
THE ACADEMIC USERS' GUIDE TO ETHICAL ENTREPRENEURIALISM

Modern University life inevitably involves us in a wide range of interactions with government and its agencies, non-government organisations and the private sector. These interactions provide great mutual benefit and enable us to fulfil our role as a public University by contributing to social and economic development, and acting as source of ideas and innovation.

These interactions can also pose challenges to the integrity and independence of our academic values both for individuals and to the institution as a whole. These challenges can come in many forms including restrictions on the right to publish results from research, and on ownership of data; competing claims to intellectual property generated from research, more subtle forms of bias in the direction of research that stem from the availability of resources. The source of financial support for research, and for academic appointments in the form of sponsored chairs, and the conditions that may be placed on such appointments also generate concerns within the academic community. Similarly, the personal benefits derived from contract research by some academic staff may be perceived to represent a conflict of interest and to compromise their independence.

To address these concerns, the Provost is establishing a joint working group with the Academic Board to examine the range of current University policies that address these issues with a view to developing a consolidated statement and guidance addressing “ethical entrepreneurialism” within the University community.

The purpose of the agenda item is to seek early input from the Board on the range of issues that should be covered, and to obtain early ideas and opinions on these issues.

In the associated electronic document, we detail the hierarchy of University documents that define the terms of our interaction with society, together with some case studies that may

stimulate discussion on how the ideals and obligations of the University can be practically met.

Bruce Sutton and Don Nutbeam

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

1 EXTRACTS FROM ACTS, RESOLUTIONS AND POLICIES

1.1 UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ACT 1989 (AS AMENDED)

6 Object and functions of University

(1) The object of the University is the promotion, within the limits of the University's resources, of scholarship, research, free inquiry, the interaction of research and teaching, and academic excellence.

(2) The University has the following principal functions for the promotion of its object:

- (a) the provision of facilities for education and research of university standard,
- (b) the encouragement of the dissemination, advancement, development and application of knowledge informed by free inquiry,
- (c) the provision of courses of study or instruction across a range of fields, and the carrying out of research, to meet the needs of the community,
- (d) the participation in public discourse,
- (e) the conferring of degrees, including those of Bachelor, Master and Doctor, and the awarding of diplomas, certificates and other awards,
- (f) the provision of teaching and learning that engage with advanced knowledge and inquiry,
- (g) the development of governance, procedural rules, admission policies, financial arrangements and quality assurance processes that are underpinned by the values

and goals referred to in the functions set out in this subsection, and that are sufficient to ensure the integrity of the University's academic programs.

(3) The University has other functions as follows:

(a) the University may exercise commercial functions comprising the commercial exploitation or development, for the University's benefit, of any facility, resource or property of the University or in which the University has a right or interest (including, for example, study, research, knowledge and intellectual property and the practical application of study, research, knowledge and intellectual property), whether alone or with others,

(b) the University may develop and provide cultural, sporting, professional, technical and vocational services to the community,

(c) the University has such general and ancillary functions as may be necessary or convenient for enabling or assisting the University to promote the object and interests of the University, or as may complement or be incidental to the promotion of the object and interests of the University,

(d) the University has such other functions as are conferred or imposed on it by or under this or any other Act.

(4) The functions of the University may be exercised within or outside the State, including outside Australia.

1.2 UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY (ACADEMIC GOVERNANCE) RULE 2003

Part 2 – Functions and membership of the Academic Board

4.1 General functions

Subject to the governing authority and powers of the Senate and to the powers of the Vice-Chancellor, the Academic Board has principal responsibility:

4.1.1 to maintain the highest standards in teaching, scholarship and research and, in that process, to safeguard the academic freedom of the University;

1.3 PRINCIPLES INFORMING LEARNING AND TEACHING

For more than 150 years, the charter of the University of Sydney has been 'to promote liberal education and useful knowledge ... for the benefit of all'. During that time the profile and reach of the University has grown nationally and internationally with an expanding network of partner institutions and the exchange of ideas, research and disciplinary advances. Our students are participants in a global culture of research at the University. This in turn shapes in unique ways their experience of learning - which means the act, process and experience of gaining knowledge and skills.

