



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair
Planning and Budget Committee

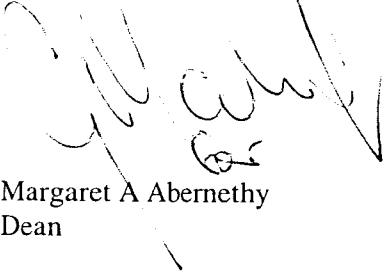
FROM: Professor Margaret Abernethy
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Commerce

DATE: 14 September 2004

SUBJECT: ~~Professorial Research~~ **Fellow Position**

I attach a letter from the Director of Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research proposing the establishment of a new Professorial ~~Research~~ Fellow position. Our Faculty Executive has endorsed this proposal and concur with the academic arguments and the statement about our ability to resource the position.

I therefore recommend that the Planning and Budget Committee endorse the recommendation for the establishment of a new Professorial ~~Research~~ Fellow Position.



Margaret A Abernethy
Dean

Encl

pv
R:\Deans_Office\ppv\DEAN 04\MEMO.PLANNING&BUDGET2.doc



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

MEMORANDUM

TO Professor Garry Marchant
Acting Dean
Faculty of Economics and Commerce

DATE 2 September 2004

SUBJECT Professorial Research Fellow position

FROM Professor Peter Dawkins
Director
Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research
Tel: 03 8344 2153
Fax: 03 8344 2111
Email: p.dawkins@unimelb.edu.au

Please find attached a proposal by the Melbourne Institute to establish a new Professorial Research Fellow position to lead the Labour Economics and Social Policy Research Program at the Melbourne Institute.

Could you please put this on the agenda for the Faculty Executive to seek their approval, and assuming this is granted forward it for consideration by Planning and Budget Committee and thereafter appointment of selection panel members from Academic Board.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Dawkins
Director and Ronald Henderson Professor



MELBOURNE INSTITUTE
of Applied Economic and Social Research

Level 7, 161 Barry Street, The University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010 Australia
General Enquiries: +61 3 8344 2100 Fax: +61 3 8344 2111

Email: melb-inst@unimelb.edu.au
<http://www.melbourneinstitute.com>



PROPOSAL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROFESSORIAL RESEARCH FELLOW (LABOUR ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL POLICY)

The Proposal

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research within the Faculty of Economics and Commerce proposes the appointment of a new Professorial Research Fellow position to lead the Labour Economics and Social Policy Research Program within the Department.

It is proposed that the appointee will provide academic leadership to staff within the Melbourne Institute and contribute to the managerial and entrepreneurial leadership of the Melbourne Institute.

The Melbourne Institute

The Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research is a research only department within the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. It was established in 1962. It undertakes research in the areas of:-

- Labour Economics and Social Policy
- Applied Macroeconomics
- Industrial Economics
- Health and Education: Economic Analysis and Policy.

The annual external research income of the Melbourne Institute is currently about \$8m per annum, a very large amount for a research institute in its field.

The Melbourne Institute has an active postgraduate scheme and encourages PhD supervision among its staff.

Its mission is to undertake high quality research in its areas of expertise and also to engage with the broader community, from business, government and community groups, and contribute strongly to public policy analysis, debate and development.

Academic Case for Appointment

The Melbourne Institute currently has five appointments at Professorial level. First there is the Director, Professor Peter Dawkins, who is the Ronald Henderson Professor of Applied Economic and Social Research. Secondly, Professor Mark Wooden is a Professorial Fellow who currently is undertaking the role of Deputy Director of the Melbourne Institute, the Director of the HILDA Survey as well as undertaking the responsibility of supervising the staff with the Labour Economics

and Social Policy research team (currently numbering 10 academic staff). The other appointments at Professorial level contribute to the management of our other research programs (applied macroeconomics and health and education).

With the substantial growth in the size of the Melbourne Institute's Labour Economics and Social Policy Research Program over the last three years (it has approximately doubled in income and staffing), Professor Mark Wooden is called upon to undertake a substantial amount of administrative and managerial responsibilities, as well as providing academic leadership, while being the Director of a major multi-million dollar contract with the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services, to run the national longitudinal survey of Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA). Within the Labour Economics and Social Policy area there is only one appointment at Level D and this is a fractional (50%) appointment with the person having the role as Deputy Director of the HILDA Survey.

Given the size of the Labour Economics and Social Policy Research Program (revenue in 2004 is expected to be \$1.8m, excluding the HILDA Survey) and that it has a higher proportion of its academic staff at junior levels than most Departments in the University, there is a strong need to bolster the academic leadership at Professorial level, to maintain the momentum of the Melbourne Institute's research agenda, to broaden the expertise of the Professoriate, to provide adequate mentoring for junior academic staff, and to open up an even wider range of research opportunities for the institute than it currently has.

In 2003, the Melbourne Institute advertised for two Professorial positions and we were hoping to appoint within the labour research program, however, we were not successful in obtaining a candidate that was suitable, we would like to again advertise for a Professorial position explicitly stating the need for a the candidate to lead the Labour Economics and Social Policy Research Program.

Resources

In addition to the external funding, which is on a rising trend and based on longer-term contracts than has historically been the case, it also receives substantial funding from the Faculty. Due largely to the Faculty's funding formula, which recognises research performance, the Melbourne Institute is receiving approximately \$900,000 from the Faculty this year, and this is on a rising trend.

When the current director was appointed in 1996, the Faculty's contribution to the Melbourne Institute's funds was \$150,000 per annum and the external funds were approximately \$1m and were on shorter-term contracts. Now the Faculty funding is approximately \$900,000 per annum, and external research funding about \$8m, on longer contracts.

This year the Melbourne Institute budgets to make a surplus which will take our reserves to about \$1.5m, indicating a level of financial strength that is required to make an additional professorial appointment.

Proposed Conditions of Appointment

It is proposed that the Professorial Fellowship be for three years in the first instance. The successful candidate would be reviewed annually under the performance development framework.