt that the other universities should retain what it described as "dominant and actual control". This opinion reflected the widespread hostility to the work of the Division of External Studies among many academics, not only in the independent universities, but also in the colleges which were moving in that direction, but which were still represented in force in the Senate of the University of South Africa. The Huguenot University College considered that, in any reconstruction of the federal university, Senate would have to be so constituted that it would command respect for external degrees. This would mean, in effect, that a majority of its members would have to be drawn

from the nation's other universities. Professor A. J. H. van der Walt has stated that the widespread insistence upon the safeguarding of standards in this manner was dictated by a fear that the staff of the Division of External Studies might be inclined "om die Akademiese peil na benede te dwing om sodoende meer studente te trek". It was also dictated by a quite understandable hesitation about handing over control to an untried staff and thus running the risk of debasing the value of a South African degree.

Some institutions, indeed, wondered whether it was wise to leave affairs in the hands of the University of South Africa at all. The University of the Witwatersrand suggested a joint board with power to confer external degrees in 1949, a proposal which at that time attracted Langham Murray. The Registrar again took the opportunity of stressing his opposition to any fusion between the examining and teaching sections of the university. The University College of the Orange Free State argued that other universities should be given the chance to undertake external teaching. To the newly independent University of Natal, the system was inevitable, but regrettable. It suggested that the best way to mitigate the evils of a university activity of questionable standing would be to vest control of it in two other universities. It felt that the most suitable would be the Universities of Pretoria and the Witwatersrand, if they were prepared to undertake the unenviable task. Self-interest was apparent in the debate and two proposals are worthy of note in this connection. From Bloemfontein came a plea to restrict external work to first degree level, while the University of Pretoria, with its flourishing extramural activities, wanted students living within 24 kilometres of a conventional university to be debarred from registering for external degree courses.

On the initiative of the Joint Committee of Council and Senate for External Studies, a smaller committee was set up in 1949 within the University of South Africa to look into the future of the institution. It consisted of the Vice-Chancellor, Dr van Rhijn, the Director, the Registrar, a representative of each con-

stituent college, another for the education departments and three members of the federal Senate. The Senate members were Professor Barker, who acted as Chairman, Professor Gerrit Dekker of Potchefstroom, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Professor C. van H. du Plessis of the Bloemfontein college, who was Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Administration. The committee came to the conclusion that external study should continue and that the University of South Africa was the best body to undertake it.

Various ideas on the most effective method of implementing this decision were considered. The Registrar, Langham Murray, despite his known reservations on the subject of external study, always placed the interests of the university first. If, he concluded, the system were to be perpetuated and the University of South Africa to enjoy a new lease of life as its guardian, then its standing should not be lowered by vesting control of its governing and academic bodies in other institutions. He therefore proposed that representatives of the so-called residential universities should be excluded from Council membership, except possibly as nominees of the Governor-General. Senate, however, should include, he considered, additional members from other universities, but only as a temporary measure until the staff of the Division of External Studies had been built up through new appointments.

The Director saw the force of the arguments in favour of Senate supervision by the other universities, if only as a sop to public and – particularly – to academic opinion. The memorandum which he submitted therefore took care to incorporate the representation of outside professors on the academic body. He considered that, in the nature of the case, he should act as Chairman of Senate. However, although the University of the Witwatersrand was prepared to agree with him over this, others differed sharply. Most felt that Senate itself should, as in the past, choose its own Chairman. It is easy to read an attitude deliberately obstructive into this hesitancy to accord the Division of External Studies full control. However, the teaching section was

still small, nor was it the only body responsible for the tuition of external students in South Africa.

The Council of the University of South Africa submitted a memorandum to the Committee of University Principals in 1950, outlining a system of government for the reformed institution which would allow a measure of outside direction. The university was then asked to collaborate with the Department of Education, Arts and Science in drawing up a draft bill. A committee of Council and Senate, consisting of J. P. Duminy, S. P. E. Boshoff, W. F. Barker, Ferdinand Postma and the Director was formed to assist in this. The legislation proposed then went before the Committee of University Principals in January, 1951, where, with a few changes, it was accepted. The Director's position at meetings of the Principals remained an anomaly to the end. Council considered that he should, on this important occasion, represent the university, but the Chairman of Senate had already been invited. Both attended, but Professor A. J. H. van der Walt's role was much that of an interested onlooker, for Professor Barker had the vote.

