

UTR 7.335 – Derek Denton Oration in Science and the Arts

Background

- A. The University received \$500,000 (**Gift**) from Derek Denton AC FRS (**Donor**) pursuant to a Memorandum of Gift dated 4 July 2018 for the purpose of supporting, in perpetuity, “all costs associated with the University hosting the world’s most eminent creative people to deliver special occasion lectures in science and the arts within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (or its successor) (**MDHS**) at the University of Melbourne and may be held in collaboration with other faculties, including the Faculty of Arts (or its successor)” (**Purpose**).
- B. The Donor has explained his vision for the Oration is to attract a recipient of significant stature to broaden and influence the academic community in an area of scholarship. The Donor’s hope is that the scholar will interface with the University community over several days, which would include: Oration, private dinner(s), meetings with relevant University Departments, and the opportunity to meet with young researchers in the field. (**Donor’s Vision**)
- C. The Donor, Professor Denton is an eminent Australian scientist, known for his research on the control of body fluids and in the last five decades for exploring the nature of consciousness in animals and humans. He has been based at the University for more than fifty years. He has been Director Emeritus of the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health since 2010, and Emeritus Research Professor of Experimental Physiology and Medicine. He is also a consultant at the Baker Research Institute. Professor Denton graduated from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1947.

The Inaugural Derek Denton Lecture in Science and the Arts Lecture was given on 30 March 2010 by Martin Rees, Lord Rees, of Ludlow OM PRS, one of the world's preeminent cosmologists. Lord Rees' lecture was titled 'Life and the Cosmos'. Subsequent lectures have been given by Professor Erling Norrby, formerly Dean of Medicine and Professor of Microbiology, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, and Secretary General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science on the 17 May 2012, titled 'Nobel Prizes and Nature's Secrets'. The inaugural lecture in the Arts was given by Professor Semir Zeki FRS, the discoverer of the organization of colour vision in the brain, on 4 October 2016 titled 'The Neurobiology of Art'.

- D. This University Trust Record is the means by which the University records –
- (1) the trusts upon which the University holds trust property, including the capital sum; and
 - (2) the administrative arrangements for the implementation and ongoing performance of those trusts from time to time.

The trust terms and administrative arrangements governing the Gift are as follows

Trust terms

1. A perpetual trust was established for the Purpose on receipt by the University of the Gift and the University is the trustee of that trust.
2. The University must invest and preserve the Gift and any accumulations and additions to the Gift and apply only the net income arising from those funds to support the Purpose.
3. The University, as trustee may also draw upon a portion of the Gift, where necessary to provide sufficient funds to carry out the Donor's Vision as expressed in the Purpose, subject to the University obtaining a recommendation from the Advisory Group in support of such step.
4. The fund represented by the Gift is able to receive additional donations or bequests for the Purpose and may be supplemented from University funds. Additional donations or bequests may be added to the capital sum represented by the Gift or be fully expended as specified at the time of contribution.
5. Any unexpended income in any year may be:
 - a. retained as income in which case it will be available in any subsequent year to be applied for the Purpose; and/or
 - b. added to the capital sum represented by the Gift, in which case that unexpended income will be forever regarded as capital and will therefore be preserved in the same manner as the capital sum represented by the Gift.

It can be noted that occasionally the Orator may be resident in Australia in which case the expenses may be much less than bringing the Orator from the other side of the globe by First class or Business class airfare. Then it may be possible in some instances to get three Orators in a three year period but this is for the Advisory Group to judge.

6. The University will establish an advisory group (**Advisory Group**) to provide recommendations to the University regarding suitable speakers, engagement activities and other matters relevant to the delivery of the special occasion lectures. The Advisory Group will comprise up to five members and will thereupon elect a chair from amongst them. In the event of a tied choice of recommendation of a speaker by the first Advisory Group, Dr Robyn Williams will have the casting vote. Professor Shitij Kapur, Dean of MDHS will convene the first meeting.

Administrative arrangements

In order to implement the trust terms, the University has determined that:

1. The Gift and any further donations received by the University, excluding any further donations which are specified to be expendable, are to be transferred to

the University's long-term investment common fund at the end of the quarter following receipt by the University, and remain there until Council otherwise directs.

2. All costs associated with delivering these special occasion lectures in keeping with the aspirations expressed in the Donor's Vision include, but are not limited to the following:
 - (a) administrative and other support for the Advisory Group and the hosting of the lectures;
 - (b) identification and selection of speaker(s) including expenses relating to the Advisory Group meeting and considering potential speakers;
 - (c) accommodation and travel expenses including for speaker(s), their travel companion(s) and the Advisory Group where necessary;
 - (d) promotion and advertising of the lecture and related activities;
 - (e) delivery of the special lectures and associated hosting/reception of attendees;
 - (f) all audio visual and digital communication activities for sharing the lecture world-wide;
 - (g) hosting the speaker and/or carrying out other engagement activities involving the speaker held in conjunction with the lecture itself, and may also involve engagement with other institutions, academic staff, students and the wider community;
 - (h) all other things deemed necessary by the Dean of MDHS, in consultation with the Deans of Arts (or its successors) as appropriate, to ensure the Donor's Vision for the lectures is maintained into the future.
3. The University should deliver one lecture in each area every three years with the aim of influencing the academic and broader community in an area of scholarship.
4. Members of the Advisory Group should be individuals *'with suitable curiosity, desire for knowledge, and capacity to recruit support, that is someone, inter alia, with important international connections and outstanding reputation'*.
5. The Council on recommendation from the Dean of MDHS and the Advisory Group may authorise the application of capital for the Purpose.

The Dean of MDHS or its successor is authorised to authorise expenditure for the Purpose (including selection of the speaker) on the recommendation of the Advisory Group on behalf of the University.