In July 2004, the Victorian College of the Arts ('the College') received a gift of $60,000 from Perpetual Trustees Victoria Limited ('Perpetual') on behalf of the trustees of The Margaret Lawrence Bequest. The purpose of the gift was set out in a letter from Perpetual to the College dated 26 July 2004 as follows –

A. 'to assist the Victorian College of the Arts to support and involve students in work and communications, primarily through film, but also other art forms, which are designed to raise awareness and debate in the broader community about a wide range of global and local issues which do, or could (as determined by the artist or school) have an adverse impact on the communities within which those issues are evident or emerging.'

B. In keeping with this purpose, the gift was used to establish a fund to provide for awards to be made by the College, to be known as ‘The Margaret Lawrence Social Justice Awards’ (‘the awards’), commencing in 2006.

C. At 31 December 2006, the amount of the fund was $82,349.

D. Pursuant to the Melbourne University (Victorian College of the Arts) Act 2006 (Vic) (‘the Act’), from 1 January 2007 the College ceased to exist and became a faculty of the University called the faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts.

E. Pursuant to section 5 of the Act, on and from 1 January 2007-
   (a) the University became the successor in law of the College;
   (b) the assets and rights of the College were vested in the University;
   (c) the liabilities and obligations of the College became liabilities and obligations of the University; and
   (d) the awards shall be administered by the University, but otherwise in accordance with the terms and conditions to which they were subject immediately before that date.

F. Pursuant to section 6 of the Act, the fund may be applied on or after 1 January 2007 as if created in favour of the University for a purpose of the University that corresponds with, or is similar to, those purposes of the College for which the fund was created.

G. In 2009 the faculty of the Victorian College of the Arts amalgamated with the faculty of Music which resulted in the formation of the faculty of the VCA and Music (‘faculty’).

It is provided as follows-

1. The sum of $82,349.40, and any accumulations and additions to the sum, forms a fund called ‘The Margaret Lawrence Social Justice Awards’ (‘fund’) and the fund is to be paid into an investment pool and remain there until Council directs otherwise.
The income of the fund is to be applied to provide the awards for students at the faculty to enable them to pursue eligible projects in film or other art forms. Eligible projects are projects which are designed to raise awareness and debate in the broader community about a wide range of global and local issues which do, or could, have an adverse impact on the communities within which those issues are evident or emerging.

Each year, the dean of the faculty (‘dean’) is to make one or more of the awards, in each case on the recommendation of a selection committee appointed by the dean.

The value of each of the awards is to be determined by the dean provided the total amount awarded in any year is no more than the sum of the net annual income and any other unexpended income in the fund.

If recommended by the selection committee, the dean may decline to make any awards in any year. Any unexpended income generated by the fund may be added to the capital in the fund or retained as income to be available in any subsequent year for the awards.

[recital D am, Recital G added, ss 1 – 5 am 16/11/09; revoked as a Regulation and certified as a University trust record 26/5/10]