

UTR [7.313] – THOMAS H. LABY CHAIR OF PHYSICS

Background

- A. Betty Eudora Laby (**Donor**) was a statistician who began her career working on the Optical Munitions Panel. By 1950 she had begun analysing data at the University of Melbourne running a laboratory in the Statistics Department where data was processed for staff and researchers. Miss Laby also worked on the Council for Scientific Industrial Research automatic computer in the Statistics Department as well as working for the British Tabulating Machine Company and Alcoa. Miss Laby was the daughter of Emeritus Professor Thomas Laby, the Head of the Physics School [Department of Physics] at the University from 1915-1944 and together with her sister, Dr Jean Laby (BSc 1940; MSc 1951; PhD 1959), lived in one of the eight original houses provided for Professors and their families at the University. Miss Laby was awarded an honorary MSc by the University in 1985.
- B. The Donor's will left one half of her residuary estate to the University for the purpose of establishing a Chair to be called "The Thomas H Laby Chair of Physics" in the School of Physics (**Purpose**).
- C. The University received from the Donor's estate the sum of \$8,580,000 on 1 July 2015 and a further sum of \$412,689.69 in October 2015. (**Bequest**)
- 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 Bequest are as follows:

Trust Terms

1. A perpetual trust was established for the Purpose upon receipt by the University of the Bequest and the University is trustee of that trust.
2. The Professor appointed to the Chair is to be known as 'The Thomas H. Laby Professor of Physics' (**Professor**).
3. The Professor is to undertake research of the highest international standing in a 'leading edge' field of research in experimental or observational physics, preferably in an area not being undertaken by the School of Physics (**School**).
4. Subject to any statutes, regulations or other legislation made by, and to any other rules or policies of, the University from time to time governing the appointment of Professors, the Professor shall be selected by a committee

comprising all the Professors of Physics at the University. Before making that selection, that committee must obtain and consider the advice of one or more National and International Members of the Australian Academy of Science who are recommended by the President of Australian Academy of Science for that purpose.

5. The academic staff of the School shall be consulted as part of the process for drawing up a shortlist of suitable candidates for the appointment of the Professor.
6. The annual income from the Bequest is to be used to pay the remuneration of the Professor and if in any year for any reason the income of the Bequest is not sufficient to pay the remuneration of the Professor, the University shall have absolute discretion to use capital of the Bequest to supplement the aforesaid remuneration and if the University fails to use its discretion the income shall be applied at the direction of the Head of School towards such research conducted in the School which will enrich the research or teaching of Physics at the University.
7. In each year, income not required for the payment of the remuneration of the Professor is to be applied in the discretion of the Professor towards the creation and maintenance of a research unit attached to the Chair or for such other purpose or purposes as the Professor shall in his or her absolute discretion determine.
8. The University may from time to time apply or use such part(s) of the capital of the Bequest towards such research which will enrich the research in or the teaching of Physics at the University on the condition that the use or application of such part(s) of the Bequest does not in any way jeopardise the continuance of the Chair.

Administrative Arrangements

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

1. subject to trust terms 4 and 5, the Provost is authorised by the University to appoint the Professor (upon recommendation from the Dean of the Faculty of Science) (**Faculty**) and in accordance with the University's policies and procedures for the appointment of senior academics;
2. the Professor shall be appointed for such period and on such conditions as the Dean from time to time determines;
3. an advisory group comprised of members of the Faculty may be formed by the Dean to help determine the field of research in accordance with trust term 3.
4. the Professor must obtain approval from the Dean of the Faculty in relation to any expenditure in accordance with trust term 7; and

5. the Dean of the Faculty is authorised by the University to make any decisions regarding the application of capital in accordance with trust term 8.

[New UTR certified 9 January 2017]