It seems curious, in retrospect, that the Director's power was still circumscribed in the ensuing legislation which transformed the University of South Africa. He would seem to have been the obvious *ex-officio* choice as the representative of the teaching section on Council. However, Act 30 of 1951 merely specified that a seat on Council was to be offered to a member of the Division of External Studies chosen by Senate. Subservience was thus perpetuated and, in this instance, with little justification.

One of the last suggestions made by the Senate of the expiring Huguenot University College was that the Registrar should be given a voice in Council deliberations. Others felt that he should be there to guard the interests of those students who were not enrolled with the Division of External Studies. However, Council membership was not extended to the university's chief administrative officer. In view of the changes which were soon to take place in the structure of external studies, the decision was probably a wise one.



*Transvalia Building, Pretoria 1948*

The Division of External Studies expanded rapidly and early in 1948, additional accommodation was found in TRANSVALIA BUILDING, on the corner of Central and Pretorius Streets, Pretoria. The University of South Africa acquired 22 offices and took possession before the completion of the new block.

“The Act to amend the University of South Africa Act, 1916, and to provide for matters incidental thereto”, to give it its official designation, came into force on 1 August, 1951. To J. R. Sullivan of Durban, it was the fulfilment of his dream of a people’s university. Act 30 was, however, something less than a higher educational Magna Carta for external students, although the University of South Africa would henceforth devote all its energies at degree level to their needs. It also retained its subsidiary functions with regard to school and music examinations and continued to administer the affairs of the Joint Matriculation Board and the Joint Committee for Professional Examinations.

Provision was made for certain members of Council to complete the unexpired portions of their terms of office in 1951. The last delegates from the constituent colleges had disappeared from the scene in March of that year, but their places were taken by the Principals of the nation’s universities, or by those appointed to represent them. The Governor-General’s nominees – six at first, with two more appointed later – included two persons selected to speak for Convocation. One of these was chosen specially to safeguard the interests of African, Coloured and Indian students. Elections for Convocation members were therefore abolished. South West Africa and Rhodesia would cease to be represented when their present members of Council had completed their terms of office. In addition to the representative of the Division of External Studies, the Chairman of Senate was also made a member of Council. The Vice-Chancellor continued to take the chair.

The new Senate was to consist of two members of Council, the Director of the Division of External Studies in an *ex-officio* capacity, all lecturers who were heads of department and such professors who might at a future date be appointed to the teaching staff. From the other universities came two representatives of each of their Senates, together with eight additional professors or lecturers. This was to give outside universities an immediate numerical advantage on the academic body. Their position was

further strengthened, since the persons who were Deans of the various faculties when the legislation came into force, as well as the Chairman, Professor Barker, remained as Senate members for a further period. The power of the Division of External Studies was also limited on boards of faculties and committees of studies, for there a university lecturer never acted alone and was usually outnumbered by at least two to one in the composition of these bodies.

The Board of Tutors did, however, gain statutory recognition as a kind of lesser Senate, to which authority it was able to make recommendations. It also continued to serve the Director in an advisory capacity. Despite the small concession, the Division of External Studies was kept firmly in its place in the Act of 1951. It has been said that the representatives of the other universities feared the creation in Senate of a power bloc composed of members of the University of South Africa's teaching staff. This may have been true, for there were some at Senate meetings who treated the Division of External Studies with a condescension born of conscious superiority and had no wish to see its lecturers in a dominant position. Nevertheless, Professor van der Walt and his colleagues had friends among the outsiders there – men of the calibre of that noted linguist, G. P. Lestrade of the University of Cape Town, and S. J. H. Steven of the University of the Orange Free State.

The Director and the University of South Africa would meet with further opposition in their moves to gain wider recognition, but as it grew in stature and gained in experience, the Division of External Studies would eventually silence its many critics. By 1951, at least, early uncertainties had vanished and the youthful teaching venture could begin to make progress along the road to future greatness.