

Citation: Mr Norman Ross Adler AC

14 April 2011, 10:00am

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Mr Norman Ross Adler AC.

Mr Adler is being admitted to the degree of Doctor of the University for his distinguished service to the University.

Mr Adler was appointed to the University Council as an independent member in May 1998 and served the University for 11 years in a number of capacities including Chair of the Finance Committee from November 2000 and Deputy Chancellor in March 2007 until his retirement in December 2009.

Mr Adler has also served the University of Adelaide as Chair of the Graduate School of Management's Advisory Committee, and was Vice-Patron of the Alumni Association.

In 1999 Mr Adler was made an officer of the Order of Australia for service to business and commerce and for the promotion of the arts in South Australia. On 11 June 2007, Mr Adler was made a Companion of the Order of Australia "For service to business and commerce, particularly through the promotion of international trade and as a contributor to company and commercialisation development in Australia, to the community through administrative roles with educational institutions, and as a supporter of the arts".

During his time as Managing Director of Santos, Santos made a large donation to the University which enabled the establishment of the School of Petroleum Engineering on 23 June 2000. Mr Adler retired from his position at Santos in September 2000. Mr Adler acquired Amtrade International Pty Ltd in 2001 of which he was appointed Chairman and CEO.

On 3 August 2003, the University admitted Mr Adler to the degree of Master of Business administration *ad eundem gradum*. This was in recognition of Mr Adler's lifetime of achievement in business leadership which has included, apart from 16 years as Managing Director of Santos:

- senior positions with Brown and Dureau Ltd and Australian Paper Manufacturers Ltd (now Amcor Ltd);
- a Director and Chairman of the MFP Development Corporation and the MFP International Advisory Board;
- a Director of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia;
- Chairman of Austrade (the Australian Trade Commission);
- a Director of Telstra Corporation Ltd;
- a Presiding Member of the Selection Committee of the Australian Wheat Board and a Chair and member of the Queensland Sugar Corporation Selection Committee;

Mr Adler was also a Member of the Business Council of Australia for nearly 20 years, a Member of the Board of the Australian Institute of Petroleum, a Member of the Corporations and Securities Panel, and a Member of the Board of Governors of the National Institute of Labour Studies.

Mr Adler has also played a vital role in South Australia's arts community.

He was Chairman of the Board of the Art Gallery of South Australia for 10 years. He has also served as a member of the Board of Governors of the Adelaide Festival of Arts and Chairman of the Board of Governors. He has served as Chair of the Arts and Cultural Development Taskforce SA, as a member of the Board of Governors of the State Theatre Company, and as Deputy Chairman of the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

Mr Adler's expertise and wide experience in business and finance was to prove invaluable in helping the University achieve a sound financial position. From his position as Chair of Finance Committee Mr Adler provided critical assistance in putting in place a budget strategy to strengthen the University's capital base. Over his period as Chair of Finance Committee

the University's surpluses grew from \$1.7M to \$67M and by 2009 the University was in a healthy financial state enabling it to take on a major \$400M infrastructure upgrade program.

During Mr Adler's term the University went forward with expanding student numbers, particularly international student numbers, and embarking on an ambitious building program to expand and modernise our teaching and research facilities. While being supportive of the University's ambitions, Mr Adler recognised that confidence and optimism can entail risks of their own and he always sought to inject a sobering influence.

The University also experienced internal and external challenges such as the Global Financial Crisis. Mr Adler's wisdom and guidance in helping Council and Finance Committee deal with potential challenges was invaluable to the University during a period of growth. The extent that the University is able to successfully face future challenges owes a great deal to Mr Adler's contributions of more than a decade. We owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, for admission to the degree of Doctor of the University —Norman Ross Adler.