The University of Sydney is an international research institution which values:

- Excellence – of students, learning environment and learning experiences
- Intellectual inquiry
- Academic Freedom
- Diversity of defensible opinions and values
- Integrity and ethical practice in academic endeavours.

1.4 CHARTER OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM: SENATE RESOLUTION 180/07

Senate endorsed the following Charter of Academic Freedom:

The University of Sydney declares its commitment to free enquiry as necessary to the conduct of a democratic society and to the quest for intellectual, moral and material advance in the human condition.

The University of Sydney affirms both its institutional right and responsibility, and the rights and responsibilities of its individual scholars, to pursue knowledge for its own sake, wherever the pursuit might lead, and to transmit the knowledge so gained both within the academy and into the community at large.

The University of Sydney, in accordance with the principles enunciated in its mission and policies, undertakes to promote and support:

- the free and responsible pursuit of knowledge through research
- the dissemination of the outcomes of research and teaching, as publications and creative works, and in media discourse
- principled and informed discussion of all aspects of knowledge and culture

This Charter of Academic Freedom is endorsed by the Senate and Academic Board of The University of Sydney subject to the requirement that all action taken in support of or in reliance upon it must comply with relevant law, Codes of Conduct, and University policy.

1.5 THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR STAFF

1 Principles

This Code has been formulated to promote the highest ethical and moral standards and to foster an understanding of the conduct expected of staff members.

The role of the University is to create, preserve, transmit and apply knowledge and understanding through teaching, research, creative works and other forms of scholarship.

In carrying out this role the University reaffirms its commitment to the values of:

- University autonomy;
- intellectual freedom and social responsibility;
- recognition of the importance of ideas and pursuit of critical and open inquiry;
- tolerance, honesty and respect as the hallmarks of relationships throughout the University community;
- understanding the needs and expectations of the communities it serves;
- constantly improving the quality and delivery of its services.

All staff members should be aware of and act within the spirit of the role and values of the University.

4 Personal and Professional Behaviour

In performing their duties all staff members must:

- maintain and develop knowledge and understanding of their area of expertise or professional field;
- exercise their best professional and ethical judgement, making decisions without bias using the factual information available;

- treat students, members of the public and other staff members with respect, impartiality, courtesy and sensitivity;
- maintain a co-operative and collaborative approach to working relationships;
- be able to feel comfortable about raising the often complex professional and ethical issues which may face them in their work;
- perform their duties diligently and conscientiously;
- act fairly and reasonably, carrying out work with integrity and objectivity;
- respect the confidentiality and privacy of information entrusted to them in the course of employment;
- uphold equal opportunity and health and safety policies and practices;
- ensure efficient and effective use of University resources, making improvements wherever possible and reducing waste;
- act within the spirit of the University goals, policies and procedures;
- comply with any legislative, industrial or administrative requirements; and
- ensure that their participation in non-University activities does not conflict with their employment with the University.

5 Conflicts of Interest

Staff members must ensure that there is no actual or perceived conflict between their personal interests and their University duties and responsibilities.

7 Acceptance of Gifts and Benefits Staff members must not solicit gifts or benefits, nor accept gifts or benefits either for themselves or for another person, which might in any way, either directly or indirectly, compromise or influence them in their official capacity. For instance, gifts or hospitality offered as an inducement to purchase are not acceptable.

Gifts of a nominal value (less than \$100 as a guide) used for promotional purposes by the donor may be accepted. Individuals must, however, be satisfied that they cannot be compromised by the acceptance. Gifts of a nominal value above this amount may be retained at the discretion of the relevant supervisor.

Gifts of money are not acceptable.

8 Public Comment

The University supports the right of staff members to speak publicly on any issue. However in cases where the issues discussed relate to policy and other decisions of University management, unless they are officially representing the University, it is mandatory that individuals make it clear that they are expressing a personal point of view and that the views are not necessarily those of the University.

