**Citation - Rodney Tubbs**

Honorary Fellowship Conferral – Wednesday, 1 June – 12.00noon

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Rodney Tubbs, to be awarded an Honorary Fellowship for his outstanding contributions to the University of Sydney.

Anyone involved with Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness over the last twenty-five years will know or have heard of Rod, or more likely, ‘Tubbsy’, as he is known to everyone except his mother. Rod’s long association with the University of Sydney began in 1965, when he was studying for a Bachelor of Economics. He became involved with the Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness family when playing for the Aussie Rules Football Club, and it’s a connection that has burned brightly ever since. Not only was he a Club ‘best & fairest’ winner, but he captained and coached the Club’s senior side to an inaugural premiership victory. And it was while representing the club at an intervarsity competition in Tasmania that he met his future wife, Margie.

In 1967, Rod was awarded a University Blue for Australian Football – one of the highest honours a sportsperson can receive at the University of Sydney.

In 1996, Rod reconnected with the University’s Sports Union and established the ‘Blue & Gold’ Club for the University’s sporting alumni. For the next 20+ years, he ran more than 100 ‘Blue & Gold’ fundraising functions. The initial ‘Blue & Gold’ cricket luncheons, rugby luncheons and golf days soon expanded to include annual Australian Rules football, soccer, athletics, rowing, and water polo functions – also Olympic functions every four years.

In 2005, he and the SUSF Executive Director, approached the University Vice-Chancellor with the idea of a University of Sydney Sport Foundation. Rod was the Chair of the USSF from 2005 to 2021. Over the last two decades, he has managed Corporate & Alumni Relations for SUSF, and raised substantial funds for University sporting clubs, while building a strong sense of belonging and community.

Rod has raised in excess of $15 million for Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness capital projects and scholarship funds. Quite simply, he has been the driving force, the face of, and the ‘MC-in-Residence’ of all Club and SUSF fundraising events.

Rod has personally contributed to SUSF infrastructure drives, including the Finishing Touches Fund for the SUSAC Extension in 2013 and the Building on Excellence Campaign for the new TAG Family Grandstand in 2016.

He has also been a personal donor to his eponymous “Rod Tubbs Scholarship” for Australian Rules Football, as well as contributing to other named sporting scholarships. Such scholarships provide student athletes with financial support, academic assistance and access to sports psychologists and facilities. He helped establish the Commonwealth Bank of Australia Indigenous Scholarship, awarded to Indigenous athletes who make a significant difference to the student experience of other young indigenous adults.

Over the last 25 years, Rod has attended almost every annual Sports Awards dinner, often as Master of Ceremonies. He will be remembered for his strong belief that: “friend raising is a vitally important precursor to fundraising”.

When SUSF underwent a recent period of structural change in governance, Rod stepped up to chair the interim SUSF Pty Limited Board. He helped navigate the very difficult year that was 2020.

Pro-Chancellor, I present to you Rodney Tubbs, and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon him.