Professor Emeritus John Rose

Philip John Barnes Rose was born on 5th November, 1935, in Eastbourne, New Zealand and holds a BCom (NZ), DipEcon (Cantab) and Ph.D (Melb). He held the Sidney Myer Chair of Commerce and Business Administration at The University of Melbourne from 1978 to 2000.

He joined the University’s Institute of Applied Economic & Social Research as Research Fellow in 1963. From 1970 to 1973, he was seconded to act as adviser, research co-ordinator and principal reporter to the Senate Select Committee on Securities and Exchange. In 1974, he was adviser on Company Law and Securities Markets Legislation to the Commonwealth Attorney-General and from 1977-1983 he was Economic Adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Fraser.

John Rose was appointed the Australian Eisenhower Fellow for 1981 and he used the fellowship to visit U.S. business schools. This trip would change his outlook and shape his future and that of Melbourne Business School.

Following the Ralph Report into Management Education, Melbourne Business School (then known as the Graduate School of Management) became one of the two national management schools in Australia and, in 1984, John Rose was appointed as its first Director. He was to lead the School through extraordinary changes. In 1985 the School had 177 MBA students enrolled, of whom 47 were full-time final year students. By the time of John’s retirement at the end of 2000, the total number of award students enrolled was over 700, of whom over 200 were full-time MBA students.

In 1987, following changes in government legislation, MBS led the way with the first postgraduate program for fee-paying overseas students: the Postgraduate Diploma in Management Studies. The first Executive MBA Program to be offered in Australia followed and then the Master of Marketing and the Master of Management (Technology) were introduced. In 1996 the School went from two semesters to a three-term teaching year, enabling the full-time MBA to be completed in 16 months and in 1997 the fully part-time MBA was introduced.

During the Directorship of John Rose, Melbourne Business School became an internationally recognized business school. It now takes approximately 50% of its full-time MBA students from more than 30 overseas countries, a process he led by mentoring gifted students from around the globe. These alumni are now lifelong supporters of MBS and the University of Melbourne. He developed an extensive scholarship scheme to enable more national and international students to undertake postgraduate management education.

At the same time, John Rose and the School’s Investment Committee presided over the growth of the MBS net assets to over $100M. $11.5M was raised from the business community in 1989 to expand the physical premises and, during two years of recession, the building was completed on time and on budget. In 1989, a unique arrangement was established. The Graduate School of Management was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee, with fifty percent ownership by the University of Melbourne and fifty percent by the donor members. In 1995, the company changed its name to Melbourne Business School Ltd. and the ownership-structure was amended to forty-five percent University and fifty-five percent donor members.

In November 2000, the Fellows of the Academy of International Business in Phoenix, Arizona, presented John Rose with the award of International Dean of the Year in recognition that MBS had established an outstanding position both financially and academically, with a strong alumni network in the Asia-Pacific region, complemented by major links with Schools globally.

John Rose is a member of the Strategic Advisory Committee of the John Curtin School for Medical Research; Director, Australian United Investments; Ian Potter Foundation; Australian Ballet Centre and Woodside Petroleum. He was Deputy Chief Commissioner of the City of Melbourne from 1993-1995, Director, The Australian Ballet Foundation (1982-89); Chairman, The Australian Ballet School (1977-82) and Director of the Victorian Opera Company (1971-76).

In January 2002, he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia and is a Professor Emeritus of Melbourne Business School at The University of Melbourne.

This award is to be made for significant contribution to management education.