1.6 DRAFT SENATE POLICY ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Research

- 3 Conflicts of interest may arise where you:
 - (a) are financially involved with, or hold a position in, an external entity that funds any part of the research, teaching or public communication being undertaken by you, including by means of direct or unrestricted grants, benefits in-kind (such as the provision of materials or facilities), or the support of individuals by the provision of benefits (such as travel and accommodation expenses to attend conferences); or
 - (b) have any financial involvement with, any organisation or external entity or agents acting on behalf of such entities with a direct interest in the subject matter of the research.
- 4 Except with the express written permission of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), you must not enter into an agreement with an external entity that limits the scope of your research or teaching activity at the University. This includes agreements that contain exclusive provider, non-competition, or right of first-refusal clauses.
- 5 Where your research, or the presentation or publication of your research, is subject to any of the conditions of (3) above, you must expressly declare, in any presentation or publication of the research, the commercial or other interests of the external entity in the research.

Intellectual Property and Commercialisation

- 6 (a) Except in accordance with 6(b), if you have, or an external entity in which you have a material financial or external interest has, an intellectual

property right related to research being conducted at the University, you must not conduct that research at the University, or perform work in, or have an affiliation with, a laboratory, School or Faculty that conducts that research at the University.

- (b) Research may only be conducted in the circumstances set out in 6(a) if you agree to assign, and do assign, your intellectual property right to the University. Any financial compensation (in the form of proceeds from any future commercialisation of the intellectual property right) will be the subject of negotiation between you and the University prior to assignment of the intellectual property right.
- 7
- (a) Except in accordance with 7(b), where research is sponsored by an external entity in which you have a material financial or external interest, you must not conduct that research at the University, or perform work in, or have an affiliation with, a laboratory, School or Faculty that conducts that research at the University.
 - (b) Research may only be conducted in the circumstances set out in 7(a) if you agree that, for the term of any research agreement with the external entity, you will not exercise any voting rights or otherwise exert any influence over the decision-making of the external entity.
- 8
- (a) Except in accordance with 8(b), you must not provide consultancy services to an external entity where that external entity engages the University under a research agreement to provide research services from the laboratory, School or Faculty in which you work or are otherwise affiliated.
 - (b) Consultancy services may only be provided in the circumstances set out in 8(a) if the external entity agrees that ownership of any intellectual property rights generated by the consultancy will be determined in accordance with the intellectual property provisions in the relevant research agreement.
- 9
- Outside Earnings Activities must be conducted consistently with the Outside Earnings for Academic Staff Policy
- 10
- You must not place yourself in a position where you are responsible for negotiating the terms under which any intellectual property or other property, facility or resource of the University is to be sold, licensed or transferred to an external entity in which you have a material financial or external interest.

The University, where necessary, may direct you to desist from participating in any such negotiations with the external entity.

- 11 Except with the express written permission of the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, you must not propose, assess or approve a University Commercial Activity (see section 26A of the *University of Sydney Act 1989 (as amended)*), where the University Commercial Activity affects an external entity in which you have a material financial or external interest.

Teaching

- 12 The training experiences of students and postdoctoral fellows are expected to incorporate the values of objectivity in research and the importance of public trust. Conflicts of interest may arise where you:
- (a) have a financial or external interest in an external entity that funds part or all of the research being undertaken by your research student;
 - (b) have, or form, a personal relationship with a student for whom you have supervisory, teaching or assessment responsibilities;
 - (c) have a financial or external interest in an external entity controlled by one of the students for whom you have supervisory responsibility; or
 - (d) are asked to provide advice on, or implement, a University decision regarding a student matter where the student is your spouse, de facto partner, close relative, business partner, or financially dependent on you.
- 13 Except with the express written permission of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), students must not be required to participate in research that utilises an external entity's confidential information, or otherwise constrains their right to publish or communicate freely.
- 14 Except with the express written permission of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), a student must not be assigned to conduct research that is sponsored by an external entity in which the student's supervisor has a material financial or external interest.
- 15 Except with the express written permission of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), a student must not be employed by an external entity in which the student's supervisor has a material, financial or external interest.
- 16 Before a student embarks on a research project, you (as the student's supervisor) must provide the student with a clear description of:
- (a) any external entity support of the research to be undertaken;
 - (b) any material financial or external interest that you have in a sponsoring external entity; and
 - (c) any restrictions that might be imposed on the communication of research results.

