APPENDIX I

THE STUDENTS’ UNION SOCIETY AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

The Students’ Union Society

In 1904 the Governing Body turned down a resolution received from a meeting of students that a Union of Day Students be formed. The Engineering Society was formed in 1905 and soon found itself acting as a shadow general union society in certain particulars. Of course, the Engineering Society has a continuous history in its own right. By 1908 the Officers and Committee of the Engineering Society were running an annual dinner, “smoking” concerts and a soccer team. A Social Committee was elected by the students in 1910 to improve the social life of the College and the Union Society proper commenced its existence on 20th March 1912.¹ The first President of the Union Society was D.H. Steers, but perhaps pride of place should go to E.L. Mayall Emage, always known as “Jumbo”, who was Chairman of the Social Committee. Emage was involved in all the 1908-12 foundation laying for the Union Society about to be born. There was the selection of the College colours of claret and gold, with the aid of John Williams, Head of the Artistic Crafts Department. There was the college march composed by W.V. Zolmer. There was the origin of the Carrot mascot in a rag preceding a cricket match with the staff in 1912. I quote Emage . . . “we hired a bus to take the team and supporters from the College to the ground at Palmers Green, and we dressed for the occasion. I had a last minute disappointment and had to change not only my means of transport but my style of dress. I had planned to drive a coster’s donkey barrow attired in full clerical rig.” . . . He travelled on the bus and in order not to lose the effect of the donkey-encouraging carrot . . . “surmounted over the radiator on a pole was the original and true carrot which was invented, designed and fabricated in the pattern shop by J.O. Ruscoe and G.H. Campbell. It was made of wood and painted in the correct colour and purported to be the inducement to the vehicle to move in a forward direction.”²

In later years the carrot was encased in concrete and weighed four hundred weight being secured by chains as a precaution against raiding students from other colleges. As late as March 1964 “King Carrot” was stolen. Student rags were not always associated with collecting money from the public for charity. In the thirties the two were separate. For the
rags, then, a special carrot was prepared some twelve to fifteen feet long in fabric. Sewn inside was rotten fruit and vegetables, soot and yellow ochre and a real carrot. The second year paraded the thing and freshmen were persuaded to kiss it or be doused in the horse trough. It was then fought over, torn to pieces, and the victor was the student with the largest piece. He was then treated to drinks in the Coach and Horses. Finsbury Borough Council in due course presented the horse trough. In 1956 the carrot rag was televised by the I.T.A.

In 1957, Tom Holmes, who had by then been College Secretary for twenty-eight years, wrote: "A question which has been debated down the years is whether or not to abolish rags. I think quite a number of worthy people are discouraged from standing for office in the Union because they are not willing to join in childish escapades, especially being doused in a dirty horse trough for their pains." There has, of course, been a very marked decline in such activities in recent years, but the reluctance to stand for Union office persists and in some years even the President is returned unopposed.

Professor F.Y. Poynton is said to have originated the idea of the Noble Order of the Carrot Awards between 1925 and 1930. The object of the Order is to record and acknowledge the services rendered by students and other persons to the Union Society. The award is a tie pin in the form of a carrot, graded Pachydermatous Protagonist (gold), Allegorical Anomaly (silver), Prosthetic Propitiation (bronze), together with Honourable Mention. A Grand Council composed of the Officers of the Union Society under a Chairman, The Lord Prevaricatory, together with an Imperial Vindicator and an Adjuster of Accounts (the two last named normally members of staff), prepares an honours list. The Lord Mayor as Chancellor presents the awards. Other annual events include a Dinner and The President's Ball.

The London Government Act of 1963, causing the disappearance of the Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury on 1st April 1965, on its absorption into the new London Borough of Islington, led to the deposit of the very fine Finsbury mace with the Students' Union. This is re-presented periodically by the Islington Council. The President has a badge for ceremonial occasions, the first was presented in 1956 by past-Presidents, and in 1966 the Academic Board presented a new badge to mark university status.

The Union was first named the Northampton Engineering Day College Students' Union but "day" was soon dropped and then forty-five years later the name was Northampton College, London, Students' Union.
F.E.A. Manning recounts, that, whilst he was President of the Union, the Marquis of Northampton came to the Union's Annual Dinner and "gave us permission to use part of his coat of arms." 8 He went on to say: "the Engineering College looked upon itself as being a College of the University of London." 8 In 1921 Mullineux Walmsley's son was President of the Union and he inspired Manning and one or two others to go along with him to meetings arranged to consider the formation of the University of London Union. Thus Northampton students became founder members of U.L.U., and Manning and others erected and adapted the wooden ex-army hutment that was for so long the Union quarters in Bloomsbury. When a permanent building was erected in 1956 it was named after Manning.

Membership of U.L.U. was available as the Northampton was an institution with teachers "recognized" by the University and the engineering students were reading for internal degrees. From 1929, the Governing Body paid 5/6ths of the U.L.U. fee of 6/- per student per session. As to the fee for the local union it rose from only £1.10.0 in 1933-34 to £37 per session in 1970-79.

