Background –

A. The Charles and Frank Fenner Postgraduate Research Grants were established in 2009 at the University of Adelaide, as the result of a generous gift (‘donation’) from Emeritus Professor Frank Fenner CMG MBE AC (‘donor’) who graduated in medicine at the University of Adelaide in 1938. Following his death in November 2010, Professor Fenner ensured the fund became perpetual through a bequest left for the continuation of these grants.

B. In November 2014, the fund was augmented by a bequest from Frank Fenner of $80,000:-

“…to the UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE for the purposes of supporting scholarship and research activities in the discipline of Geographical and Environmental Studies and called the ‘Charles Fenner Foundation Fund’…”

C. Professor Frank Fenner is credited with overseeing the eradication of smallpox and controlling Australia’s rabbit plague through the introduction of myxomatosis. He had an outstanding career as a microbiologist and world expert on pox-virus. He was chairman of the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication and, in 1980, announced the eradication of smallpox to the World Health Authority.

D. Professor Frank Fenner’s father, Charles Fenner, was also associated with the University, being integral in establishing geography studies at the University. The Charles Fenner Prize for Geography is named in his honour. Charles Fenner was South Australian Director of Education from 1939 to 1946.

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

Name of the fund

1. The capital sum(s), all income arising from the capital sum and any accumulations and additions thereto together form a fund called ‘The Charles and Frank Fenner Postgraduate Research Grants’ (‘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 trusts specified by 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 research grants in the manner described in the following Rules.

Rules

4. The Charles and Frank Fenner Postgraduate Research Grants are administered according to the following Rules:-

(1) The Grants will be formally named ‘The Charles and Frank Fenner Postgraduate Research Grants’.

(2) The Grants will provide financial assistance to currently enrolled Masters by Research or Doctor of Philosophy students in the Discipline of Geographical and Environmental Studies with a preference for primary field-based research.

(3) The Grants may be used for any research costs such as:
   • travel costs
   • purchase of equipment
   • purchase of data
   • data collection

(4) Students can apply for funding by 30 June each year.

(5) It is anticipated that the annual distribution of money will be derived from the interest accrued by the capital invested in the University’s Endowment Fund (leaving the capital intact as a perpetual fund) and could be allocated as one $5,000 grant or as a number of smaller grants, depending on the applications received.

(6) Selection will be based on the quality of the research proposal and the decision will be made annually by a small Committee from the Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies or equivalent. The Director of that Department, or equivalent program, will coordinate the selection process and Selection Committee, as well as the administration and payment of the grants to the successful recipients.

(7) Applications will be called for in February each year and the Grants must be utilised in the year in which they are awarded.