- 17 You must not be involved in the supervision, assessment or examination of any student in whom you have a personal interest, or in the making of any material decisions relating to that student's course. Where you have a personal interest in a student for whom you have supervisory, teaching or assessment responsibilities, you must:
- (a) appoint an independent third party to set and mark the student's assessments; and
 - (b) appoint alternative examiners to rank any group of students that includes the student.
- 18 Except with the express written permission of the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, you must not hold a material financial or external interest in an external entity controlled by one of the students for whom you have supervisory responsibility.

1.7 CODE OF CONDUCT FOR RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH PRACTICE

1. Introduction

The University of Sydney holds Researchers responsible for scholarly and scientific rigour and integrity, in obtaining, recording and analysing data and in presenting, reporting and publishing results.

Rigour and integrity are indicated by:

- 1.1 giving appropriate recognition to those who have made an intellectual contribution to the contents of a publication;
- 1.2 obtaining the permission of the author before using new information, concepts or data originally obtained through access to confidential data;
- 1.3 conforming to University requirements for working with humans, animals, and bio hazards;
- 1.4 using research funds in accordance with the terms and conditions under which those funds were received;
- 1.5 disclosing to the University any conflict of interest (financial, personal or other) that might influence their research.

2. General ethical considerations

2.1 An institution conducting scholarly, creative and scientific activity must ensure that it fulfils a collective responsibility of commitment to high standards of professional conduct. Researchers also have an individual duty to ensure that their work enhances the good name of the institution and the discipline to which they belong.

2.2 Researchers should only participate in work that conforms to accepted ethical and discipline standards and that they are competent to perform. When in doubt Researchers should seek assistance from their designated academic supervisor(s).

2.3 Institutions and Researchers have a responsibility to ensure the safety of all those associated with research. It is also essential that the design of projects take account of any ethical guidelines specific to a discipline area and the published University ethics guidelines and procedures.

2.4 If data of a confidential nature are obtained, for example, from individual patient records or questionnaires, confidentiality must be observed and Researchers must not use such information for their own personal advantage or that of a third party. In particular, Researchers must observe the University's legislative responsibilities and policies relating to privacy of personal information used in research. It is the obligation of the Researcher to enquire whether confidentiality applies and of the principal researcher to inform team or co-researchers of their obligations with respect to any such confidentiality requirements.

2.5 Research results and methods should be open to scrutiny by colleagues within the institution and, through appropriate publication, by peer review. Where confidentiality provisions apply, data must be kept in a way that reference to them by third parties can occur without breaching confidentiality.

2.6 Secrecy may be necessary for a limited period in the case of contract research. Confidentiality provisions in research contracts or separate confidentiality agreements may be entered into by the University, the Researcher and the client or sponsor of research. Where such agreements limit publication and discussion, limitations and restrictions must be explicitly stated in the agreement. All Researchers should ensure that they are familiar with and comply at all times with the confidentiality obligations in research contracts.

1.8 TOBACCO INDUSTRY FUNDING

Approved by: Senate on 1 September 2003

Date of effect: 2 September 2003

The University notes the established body of scientific evidence that smoking is harmful to human health and also notes the policies of tobacco companies in the marketing of their products.

The University shall not accept funding or other forms of support, other than by taxation or government levies, from any tobacco manufacturing company or foundations primarily funded by such companies, or agents known to be acting on their behalf.

1.9 PUBLIC COMMENT

VISION

The University actively encourages and facilitates high quality contributions by staff to public debate and deliberation on issues spanning local, national and international boundaries.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the responsibilities and obligations of staff when making public comment and simultaneously identifying themselves as staff members of the University.

The policy differentiates between academic freedom of staff as members of a learned profession and their personal or professional comments as University officers.

