

Professor Robin King Citation

Chancellor, the University of South Australia confers the honorary title of Emeritus Professor upon retired academic staff holding the title of Professor who have given distinguished service to the institution.

Robin King was educated in the United Kingdom, graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Electronic and Electrical Engineering from the University of Sheffield in 1967. He was awarded a Ph.D from Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London in 1972 for research on computational and physical modelling of UHF radiowave transmission, an area that now underpins mobile and wireless communication systems.

Robin's working life has clearly demonstrated two important aspects of engineering. Firstly, that Engineers do make things happen, and secondly, that engineers contribute greatly to society at large. In Robin's case, this has been demonstrated by his work in a number of ways.

In 1976 at Southampton University, in addition to teaching communications engineering, he developed research on communication aids for the hearing and visually impaired, and automated television subtitling techniques, and developed several demonstration systems. The team was awarded an Institution of Electrical Engineers Commendation for Helping the Disabled for this work. He also co-founded an interdisciplinary research group with social and management scientists to investigate the impact of emerging electronic and computing technologies on organizations.

At the University of New South Wales in 1985, Robin continued to work on speech synthesis and human-computer interface technologies, including a novel Braille "mouse". Robin moved to an Associate Professor position in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Sydney in 1989. There he established and led activities in speech technology research. His group won several national competitive grants and commercial contracts for work on speech synthesis and speech recognition, and natural language and dialogue modeling for speech technology systems.

As an engineering academic, Robin's leadership in developing the talents of his students is well recognized. From 1974 – 76 he took an academic position at the University of Technology, Papua New Guinea, and as well as teaching the country's first graduates in electrical and communications engineering he also worked on developments in the telecommunications network of that country.

In Australia at the University of Sydney, Robin led the communications engineering stream of the engineering programs from 1991-96, and was also Head of Department in 1992-3 and Associate Dean in the Faculty of Engineering from 1995-96. Robin contributed to the national development of more professional approaches to engineering education, both as a conference organizer and contributor to many national and international conferences and workshops on engineering education.

Robin was appointed to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Information Technology at the University of South Australia in 1997, and a year later, after restructuring was appointed to Pro Vice Chancellor, responsible for the Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment. He also holds the title of Professor of Information Engineering and continues to supervise research in applied speech recognition. He is a leader in charting strategic directions for science and technology within the university, as well as its education programs.

Since 2000, he has been a member of the Australian Research Council's expert committees in the area of electrical engineering, computing and information technology. He is a member of the Board of the Institution of Engineers, Australia's College of Information, Telecommunications and Electronics Engineers, and an executive member of the Australian Council of Engineering Deans. He was recently appointed to Chair the Accreditation Assessment Panels of the Institution.

Robin's has a very strong commitment to the educational opportunities provided to our youth in the Northern Suburbs of Adelaide. His leadership of the Mawson Lakes Campus has enabled the University to address important social issues in those districts.

Chancellor, I present Professor Robin King for the honorary title of Emeritus Professor.