UTR2.16 - THE FRED JOHNS SCHOLARSHIP FOR BIOGRAPHY

Background –

A. Frederic Johns (‘donor’) died on 3 December 1932 and under the terms of his Will dated 1 September 1931 and codicil thereto dated 31 October 1931 bequeathed a pecuniary legacy of £1,500 to the University of Adelaide (‘bequest’) to be administered in the following manner:

‘I DIRECT my Trustees to pay the sum of One thousand five hundred pounds (£1,500) to the Council of the University of Adelaide for the founding of a Scholarship at the said University to be designated “The Fred Johns Scholarship for Biography” to be awarded, if possible, annually to a graduate or undergraduate who shall be required to write an extensive original biography of a deceased eminent Australian (not necessarily Australian born) the subject of the biography on every occasion to be selected by the University authorities but no person having formed the subject of a biography for the purpose of the Scholarship is to be again chosen during the first half century of the existence of the Scholarship AND I DESIRE that in addition to the sum that the Council of the University shall in their wisdom set apart from the income derivable from the endowment as a monetary award to the recipient of the Scholarship each year and in addition to any other form of recognition of the winner which the University authorities may be pleased to make, provision shall be made for the printing and publication in full of the manuscript securing the award, such publication to be in volume or book form and associated with the Fred Johns Scholarship foundation and also with the name of the author of the accepted biography.’

B. Fred Johns, whose 1906 publication ‘John’s Notable Australians’ was the precursor of ‘Who’s Who in Australia’, founded ‘The Fred Johns Scholarship for Biography’ to encourage the writing of biographies on eminent Australians.

C. The University accepted the bequest upon the trusts specified by the donor and the bequest therefore became the capital subject to those trusts (‘capital sum’).

Name of the fund

1. The capital sum, all income arising from the capital sum and any accumulations and additions thereto together form a fund called ‘The Fred Johns Scholarship for Biography’ (‘fund’).

Investment of the fund

2. The fund is to be amalgamated for the purposes of investment, and held in a common fund, and the net income earned by the common fund shall be credited, rateably, to the funds so amalgamated and thereafter distributed according to the bequest of the donor.
Obligations

3. 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 scholarship in the manner described in the following Rules.

Rules

1. Scholarships to the total value of $14,000 shall be offered annually to staff and students of the Faculty of Arts, and are called ‘The Fred Johns Scholarships for Biography’.

2. Scholarship holders shall be required to write a biography of publishable standard and length on a deceased eminent Australian (not necessarily Australian born).

3. The Faculty, through its Research Committee, shall call for expressions of interest for the scholarships each year from amongst its postgraduate students and academic staff.

4. Expressions of interest must include the proposed subject of the biography.

5. The Faculty’s Research Committee will then review the expressions of interest and call for applications based on one, some or all of the subject(s) nominated by those expressions of interest.

6. Applications must include a brief summary of the project, a proposed budget, details of research methodology, a list of relevant scholarly material in existence on the subject of the biography and a relevant CV.

7. The Faculty’s Research Committee shall award the scholarships at its discretion. In selecting the successful applicant the Committee will consider the detail and clarity of the intended methodology and publication plans as well as the applicant’s CV.

8. The number of scholarships awarded and value of each scholarship shall be at the discretion of the Research Committee but the total value awarded shall not exceed the annual income distribution available from the Endowment Fund.

9. The scholarship winner(s) shall be awarded 50% of the value of the scholarship at the time of the awards being made and on application to the Research Committee the balance shall be paid on receipt of evidence that satisfactory progress has been made with the project.

10. The writers shall lodge the completed biography with the Faculty within 2 years of the scholarship being awarded or within such further period as the Research Committee upon application may deem expedient. Each biography must include a synopsis and a full bibliography. If the work is adjudged to be of sufficient merit, publication of the work shall be
encouraged. Financial assistance may be provided to achieve this, subject to availability of funds. If the work is subsequently published, clear acknowledgement of the Faculty and of the scholarship shall be made in the publication.

11. Should there be no applications of sufficient merit, then the Scholarship shall not be awarded that year and the funds may be used in a subsequent year, or added to the capital sum in the Endowment Fund, at the discretion of the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

12. The University may vary the rules from time to time in a manner consistent with the University’s legal obligations and policies.

Approved by Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor & Vice President (Research) 30 October 2018