Public Comment policy applies to all full-time, part-time and casual staff of the University of Sydney, including staff on fixed term contracts and holders of Honorary, Adjunct or Clinical titles.

SCOPE

Academic staff are encouraged to contribute to public comment in their area of expertise. The University encourages the ideal of the “public academic” willing and able to comment on matters.

All staff have a professional responsibility to uphold the outstanding reputation of the University in the community and to exercise good and ethical judgement in any public comment.

All staff have an obligation to respect the confidentiality and privacy of information entrusted to them in the course of their employment.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- The University of Sydney Code of Conduct (2002)
- University of Sydney Strategic Directions, 2006 – 2010

POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To provide guidance to staff in contributing to public commentary.
- To clarify the distinction between public and private comments.
- To prevent abuse or misuse of privilege arising from academic and administrative positions.
- To provide guidance to external parties (eg the media) as to the principles under which staff are obliged to conduct themselves in this matter.

GUIDELINES

a) The University encourages academic staff to participate in public debate and be available to the media for comment in their field of expertise.

b) Staff contributing to public commentary should identify themselves using their University title, appointment and/or qualifications when they are writing or speaking publicly on a matter within their academic or professional field of expertise or specialisation.

c) Statements should be accurate, professional and exercise appropriate restraint.

d) Staff making public comment or submissions to for example, parliamentary or government inquiries or similar, on matters within their academic or professional field of expertise or specialisation may identify themselves using their University title, appointment and/or qualifications. Staff should make clear that their comments or submissions are not made on behalf of or represent the views of the University. Staff may make such comments or submissions using University letterhead and/or a University address.

e) Consistent with the University's Code of Conduct, only those staff officially appointed by the Vice-Chancellor to represent the University should comment publicly for the University

on University policies, management or operational issues. Examples of such issues include, but are not limited to, the University's relationship with government; funding arrangements; student fees and quality of learning and teaching.

f) When commenting in public, staff are expected to act in good faith and not misrepresent their expertise.

g) Staff commenting publicly on an issue not in their field of expertise should:

- do so from a private address (whether postal or email)
- not use University letterhead
- if they wish identify themselves as a university staff member they must also indicate unambiguously that they are expressing their personal opinion and not presenting the opinion or position of the University.
- follow the University's policy on use of its Information and Communication Technology resources
- be mindful that they show respect for the opinions of others, do not injure a person's reputation or create a basis for defamation action. In such cases, the University cannot be responsible for any claims that may follow such comment.

h) Staff should maintain the highest professional and ethical standards when they associate themselves with the University in public statements.

i) Staff should be aware that the University may take disciplinary action where this policy or the Code of Conduct have been breached.

j) Training is available for staff who are or will be dealing with the media. Staff wishing to develop their media skills should contact the Media Office for further information.

k) Staff requiring guidance on this policy or dealing with the Media should contact the Media Office.

1.10 ENDOWMENT OF ACADEMIC POSITIONS

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SENATE

Approved by: Senate on 7 April 1986

On 7 April 1986 the Senate approved the following guidelines relating to endowment (external or private funding by gift in perpetuity or by annual grants) of academic positions.

- a. No new endowed post or endowment of an existing post will be approved by Senate unless it is in the interest of the University to do so.
- h. Titles given to academic posts should accord with normal academic propriety and there will be no publicity to the benefactor except in the naming of the post and of its incumbent in, for example, regular University listing of gifts and positions and in normal advertising and reporting of the filling of the post concerned.
- i. Any special clause in an agreement to fund a post, such as, for example, an opportunity of consultancy in aid of the benefactor, should be within the limitations of the University's rules on outside work. Research work and some forms of consultancy may require the use by the member of staff concerned of plant, equipment, materials and assistance provided by the benefactor. In all such cases the University should ensure wherever possible that the circumstances are announced in advertising for the post. The University's rules on outside work will not normally allow a benefactor to claim an exclusive right to any consultancy work that a member of staff may be able to undertake. It is the responsibility of the Vice-Chancellor to ensure that every post is used for the purposes of the University and to report problems to Senate.

