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

4. The Fred Johns Scholarship for Biography is administered according to the following Rules:-
   (1) Scholarships to the value of $8,000 shall be offered annually to staff and students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, and be 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 and Research Training committee shall call for applications for the scholarships in December each year from amongst its postgraduate students and academic staff. Applications should include a brief summary of the project, a proposed budget, details of research methodology and a list of relevant scholarly material in existence on the subject of the biography. Applications shall be lodged with the Faculty office by 25 March each year and the committee shall award the scholarships, subject to applications being of sufficient merit. The allocation of funds shall be at the discretion of the committee.
   (4) The scholarship winners shall be awarded 50% of the value of the scholarship at the time of the awards being made and on application to the committee the balance shall be paid on receipt of evidence that satisfactory progress has been made with the project.
   (5) 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 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.
   (6) The rules of this scholarship may be varied from time to time, but the title and the overall purpose of the endowment shall not be changed.