

FACULTY OF LAW

Minutes of Meeting No. 1/68 (Special Meeting)
of the Faculty of Law held in the Council Room,
Administration Building, on Thursday,
29 February, 1968, at 7.00pm.

1. RESIGNATION OF PROFESSOR D. P. DERHAM, DEAN OF THE
FACULTY OF LAW

On behalf of the Faculty, Professor P. L. Waller moved, and Professor D. C. Jackson seconded, a motion of thanks and good wishes to Professor D. P. Derham, which was carried by acclamation.

The full text of the motion appears below:

Professor David Derham was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Law by the Council of Monash University on 14 October, 1963. He was charged with the task of initiating teaching in Law as quickly as possible, and of founding and developing a Law School which would be an important and substantial part of the rapidly developing university.

Teaching in Law began in March, 1964. Later that year he prepared and submitted a "Plan for a new Law School". That plan provided for two courses in Law - a first degree, called the Bachelor of Jurisprudence, which would provide a general education with a substantial core of basic legal studies, and which would be equivalent to a first degree in Arts, Economics or the Social Sciences; and a second degree, the Bachelor of Laws, which would follow the B. Juris and which would provide an advanced education in Law which would serve as a qualification for professional practice.

In the four years that Professor Derham has been Dean of the Faculty of Law, his plan for a new Law School has been almost wholly executed, under his imaginative direction and leadership. 1968 sees the introduction of most of the fifth year subjects, and will see the completion by a substantial group of senior students of the whole B.Juris. /LL.B. programme. This year also sees the opening of the new Law building, in the general and detailed planning of which Professor Derham played a very great part, and its occupation by the Law School. It is today a school with more than 700 under-graduate and graduate students, and a body of full-time teachers of Law which numbers 35.

From the beginning Professor Derham was concerned that there should be strong links between the Law School and the other faculties within the university, and between the Law School and the profession of Law. The organisation of the B. Juris. ensures that Law students are substantially involved in the work and teaching of other faculties, notably the faculties of Arts and Economics and Politics. There is an increasing number of Law students who enrol for the combined degrees of B. Econ./LL.B. and B.A./LL.B.

Members of the legal profession have been connected with this Law School since its establishment was first proposed by Council. Professor Derham has been largely responsible for the establishment of bonds between the school and all branches of the legal profession in Victoria. It was his proposal that the Justices of the Supreme Court, the Judges of the County Court, the Bar and the solicitors should all be represented on the governing body of this faculty. It was his proposal, too, that senior practitioners should be invited to accept appointments as Consultants in most of the subjects taught in the School. It is unnecessary to emphasize how valuable these ties have been to the Law School, and it is hoped that the whole profession has found them to be of value too. The relations between this Law School and its famous and well-established sister school at the University of Melbourne have also been warmly and constantly cultivated, and each faculty is represented on the governing body of the other.

In spite of the very heavy demands which his office as Dean has imposed upon him since he assumed it, Professor Derham has undertaken large teaching responsibilities, particularly in the first year course, The Legal System. He has pursued his own legal research and strongly encouraged his colleagues in theirs. He has supervised graduate students and has been concerned to stimulate junior members of the full-time staff to pursue studies for higher degrees. The Faculty Board this evening has recommended that one of his graduate students be awarded the degree of Master of Laws.

I move, therefore, that the Faculty does express to Professor Derham its grateful thanks for his work as Dean of the Faculty of Law in Monash University from 1964 to 1968, and does wish him success in his office as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

CONFIRMED:

SIGNED:

AAV/bh
20 March, 1968.