

# Bond ties former uni rivals into joint stoush

By PHIL BARTSCH  
on the Gold Coast

DONNING boxing gloves, rival factions within Bond University yesterday came out from their corners — not for further blood-letting but for a united assault on the campus land title.

The public show of unity came after several months of “gloves off” in-fighting and the university council securing corporate backing from News Ltd, BHP and ICM Australia to bid for the university's Gold Coast site.

Despite yesterday's rally by about 500 staff and students wearing white T-shirts declaring “Bond University — Private, Independent and Here To Stay”, it was evident the internal wounds were still healing.

Acting vice-chancellor Professor John Farrar later admitted some “unease” when he and business school professor Jeff Carmichael — representing former bitter rivals, the university council and academic staff association — were presented with boxing gloves by student council president Michael Bosse.

Presenting the gloves, Mr Bosse said: “With these boxing gloves we'll see these two men equipped to fight the fights that we've got ahead. The battle isn't



READY for a fight . . . Bond University protesters, from left, Professor Jeff Carmichael, Jim Corkery, Student Council president Michael Bosse, vice-chancellor John Farrar and executive chancellor Harry Messel.

over but I believe we're on the way to winning.

“Bond in the hands of a public university would be a tragedy for tertiary education in Australia.”

Professor Farrar later said: “One of those gloves should have been given to

(executive chancellor) Professor Harry Messel. He's a fighter and I think not enough tribute was paid to him today for his massive contribution and hard work.”

Professor Messel's name was an obvious omission

from the list of tributes during speeches by Mr Bosse and Bond University Academic Staff Association president Professor Jim Corkery at the rally.

University staff recently voted 70-5 in favour of a no-confidence motion against

Professor Messel, who was later relieved of daily management duties to concentrate on the university council bid for the Robina campus.

Professor Carmichael yesterday said the so-called rival academic bid

had not been dismantled but rather elements of it would be incorporated into the united university bid.

“We had our independent bid there to make sure we had something,” he said.