

Natal Daily News  
25/11/59.

C5.31

THE NATAL D

# PROFESSORS START FUND TO HELP FORT HARE VICTIMS

C5.31

THE Senate of the University of Natal is to create a special fellowship fund to conserve for South African university life the services of scholars who were recently dismissed for non-academic reasons or who felt compelled to resign from their posts at the University College of Fort Hare.

Early in November seven staff members of Fort Hare were dismissed by the Minister of Bantu Education, Mr. W. A. Maree. Following these dismissals many senior members of the staff—including Prof. Z. K. Matthews, the vice-principal—resigned their posts.

Fort Hare is to be transferred to the Bantu Education Department on January 1.

The decision of the Senate — the supreme academic body of the university — was taken at a meeting in Maritzburg yesterday.

A committee has been appointed to initiate the Fellowship Fund. Its members are Prof. A. W. Bayer, professor of botany, Prof. Edgar Brookes, professor of history and political science; Mr. S. E. Cruise, senior lecturer in mathematics; Prof. G. H. Durrant, professor of English and Prof. I. Gordon, professor of pathology.

Professor Gordon, who has been appointed convener of the committee, said today that the decision of the Senate was non-political. It flowed from a sense of association and brotherhood which has existed among university teachers in all parts of the world since the Middle Ages.

## NATIONAL BASIS

He said that if the Fellowship fund could be established on a national basis he was convinced that contributions to the fund would be received from many members of the academic staffs of

the "closed" universities as well as the "open" universities.

He hoped that support would come from academic teachers at other universities in South Africa so that fellowships could be established on a national basis and tenable at all those universities in South Africa who were prepared to give sanctuary to their colleagues.

"We hope, too, that men and women who hold such fellowships would be free to undertake research work in their fields of study and will remain at the universities concerned until they are able to get permanent appointments at universities or research institutes."

At the end of the Senate meeting yesterday a number of heads of departments pledged their support to the fund. All members of the academic staff of the University of Natal will be asked to make voluntary contributions to this fund on a monthly basis.