

UTR 7.104 – THE ROPER BEQUEST

- A. Lillian Jeanette Roper late of "Avenel" 26 Esplanade Southport, in the State of Queensland, widow who died on 7 March 1974 bequeathed \$300,000 to the University and in her will stated "It is my wish that the said University shall apply the said sum as follows-
- (i) As to FIFTY THOUSAND POUNDS part thereof in or towards the establishment or endowment of a Chair or Readership in the Faculty of Agricultural Science of the said University.
 - (ii) As to the remaining ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS of the said legacy as an endowment for postgraduate medical research at or under the control and direction of the said University. It is my further wish that the name of my late husband shall be suitably commemorated in respect of each part of the said sum so applied as for instance by the naming of a Chair, Readership or Endowment Fund by the designation 'C.R. Roper'";
- B. The University has consulted the executors concerning the application of the bequest in a manner compatible with the wishes expressed by the testatrix and the executors have approved the University's proposals for the use of the bequest by the establishment of a fund to support a fellowship for the conduct of research in agricultural science as provided in this regulation.
- C. The Faculty has undergone a series of name changes since Mrs Roper wrote her will; initially to the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, then to the Institute of Land and Food Resources and subsequently to the the 'Melbourne School of Land and Environment' (MSLE). The MSLE was disestablished as of 1 July 2014 and agricultural science is now taught by the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences.
- D. The University received securities to the value of \$300,000 in satisfaction of the bequest, which have increased in value to \$4,580,187 at 31 December 1994.

It is provided as follows-

1.
 - (a) The securities with a value of \$4,580,187 and any accumulations or additions or substitutions must be divided into three equal parts and constitute-
 - (i) as to one part a fund for research in agricultural science;
 - (ii) as to two parts a fund for post-graduate medical research.
 - (b) Each fund must be invested as the Council from time to time directs.

2. In relation to the fund for research in agricultural science –
 - (a) The net income of the fund for research in agricultural science is applied to the provision from time to time of a fellowship or fellowships.
 - (b) Each fellow must be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Faculty of Veterinary and Agricultural Sciences (“the Faculty”) on such terms and for such periods as the Council on the recommendation of the Faculty determines on each appointment.
 - (c) A fellowship may be awarded to encourage research in any field which is relevant to agricultural science and the resources used by the industry of agriculture. The industry is deemed to include both 'on farm' and 'off farm' activities, and resources to include both physical and human resources.
 - (d) Each fellow is known as a "C. R. Roper Fellow in Agricultural Science".

3. In relation to the fund for post-graduate medical research
 - (a) The net income of the medical research fund must be applied in the promotion of medical research by the appointment from time to time of a research fellow known as a "C.R. Roper Fellow".
 - (b) Each fellowship is awarded by the Council on the recommendation of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (which must make such recommendation on the advice of the Medical Research Committee established by Statute 5.4).
 - (c) Each C.R. Roper fellow in medical research is appointed for two years or for such further period and upon such terms as may be determined from time to time by the Council on the recommendation of the Medical Research Committee.

4.
 - (a) If in any year there is unexpended income in either fund the Council may on the recommendation of the appropriate Faculty carry the surplus forward to a further year as income or may direct that it be invested by way of addition to that fund.
 - (b) If in any year the income of a fund is insufficient for the purpose specified for that fund the Council may at any time and from time to time direct that the capital of that fund be resorted to, to provide for such purpose.