

At the meeting of the N.U.C. Council in November 1928, a member of the Council who had some experience of the University Extension work of the University of London and who was Chairman of the Durban W.E.A. suggested that the N.U.C. undertake Extension activities.

He renewed his plea at the meeting of Council on April 17, 1931 and was made convenor of a sub-committee to consider the matter further and report.

A scheme for University Extension lectures in Durban and throughout Natal was submitted to Council on May 8, 1931 when it approved the scheme and the convenor was told to get on with the job. £100 was voted for expenses.

A list of available lecturers and their subjects was compiled. Not all the lecturers were N.U.C. staff but most were heads of one man departments. Non-college lecturers included Dr. Herbert Standing and Mr. E.C. Chubb.

Close liaison was maintained with the W.E.A. in Durban and courses of lectures were given under joint W.E.A.-University auspices by Prof. Ferguson and Dr. Standing.

For the Country Districts of Natal lists of persons likely to be interested such as Head teachers, Magistrates, Doctors were compiled. The names of available lecturers and their subjects was sent to those listed with the suggestion that they form a local University Extension Committee to make all local arrangements such as advertising, securing the use of a suitable hall, providing hospitality for lecturers.

The central organisation work was in the first instance undertaken by Dr. C.I. Loram, Director of Education, but he almost immediately thereafter left South Africa to settle in the United States. The work was then carried on by the Convenor of the Council sub-committee in his business office in Durban.

All organisation and clerical work, central and local was done voluntarily. Lecturers received £1.1.0 per lecture and travelling expenses.

The scheme flourished. Local organisations were set up and lectures given (either single lectures or courses) in Durban, Dundee, Ixopo, Verulam, Tongaat, Estcourt, Ladysmith, Newcastle, Mooi River, Umzinto. Local committees or correspondents were keen, audiences unexpectedly large, ranging from 25 to 85. Admission of 1/- was charged for each lecture.

Progress reports were made regularly to Council. The Annual Report of the Chairman of Council for 1931 said: "Under an Extension lecture scheme lectures were given at various towns in Natal by members of the staff and others. These lectures were very successful and have been much appreciated."

The Extension scheme lasted for two years and was killed by its own success. The demands on lecturers became so great as to endanger the work of their departments. The Annual Report of the Chairman of Council for 1933 records: "Extension work has been crippled by inability to send overworked staff afield."

In 1935 Council gave its support to the first South African national conference on Adult Education organised by the convenor of the Council's former Extension sub-committee. The Conference was held at Howard College, October 5 and 6, 1935. Dr. Bews represented the N.U.C. at the Conference.