2 (HIGHLY) SELECTED PRESS CUTTINGS

2.1 ACADEMIC STIRS FIGHT OVER RACE

By Tim Dick
SMH July 16, 2005

Macquarie University is standing by a senior academic who opposes non-white immigration, arguing that academics must be free to say what they wish, while also distancing itself from his views and declaring racism abhorrent.

An associate professor in the Department of Public Law, Andrew Fraser, claims that African migration increases crime, says HSC results point to a rising ruling class of Asians and wants Australia to withdraw from refugee conventions to avoid becoming "a colony of the Third World".

Associate Professor Fraser, originally from Canada, believes cognitive and athletic abilities, testosterone and "impulse control" vary according to race, and "civilisations" should look after their own.

The university said yesterday it was "distancing" itself from Associate Professor Fraser's views but backed the right of academics to say what they wish in a "responsible" way.

The acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Loxton, said there was no place for racism at the university, but it "recognises and protects academic freedom as essential to the conduct of teaching, research and scholarship".

After seeing a photograph of a Sudanese child in the *Parramatta Sun*, Associate Professor Fraser wrote to the newspaper saying "an expanding black population is a sure-fire recipe for increases in crime, violence and a wide range of other social problems".

"The fact is that ordinary Australians are being pushed down the path to national suicide by their own political, religious and economic elites."

Associate Professor Fraser wrote in an email to a Woollahra councillor, David Shoebridge, that Chinese immigration directly threatened the "social, political and economic interests of ordinary Australians and their children".

"Look at the annual HSC results - the consequence of which is that Oz is creating a new heavily Asian managerial-professional, ruling class that will feel no hesitation ... in promoting the narrow interests of their co-ethnics at the expense of white Australians."

Associate Professor Fraser told the *Herald* it was only the "educated middle class" who opposed his views. "I think most ordinary people would find what I'm saying more or less self-evident," he said.

2.2 ACADEMICS SEE LAWYERS OVER HOCKEY SLUR

Andrew West and Mark Davis
SMH October 4, 2007

JOHN HOWARD has distanced himself from his Workplace Relations Minister, Joe Hockey, who is the target of possible legal action by two academics after he branded them "former trade union officials parading as academics".

Sydney University's John Buchanan and Brigid van Wanrooy, who have never been employed by unions, yesterday met lawyers who told them they had a strong case against Mr Hockey and the Treasurer, Peter Costello.

The ministers attacked their research, which showed employees on Australian Workplace Agreements earned an average of \$106 a week less than those on collective agreements. While Mr Costello called the research - funded by Unions NSW and the Federal Government's Australian Research Council - "contaminated", Mr Hockey targeted the academics.

Asked about the attack yesterday, Mr Howard said: "You'd have to ask [Mr Hockey] precisely what was in his mind. The bloke does an interview ... I can't be expected to know every grain of his thought process."

He argued the overall effect of Work Choices mattered more than its impact on individual sections of the workforce.

Last night the research council's chief executive, Margaret Sheil, said she expected researchers who received council funding to "publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals and other forums to stimulate discussion and debate". She said the council would evaluate the quality of the Sydney University research at "this second stage of the research process".

While Mr Hockey indicated he was prepared to apologise to the academics, he maintained his criticism of their report.

In an email to the *Herald*, Mr Hockey said the report's finding that "many Australians are working long and unsociable hours" contradicted data from the Bureau of Statistics showing average hours worked by full-time employees, as well as the percentage of people working long hours, had fallen since the introduction of Work Choices.

"ABS Labour Force data shows that since the introduction of the workplace relations reforms, the average hours of full-time workers have fallen from an average of 40.4 hours per week (12 month average to March 2006) to 39.3 hours per week (12 month average to August 2007)," Mr Hockey said.

But Dr van Wanrooy said the data referred to the average number of paid hours, not the hours usually worked. "The average usual hours for full-time workers is 44 hours per week," she said.

Dr van Wanrooy also rejected allegations from both Mr Hockey and the Minister for Education, Julie Bishop, that she and Dr Buchanan had brought forward the release of their research to coincide with the election.