In the first year of the existence of the Union, the first number of the Northampton Polytechnic Institute Day Students' Magazine was issued, in December, 1912; publication ceased in 1915, under war conditions. Then, in 1919 the joint successor of both this magazine and that of the Past Day Students' Association, the Northampton Gazette commenced publication in July, 1919. In 1948 the Union started under its sole responsibility, the often illiterate, sometimes abusive, Beacon.

As to Union charities, these have been notably successful. The Northampton, for at least fourteen successive years, produced the winning mechanical float for the London Students' Carnival, much money being collected from the public for Shelter and other causes. Task Force was an instrument for social good assisted by the students particularly in the sixties. The Paternoster Square Fair has been a most enterprising event with the additional benefit of excellent publicity for the University, as has the float in the Lord Mayor's Show, of course.

Social awareness has also been demonstrated in Christmas parties for local aged people, Halloween parties for children, blood donor sessions and the work of City Action. As to causes that have motivated protest, at least by the minority, there have been questions of: autonomy of the University, "personal files", foreign student fees and student grants, continuing concerns being fees and provision of nursery facilities. Excepting the occasion of the occupation of the Administration offices in 1977, these protests have been reasonably responsibly conducted.
1963 saw the first political societies, affiliated (against the advice of the Governing Body), and the same year a bar was first allowed in the Union. The first Sabbatical President was appointed in 1967-68 and a full-time administrator in 1978-79. In 1970, fine new facilities were provided.

A major enterprise of the Union in recent years was the Northampton Buildings Project, which provided some two hundred residential places. The Union formed a Housing Management Committee and in 1973-74 arranged with the Greater London Council a short lease on the slum clearance blocks, Northampton Buildings, using £10,000 from Union reserves and a loan of £30,000 from the University. Replumbing and rewiring had to be paid for, but the interior decoration was carried out by the students themselves. When the building came to be demolished, arrangement were made to lease another block elsewhere, Bullen House.

Presidents of the Students' Union Society

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<th>H. Douglas-Steers</th>
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Engineering Society

The Engineering Society was formed in 1905 and was shortly to nurture the Union Society, as we have seen. Mullineux Walmsey opened the proceedings on the 17th November 1905 with remarks on the formation of the Society and announced the availability of two prizes from Dr. Drysdale and the Electrical Laboratory Staff for the best paper read by a present student and the best paper by a past student. S.M. Hills, a third year student, read the first paper:—“A comparison between gas and electricity in regard to their use as illuminants.”

In 1913, the title was changed to Northampton Engineering College Engineering Society. After taking the chair at the inaugural meeting, Mullineux Walmsey became President of the Society and the pattern was set for the other College scientific societies (Optical, and Physical societies), in the high quality of its external speakers. These included R.S. Stafford on the Victor Bomber, R.P. Howgrave Graham on architectural methods 700 years ago and Oleg Kerensky on bridges. After Walmsey’s death, the Mullineux Walmsey lectures were arranged by the Engineering Society.

The University Library archives collection includes not only the Minute Books of the Engineering Society but also bound copies of the papers read.

The N’ions

The Northampton Past Day Students’ Association was founded by J. Cameron Rennie, S.M. Hills, R.E. Dickinson and L.W. Phillips early in 1909. The somewhat ugly, awkward, name N’ions was evolved in 1912 from the name of the Northampton Institute then commonly known by the students as the “N.I.” The purpose of THE N’IONS is to promote the interests of The City University and its past students. The Association has sought, over the years, to make both the experience of its members and their position as employers of benefit to students of the University. Since 1953, Barbara Gilbert has been, first, Honorary Assistant Secretary, and, subsequently, Honorary Secretary. The first annual dinner was held in 1922. There are branches in the Midlands and North-West. In 1910 the Northampton Gazette commenced publication, ceasing during the war years and restarting in 1919 as a joint magazine with the Union. It went on in this form until its title was changed to THE N’ION with volume 15 number 41 in 1935. It is now the annual publication of the Association.

The N’ions war memorial fund provides a travelling bursary, the twentieth anniversary award of which provided £500 to Miss Katherine M.
Lacy and Miss Barbara A. Buchanan to enable them to spend a summer in Uganda studying facilities for training unqualified nursing staff. Both students were on the St. Bartholomew’s Hospital/City University B.Sc. course. The Fund is administered by a Committee of Management composed of The Vice-Chancellor, The University Secretary, The President of The Union and N’Ions.

