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Investiture of Murdoch University's new Vice Chancellor

The formal investiture of Professor Richard Higgott as Murdoch University's eighth Vice Chancellor has been held at the University's South Street Campus today (11 November 2011).

The ceremony was officiated by His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AO QC, Governor of Western Australia.

Mr McCusker said: "The selection and appointment of a new Vice Chancellor is a highly significant step for any university. The VC carries a very heavy responsibility: to show leadership, to guide, to inspire, to listen to the staff and students and to seek and obtain funding.

"To find such a paragon is not easy but we believe we have found it in Richard Higgott. He has had an extraordinary and dazzling career and has a pre-eminent record of scholarship and research.

"I was privileged to be on the selection committee who chose – or grabbed – Professor Higgott to be the new Vice Chancellor. I am confident that he will help Murdoch to achieve and sustain even higher levels of excellence in research and teaching."

Immediately prior to joining Murdoch Professor Higgott was Pro Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Warwick in the UK, and a Winthrop Professor at the University of Western Australia. He has previously held appointments at the Australian National University and the University of Manchester, and lectured at Murdoch in the early years of his career.

In his investiture address, Professor Higgott spoke of the need for universities to practise shared governance.

"In the best universities everyone works ultimately to support the core educational mission of the institution – teaching and research," he said.

He added that he felt a "sense of privilege and immense responsibility" in his new role.

Professor Higgott, who joined the University in August, took over from Professor Gary Martin, who held the position on an interim basis following the retirement of Professor John Yovich in March 2011.

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