

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

Date: FRIDAY 29 AUGUST 2008

Attention: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Proposed merger of Law and Business faculties to strengthen student experience

The University of Tasmania faculties of Law and Business are poised to merge from January next year to build on the synergy between the two areas, strengthen their already high reputations, and enhance both student experience and academic research opportunities.

UTAS Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor David Rich said the proposed merger was designed to enhance the University's strategic position and further underpin its commitment to excellence and growth.

"UTAS Law Faculty has an excellent international reputation and we have very good Business schools. The merger will enable the University to move to the next level of development in a number of key areas," he said.

The merger would provide an opportunity to develop new academic programs and units and new research areas.

"The University has committed significant new investment in staff to widen the range of courses available and add new research strengths in what will be the new Faculty of Business and Law," Prof Rich said.

The proposal, to go before the University Council on September 5, has been developed in discussion with the two faculties over the past 12 months. The Tasmanian University Law Society (TULS) was made aware of the proposal in July.

Prof Rich said TULS concerns that the merger would impact on the quality and reputation of the UTAS Law degree were understandable but unwarranted.

“The University is committed to building on the already very high standing of the Law programs and will not jeopardise this,” he said.

“A key part of the proposal is a range of formal guarantees that are designed to protect existing programs and the high reputation of Law at UTAS; as part of these, the Law School will retain its existing levels of control and autonomy over the content, quality and integrity of its programs, and will continue to be the responsible for maintaining admission standards into Law courses.”

Prof Rich said that an Implementation Committee consisting of members from both faculties would oversee the merger, carefully working through the details in consultation with students, alumni, the judiciary and other stakeholders.

“We are confident that the new Faculty will maintain all the good features of both Law and Business faculties, but provide a framework for a range of new developments that will add to the national and international reputation of the University, its courses and its graduates,” he said.

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