Presidents of The N’Ions

H.G. Jenkins       G.R. Strohmenger       L.A. Laffan
J.C. Rennie        J.W. Powell           J.L. Isley
E.V. Pannell       A.E. Shepherd         R.W.C. Gilbert
S.M. Hills         L.G. Semple           A.F. Thompson
H.K. Whitehorn     H.W. Grimmitt         A.P. Coulden
W.S. Lonsdale      H.S. Hind             R.T. Beazley
R.E. Dickinson     R.S. Stafford         E.W. Herrington
E.T. Painton       L.J. Gooch            D.W. Moore
E.L.M. Emmage      A.N.D. Kerr           L.L. Kenchington
V.R. Chadwick      J. Reading            I.D. Gardiner
C.H. Holbeach      J. Mortimer-Hawkins   F.E. Noble
E.M. Wolf          V.F. Cornish          D.B. Johnston
H. Eastman         E.A. Goddin           R.A. Shewring
J.C. Bradford      H.T. Ellingworth      J.E.H. Moore
A.G.H. Dent        O.A. Kerensky         D.J. Webb
A.B.A. Osmond      B.C.A. Cox           J. Buchanan
F.E.A. Manning     E.G. Russell

Convocation

By 1978-79 there were 3860 active members and 6457 inactive, an annual dinner and annual lecture had been commenced. T.J. Hughes had been Clerk from the beginning and the Chairmen were:- F.E.A. Manning, C.B.E., 1967; H.S. Hind, 1970; R.T. Beazley, 1974 and I.D. Gardiner, 1978.

Academic Staff Association

R.P. Howgrave Graham moved, and Mr. Golding seconded, a resolution “that a Committee be appointed to represent the staff” at a meeting of academic staff held for this purpose in November 1922. Further, the resolution defined the membership of the Committee on a departmental
basis. Thus originated the Academic Staff Association with Howgrave
Graham as Secretary and F.H. Reid as Chairman. The meeting also
resolved to write to the Principal about Christmas holidays and marking
examination papers. It was reported at the next meeting on 27th November
1922 that "the Doctor seemed inclined to consider favourably the granting
of 14 days holiday."¹⁰ The next meeting of 12th January, 1923, drew up
draft rules, the first being "That the association of the full-time teaching
staff of the N.P.I. for the pursuit of common interests be called The
Northampton Polytechnic Staff Association."

Among the early items of business were the arranging of a Dinner to
which L.B. Sebastian, Chairman of the Governing Body was invited,
summer holidays, and redundancies. The Report of the Association for
1922-23 records: "the close of the last term was darkly clouded by the loss
of seven members who left as a result of the fall in the numbers of
students." "In the majority of these cases there was no immediate prospect
of settled employment."¹¹ The next year there were four more
redundancies.

Elsewhere mention has been made of the L.C.C. requirement for full-
time teaching to be fairly strictly defined in order to facilitate the operation
of the superannuation scheme. These requirements were, at first, 1080
hours per annum in the building and 720 hours of class contact. Naturally,
this gave rise to much discussion within the Association. On the death of
the Principal in 1924, the Association agreed to setting up a combined
committee with other bodies in the College to determine the form the
memorial should take. In 1930 a Staff Social Committee was set up to take
care of the arrangements for the annual dinner amongst other things and
this removed a large proportion of business from the full Committee.

Arising out of a visit by the London University Inspectors in 1933, a
College Board of "recognized" teachers of the University was set up in
1935.¹² The inspectors had noted the excessive amount of routine teaching
and shortage of time for research. "Teachers may tend in consequence to
become progressively less worthy of recognition." The fact that studying
for the same degrees cost less at the Northampton than at a School of the
University was noted with disapproval. The matter of overloaded
timesheets was a perennial topic of the Academic Staff Association's
business as were other staff conditions, such as accommodation. Later the
draft Charter was the key topic.

Heads of Department appear to have first become eligible for
membership of the A.S.A. under the amended constitution of October
1962, for they were specifically excluded by that of 1956. In 1962 the

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change to *direct grant* status marked the commencement of academic staff involvement in the organs of College government. The elected members of the Academic Board played a key role in the evolution to university status and the A.S.A. itself has its place in the Charter and is the assembly from which academic staff are elected to Senate.

There are, of course, associations of Domestic, Administrative and Technical staffs. A *Staff Club* that brought together academic, technical and clerical staff was first mentioned in the A.S.A. records as early as 1925. From October 1952 it had a new constitution and the stated aim was "to provide social amenities for the members and to promote social intercourse amongst the staff." It survived until September 1971 when the balance of its funds, totalling £64 was transferred to the Staff Benevolent Fund and the new Common Rooms each set up their own committee.

**Staff-Student Council**

In 1942, a Staff-Student Council was set up "to co-ordinate the views of teaching staff and students in matters concerning their mutual welfare." It met once a term and its new constitution of 1962 required one representative from each department with two from each of the three major ones, plus sixteen students.

**The Academic Wives Association**

The Academic Wives Association was set up at a meeting held at Northampton Hall on 20th March 1967. Mrs. Tait was appointed the first Chairman, with Mrs. Garnett as Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Trow as Treasurer and Mrs. Soper as Secretary. It has proved to be of very positive benefit to the community life of the University by arranging visits and events, academic, cultural and social. The first meeting was a luncheon held at Northampton Hall on 1st May 1967.

The success of the Staff Residential Weekends, commencing with that of July 1960 at Girton College, Cambridge, was in large measure due to the presence of the ladies.
References

1. EMTAGE: E.L. Mayall N'Ion, April 1948.
2. Ibid.
7. MANNING: F.E.A. Audio Archive (The City University Archives).
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