

UTR7.220 – THE ALBERT SHIMMINS FUND

Recitals-

- A. Dr Albert John Shimmins, of 36 Phillipson Street, Albert Park in the State of Victoria, BEng, BCom, MEng (Elect), DSc (Melb) astronomer and scientist ('donor') whose career in radio astronomy drew upon his passion for mathematics, donated the sum of \$150,000 to the faculty of Science in May 2002. The donation was made to establish The Albert Shimmins Fund, for the purpose of supporting research activities in the faculty of Science ('faculty'), including for scholarships, equipment and grants.
- B. The donor donated two further sums to the fund of \$200,000 each in November 2002 and April 2004 respectively, and the sum of \$40,000 in June 2006, making a total amount of \$590,000 during his lifetime from those gifts.
- C. The donor died on 15 October 2007. Further donations totalling \$1,050 were received from the donor's family and friends in November 2007.
- D. By the donor's Will dated 3 March 2004, the donor bequeathed his residuary estate to the University ('bequest') as follows -

'...to the University of Melbourne Faculty of Science'.
- E. The University received \$13,999,119.86 in satisfaction of the bequest (subject to payment of some expenses referable to the administration of the estate).
- F. The donor obtained a diploma in mechanical engineering from Footscray Technical School in 1941, and in 1943 obtained by a degree in electrical engineering from the University, where he then taught while studying commerce part-time, completing the course in 1947. He was awarded a masters in electrical engineering in 1952.
- G. In 1953, he joined the organisation that became the Weapons Research Establishment at Salisbury and Woomera, in South Australia, and later the Defence Science and Technology Organisation. The Blue Streak intercontinental missile, a joint project with the British, was the main development program during the donor's employment at the Weapons Research Establishment. He worked on the electronic guidance devices and systems for tracking the rockets launched from Woomera.
- H. In 1961, he moved to CSIRO's radio physics division at Parkes, NSW, where the radio telescope, essentially a large tracking antenna, was under construction. The donor investigated and later installed the first computer to direct the telescope and record and process data. He was in the control room at Parkes Radio Telescope, on 21 July 1969, when Apollo 11 reached the moon, tracking Apollo 11 and relaying the television pictures of the first moon walk.
- I. He made significant astronomical discoveries and published many scientific papers. One discovery was quasi-stellar objects, or quasars (specifically 3C 273), brighter than a billion suns. The paper published in Nature (Hazard, Mackey, Shimmins) is credited as the first identification of a quasi-stellar object with an optical telescope image. His publications contributed to the first Parkes catalogue that became a standard

astronomical reference for radio sources, and is renowned for accuracy, detail and breadth of coverage.

- J. In 1981, the donor retired to Melbourne and was awarded a doctor of science degree, the highest academic achievement, by the University for his publications on astronomy. In retirement, he resumed his hobby of oil painting as well as exploring his interest in quantum physics.
- K. Having regard to the terms of the Will and the fund established by the donor during his lifetime, the University decided to add the bequest to the fund.

It is provided as follows –

1. The sum of \$150,000 and any accumulations and additions to the fund forms a fund called 'The Albert Shimmins Fund' ('fund') and the fund must be paid into one or more investment common funds and remain there until Council directs otherwise.
2. Income from the fund is to be applied by the dean of the faculty of Science ('dean') to support research activities in the faculty which may include but are not limited to the provision of scholarships and the purchase of equipment.
3. In any year the dean may direct that income of the fund be added to the capital to enable a greater income for awarding in a subsequent year.
4. In any year Council on the recommendation of the dean may direct that the capital of the fund may be applied for the purpose in section 2 of this record.

[Made 1/7/02; revoked as a Regulation and certified as a University trust record 26/5/10; Recital A and B am; Recital C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J and K add; ss 1, 2 and 3 am; ss 4 add, 11/5/12]