She said the research proposal stated it would "provide benchmark information on working lives prior to March 2006, and analysis of impacts of one year of Work Choices", which meant releasing findings in the second half of this year.

2.3 AUSSIE OPINION OF US HITS 30-YEAR-LOW

SMH October 2, 2007

Australian feeling toward the US has hit a 30-year low amid grave concerns over the fallout of the US-led Iraq war, a survey has found.

The survey of 1,213 Australians, carried out by the US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, also found growing dissatisfaction with US president George Bush.

Asked to name something they disliked about the US, the largest response was about the president, a News Ltd newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The centre, established this year with \$25 million from the Howard government, found respondents thought the Iraq war strained US-Australia relations.

The response is contrary to Prime Minister John Howard's belief Australians support the war and US foreign policy.

The level of opposition to the Iraq war among Australians was 64 per cent, while 73 per cent believe Australia is now a terrorist target because of the war on terror.

Despite that, 92 per cent of respondents still expected the US to remain a close security partner and 79 per cent considered the alliance important to Australia's protection.

But nearly half believed it would be better for Australia to remain more independent (48 per cent), the newspaper reported.

The level of confidence in the US has almost halved in just six years - from 66 per cent in 2001 to 37 per cent today.

"Only about 37 per cent of Australians had confidence in the US capacity to manage global problems and that is a very dramatic fall from the surveys conducted back in 2001, which showed almost twice the number of Australians had confidence in the US ability to handle global problems," acting CEO of the centre Professor Alan Dupont told ABC radio.

"That's a very very big fall."

The centre was established this year with \$25 million from the federal government, but Prof Dupont said it was independent.

"The US Studies Centre is an independent organisation," he said.

"We are not out here to please one side of politics or the other, we are out here to actually try to inform Australians about the United States and part of that process is to get an assessment of what Australian attitudes are.

"So my view is that there is not good results or bad results - this is just views of those who we surveyed about the United States and attitudes on particular problems ranging from foreign policy right through to trade policy."

2.4 NEW CHAIR OF TRANSPORT

SMH September 12, 2007

THE State Government will spend \$1 million over the next five years to fund a chair in public transport at the University of Sydney.

The new full-time professorship, in the university's Institute of Transport and Logistics Studies, is aimed at developing new thinking about public transport policy, said the Transport Minister, John Watkins.

"The chair will be an independent voice for public transport who will be able to think outside the square, suggest new solutions to old problems and bring academic rigour to transport and planning debates," he said.

The institute's founding director, Professor David Hensher, said the independence of the position was critical to the university accepting the money.

"This was made clear right from the start. Under no circumstances is this a position that will reflect the position that the Government wants promoted."

The chair will focus on research in areas such as technological development, bus rapid transit, integrated transport and the support of rural public transport. The person will also teach graduate students.

A global recruitment campaign to fill the position had begun, Professor Hensher said. "It will be a leader who will be responsible for carrying forward the research and debate on the challenges and solutions for transport in Sydney."

Linton Besser

2.5 UNI AND RIO SEAL \$21M DEAL

Harriet Alexander and Gerard Noonan
SMH August 7, 2007

THE University of Sydney has struck a deal with Rio Tinto to accept \$21 million to establish a "sponsored chair" whose research on remotely operated mining - including work by more than 10 students - will be offered exclusively to the mining giant.

The Rio Tinto Centre for Mining Automation will be "embedded" in the Australian Centre for Field Robotics, which employs about 150 university staff.

The robotics centre has several other commercial arrangements with major companies, including the Patrick Corporation chair for automation of port facilities, the Energy Australia chair in power engineering and the Commonwealth Defence Department's Centre for Expertise: Defence Autonomous and Uninhabited Vehicle Systems, which researches the movement of unmanned tanks, submarines and aircraft.

The university's dean of Engineering and Information Technologies, Greg Hancock, said mining companies were researching new automation because the mining boom had demonstrated difficulties in securing enough staff.

There was also the opportunity to improve mining safety by developing remotely operated machinery.

