UTR2.105 - JOHN ANDREW TENNANT MORTLOCK BEQUEST

Background –

A. John Andrew Tennant Mortlock (‘donor’) (1894-1950) died on 15 March 1950 and bequeathed his residuary estate to the University’s Waite Agricultural Research Institute and the Libraries Board of South Australia, in equal shares, subject to a life interest of his wife, Dorothy Elizabeth Mortlock (1906-1979):

Clause 18(c) Subject to the interests of my said wife in my residuary estate my Trustees shall stand possessed thereof UPON TRUST to divide the same into two equal parts and pay one such part to the Libraries Board and pay the other part to the University of Adelaide for use in connection with the Waite Agricultural Research Institute and I desire but without imposing any trust or obligation that a portion of the latter part may be used by the said University in building a wing or wings as an addition to the present buildings at the said Research Institute and to be known as the “John Mortlock Wing” of such buildings.

B. Mrs Mortlock died on 10 August 1979 and the donor’s residuary estate vested in accordance with his Will. The residuary estate comprised various investments, properties, and other interests. Rather than sell the assets and divide the proceeds, the University and the Libraries Board agreed for the University to accept Martindale Hall, the land, stock and plant, and the Libraries Board to accept all cash, shares, debentures and mortgages.

C. The donor was a successful pastoralist, stud Merino breeder and philanthropist. In addition to this bequest, he bequeathed over £73,000 to cultural organizations and charities, including bequests to the University for scientific research in the Medical School (UTR2.29) and to support the Ranson Mortlock Scholarship (UTR2.17).

D. Mrs Mortlock was also a generous philanthropist, including establishing the trust set out in UTR2.39.

E. Further reading: Lumen Winter 2013 Issue $50-million boost for animal and plant research.

Investment of the fund

1. The net proceeds to the University from the sale of certain properties in 2012 have been used to establish an Endowment Fund to continue the research activities at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute.

Obligations

2. In administering the fund, the University must adhere to the terms specified and is obliged:-
(a) to invest the capital sum according to the directions of the donor; and

(b) to establish a fund to be administered according to the wishes of the donor.

Administration

3. Income to be used in connection with activities at the University Waite Campus that correspond with those areas in which activities were undertaken by the Waite Agricultural Research Institute around the date of the Mortlock Will, that is, the focus of research activities at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute primarily on crop and pasture aspects of agriculture and in particular on agricultural chemistry, agronomy and agrostology, genetics and plant breeding, entomology, plant pathology and plant physiology.