The move follows a controversial decision by the university this year to accept the offer of land from the Catholic Church to establish a medical facility on the grounds of St John's College that is forbidden to conduct stem cell research.

The president of the university's student representative council, Angus McFarland, last night accused the university of selling out its research efforts and undermining academic freedom.

"This is the latest in a litany of arrangements with other bodies," Mr McFarland said.

"The problem is where they're willing to, or forced to, compromise some of the tenets of public education and university's academic freedom and things like intellectual property rights.

"It's not a good direction for the university to be going in when they've become the research arm of large corporations without any public benefit."

The university's governing body met last night to endorse the move, negotiated between the acting vice-chancellor, Professor Don Nutbeam, and Technology Resources, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Rio Tinto.

It was signed on July 5 and commits the company to provide \$21 million over five years to the research centre for mining automation, to be headed by Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte.

University senate papers note: "[Technology Resources] will receive an exclusive royalty-free licence to use the results of the project in the field of mining.

"The centre will support approximately 28 full-time staff and 10 students and is expected to operate for five to 10 years."

Professor Hancock said while the arrangement meant Rio Tinto had exclusive royalty-free use of any research in automated mining, the university retained the intellectual property rights over any other research findings that emerged from the centre.

The university was criticised last year over the sponsorship of its United States Studies Centre by the American Australian Association.

2.6 INTERNET 'BATTLEGROUNDS' FOR SMOKING MESSAGES: PROFESSOR

Ilya Gridneff

Herald Sun September 27, 2007 01:50pm

THE internet is "the battleground for the lungs of our children" as tobacco companies run clandestine advertising campaigns, a professor says.

Leading health professional Professor Simon Chapman, said achievements made with anti-smoking campaigns in traditional forums could be made irrelevant by new media.

He was speaking today at the Healthy Futures For Young People symposium at Sydney University.

"What we are really worried about is the new media – YouTube, Myspace, Facebook – places like this, which are running riot with many pro-smoking messages which look like they have the fingerprints of tobacco companies all over them," Prof Chapman said later.

"The tobacco companies will, of course, deny that they are doing it.

"But if you look at the production values which are going into some of these films they are way beyond anything that could be recorded on mobile phone camera."

The Sydney anti-smoking campaigner said there was a proliferation of soft-porn style clips using scantily clad women championing the pleasures of smoking, as well other such strategies freely available on the net.

"Regulating the web is the sort of North Korean approach, but what we can do is make it a battleground. And there are a lot of very creative efforts getting out there," Prof Chapman said.

"It (the internet) is really changing the way those in tobacco control have to think about the battleground for the lungs of our children in the future," he said.

Despite these concerns, smoking levels in Australia's youth were the lowest they had ever been, Prof Chapman said.

He said resources must be invested into new media strategies to counter pro-smoking messages via the internet.

Already, kids were downloading anti-smoking clips as well as the pro-smoking messages, he said.

Doctor Susan Towns, from Sydney's Westmead Hospital, told the conference most smokers started the habit as an adolescent.

"Six per cent start when they are 12 but we do know 17 per cent of 17 year-olds are smoking," Dr Towns said.

"Nine out of 10 smokers start in their teenage years and, of course, the earlier you start the more likely you are to have complications."

Today's symposium, attended by leading health experts, launched the first university-funded unit for adolescent medicine, based at Westmead.

The unit will coordinate, promote and focus on the range of health issues affecting young Australians, including sexually transmitted disease, drug and alcohol-related illness, depression and obesity.

Professor David Bennett said the unit was set up to reduce the incidence of chronic illness in 15 to 20 per cent of adolescents.

"Young people fall through the gaps, there is investment in younger children ... and in adults but we actually need to redress the imbalances there," Prof Barnett said.

He said more than 75 per cent of deaths among Australian adolescents were preventable.

2.7 EXTRACT FROM A RESEARCH CONTRACT

(Research Agreement Template, Dalhousie University. URL
<http://www.dal.ca/~research/researchcontracttemplate.pdf>)

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3 STATEMENT BY ANU

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